

Erie County Technical School

Director's Report

February 2011

2011-2012 Budget

The budget proposal is making the rounds in the districts. Two districts have approved it so far. There were no requests for ECTS to present the budget in the districts.

Chapter 339 Audit Results

The Bureau of Career and Technical Education (BCTE) telephoned the director on February 15 to provide a preliminary response to our appeal of the audit findings. BCTE changed five items to recommendations, forwarded two items to the PDE legal department and kept four items as corrections. The bureau asked for an electronic copy of our corrective action plan and they intend to provide their response via the corrective action plan.

A summary of their verbal response includes:

- 1.2—High-level academic classes; changed to a recommendation
- 4.1—Teacher certification; kept as correction, teacher is certified to teach part of the CIP description, but not all areas
- 6.3—Special education and Diversified Occupations; forwarded to PDE legal department
- 9.3—Joint planning, sending districts and AVTS; forwarded to PDE legal department
- 12.1—Local Advisory Council; remains a corrective action
- 15.6—Drafting & Design student certifications; changed to a recommendation
- 22.1—Articulation agreements in CATS; changed to a recommendation
- 24.1—Prior audit findings:
 - SkillsUSA only CTSO; changed to a recommendation
 - OAC minutes reviewed by administrators; changed to a recommendation
 - Local Advisory Council; kept as a correction
 - Masonry filter; kept as a correction, asked for additional information, is requiring review of matter by OAC

Performance Check-ups

The director has met with each administrator to conduct the 90-day performance check-up. Plans for the prior 90-day period were reviewed for accomplishment and plans were set for the next 90-day period.

District Withdrawal from Consortium

The superintendents are recommending that efforts focus on five areas as the most promising ways to address the \$1 million loss in revenue that results from a Millcreek withdrawal. The

revenue projections are generous. In most circumstances, ECTS would not realize the projections in the first year. Those five areas are:

- 1) Work with the City of Erie School District to make seats available to students that have an interest in technical education, but not necessarily the four-year program offered at Central Technical High School. Students from Strong Vincent or East might choose this kind of option. A very preliminary conversation was held with Jay Badams. *Projected revenue is \$100,000 (20 students at \$5,000).*
- 2) Consider enrolling adults into the high school program. Numerous CTCs across the state are doing this with a revenue benefit. A survey was conducted of selected CTCs with co-enrollment. Some CTCs continue to have good revenue from this practices, others less so. All of the CTCs surveyed do require clearances from adults prior to their enrollment into the high school program. *Projected revenue is \$100,000 (20 students at \$5,000).*
- 3) Work with a community college to start post-secondary programs. ECTS would create revenue through facility rental and other negotiated items. The director talked with an administrator at the Community College of Allegheny County (CCAC) North Campus. They currently offer programs in Warren, Clarion and Crawford counties. Those programs are heavily underwritten by a federal grant. The CCAC administrator indicated it would take some kind of grant to consider bringing programming to Erie County. *Projected revenue is \$100,000.*
- 4) Promote enrolling charter school students into ECTS. The districts have provided their high school charter school enrollments. This information gives us some sense of the number of students we might be able to recruit. There would also have to be a separate, concerted marketing effort made to these students and their parents. Contracts would have to be negotiated with each of the charter or cyber charter schools. Charter school regulations do not require they participate in CTE unless it is part of an IEP. *Projected revenue is \$100,000 (20 students at \$5,000).*
- 5) Reduce expenditures through program alterations, reductions or the elimination of services. At the request of the sub-committee, the director has reviewed the 2011-2012 budget with an eye to reduce expenditures to the maximum level based on a Millcreek withdrawal. As you would anticipate, most of the reduction would occur in personnel and only essential services would remain in place. All levels of staffing would be affected (administrators to classified staff members).
- 6) The superintendents are also recommending that a subgroup of JOC members meet with a subgroup of MTSD board members to see if there are areas we can reconcile in order to maintain MTSD's participation in the ECTS consortium.

Director's Travel and Meetings

The director's recent and scheduled meetings include:

- ❖ *NWPA Tech Prep Consortium Meeting*; Meadville; January 8; quarterly meeting of CTCs regarding regional Tech Prep initiative
- ❖ *Millcreek Withdrawal Sub-Committee Meeting*; ECTS; January 28; sub-committee of superintendents to discuss withdrawal of Millcreek Township School District
- ❖ *Transition Center Tour*; ECTS; February 3; at request of Fort LeBoeuf School District to show Transition Center to interested board members
- ❖ *Professional Advisory Council*; ECTS; February 4; monthly meeting with superintendents
- ❖ *Regional Alternative Education Meeting*; Maplewood High School; February 8; with Frank DiPlacido; to receive information from PDE on relevant matters
- ❖ *Workforce Investment Board, Programmatic and Policy Committee*; telephone conference; February 9; quarterly board meeting
- ❖ *ECTS Marketing Committee*; ECTS; February 10; internal committee to review progress made with marketing/retention and plan for upcoming activities