

Erie County Technical School

Superintendent of Record's Report



March 7 2014

Professional Advisory Council (PAC) Meeting - Friday, April 4, 2014

Submitted by Karen S. Downie, D.Ed.

Regional Choice Initiative (discussion)

The discussion about which individual or organization would manage the Regional Choice Initiative continued this month. In lieu of the Intermediate Unit, one suggestion was to see if Gannon would manage the scheduling, billing and daily operations, in so much as they offer the majority of the classes. This would most likely make it a 'Gannon-only' program, which was acceptable to the superintendents in attendance. Mrs. Spaulding volunteered to contact Gannon University to see if they would be interested in this kind of arrangement.

The superintendents also looked at other ways to reduce costs in the program. To avoid the 8% IU administrative fee, it was suggested that the facility lease be moved from the IU and placed before each of the participating school districts, much like what currently happens with the Transition Center lease. The idea of an ECTS-hired secretary was also put on the table.

The tiered participation fee was also examined. There are concerns that if the cost for the program moved to a per-participant model, it would be too expensive for some districts. There is also a counter concern that if one or two of the most active districts withdraws from the consortium, the program will not have enough students to warrant the program.

Career Street Update (discussion)

The superintendents confirmed their plan for a Trolley Tour of local companies on the morning of June 16. They were also informed the liaisons would be meeting soon to share the roles and responsibilities for those positions.

Lastly, the superintendents were informed that the *8th Grade Career Readiness Survey* was about to launch. They were encouraged to promote the survey with their staff and students.

Funding Plans for ECTS Renovation (discussion)

There was a brief discussion about districts setting aside funds in their capital projects funds for future ECTS renovations. Some districts already have it built into their 2014-2015 budget. Others are waiting for firmer construction costs before establishing a set-aside. One district expressed concern that a much-needed local project may override funds available for an ECTS contribution. There was also some discussion about making sure all districts on-board with renovations, in terms of providing funding.

Week-about Schedule

The superintendents discussed the suggestion of changing to a week-about schedule, where students would alternate between a full week at ECTS in their technical programs, and then a full week at their home school in academic classes. The biggest concern for this change would be scheduling the students into academic classes. The type and level of courses available to students would be severely limited.

Another point mentioned during the discussion was the isolation of technical school students. They currently participate in academic classes with their 'home school' peers. In an 'about' model, they would be in 'technical-students-only' academic classes. As noted by one superintendent, "I can't even tell who the tech school students are. In the old days, I could." Another added, "We don't need to go back to the 'tech rat' days."

Resignation of Business Manager

The director informed the superintendents of the resignation of Mrs. Marcia Stokes as business manager. The director also asked if they knew of any retired or otherwise available individuals to assist with the business office during the candidate

Next meeting

Our next meeting will be held on May 2, 2014.