
**Erie County Technical School
Director's Report
March 2016**

Bell Schedule

As discussed at last month's JOC meeting, we have known of 'costs' ECTS students 'pay' for being a technical school student. Examples of those 'costs' include arriving at home school late for sports practices, having bussing lay-overs to catch busses home after school, and having to ride the elementary school bus home after school. We believe altering our length of day and our start/end times slightly, we should be able to reduce the occurrence of these costs.

We collected schedule information from each participating school district to see if we can start the afternoon session earlier. Based on time of dismissal, time for lunch, and travel time, it appears the earliest we could start the afternoon session is 11:48 a.m. If we shorten the instructional day by 15 minutes, we could dismiss as early as 2:20 p.m., or 25 minutes earlier than we dismiss now.

We will discuss the proposal with the principals on March 29. Districts will have to check availability of transportation. If the proposed schedule works for our districts, then we would convey the change in instructional hours to the Pennsylvania Department of Education. Faculty would then revise their scope and sequence and any affected course syllabi.

Math Credit

The guidance counselors have asked us to explore the possibility of offering a math credit as part of our program. Students receiving a math credit, as part of the 12 credits they earn at the technical school, would be beneficial in a couple of ways. First, the credit would free up one credit for our students to use for other classes like foreign language or science. Additionally, if a student fails a class, the ECTS math credit allows them to make-up that credit without endangering their ECTS enrollment.

The guidance counselors suggested we offer a math class in personal finance or business mathematics. To minimize the impact on the technical curriculum, we are considering offering one-half credit in business mathematics in the junior year, and one-half credit in personal finance in the senior year. Both of these courses would mesh well with our existing program of study. The business mathematics course relates to the Business Principles course our juniors take. A personal finance course relates to planned instruction in our Guidance & Advisement program, in particular the *Ready to Live* series.

We discussed the math credit proposal with the superintendents and they have endorsed the concept. We will meet with curriculum directors on April 19 to see if we can identify existing course guides to adopt for our use.

Career Pathways

Under the direction of Dr. James Tracy, Girard superintendent, we participated in a seminar on March 17 about the Pennsylvania Pathways Innovation Network (PA-PIN). PA-PIN is an initiative led by PDE's Bureau of Career and Technical. PA-PIN offers invaluable support to further the development and implementation of career and STEM pathways for forward-thinking school districts, career and technical centers, post-secondary institutions, employer-led organizations and companies, workforce and economic development providers, and regional partnerships of these entities.

By joining the PA-PIN, organizations accelerate their efforts to develop scalable and sustainable solutions to strengthen connections between education, employers, and economic development in order to prepare today's students for tomorrow's careers. PA-PIN is led and managed by Hans Meeder of the National Center for College and Career Transitions (NC3T)

RCTC

Term IV classes started the week of March 14. There are 123 students enrolled in 22 classes. The automotive state inspection series, industrial electricity, and welding courses continue to be popular. Gross revenue for Term IV was \$38,140 and net revenue was \$15,116.

Other Action Items and Priorities in February

Other items the Director worked on during the month of February included:

1. Organizing the evidence for the Ch. 339 Approved Program Evaluation scheduled for April 13-15.
2. Working with a local committee to refine and enhance our Guidance and Advisement program, or as we refer to it, "The Ready to Learn, Work, Live, and Ready for College Series."
3. Reviewed parts of the Millcreek Township School District's school board policies, Section 200 – Pupils.

Director's Travel and Meetings — February 2016

The director's recent and scheduled meetings include:

- ❖ *Field Trip, Culinary Arts Students, Giovanni's Ristorante*; Beachwood, Ohio; March 22; with culinary arts students Chandler Flak, Elesea Hicks, and Michaela Mejia, and instructors Ms. Sanders and Mr. Oakes; to give SkillsUSA competitors a first-rate restaurant experience as they prepare for State competition
- ❖ *Erie County Re-entry Services and Support Alliance*; Blasco Library; March 22; a meeting on how to connect people at risk for criminal behavior or returning to Erie County from incarceration with community resources that can help them

- ❖ *JOC President Agenda Review*; Fairview; March 19; with Andy Foyle; monthly meeting to review JOC agenda
- ❖ *Growth Partnership Meeting*; Ambassador Conference Center; March 18; business roundtable sponsored by Erie Regional Chamber, presentation by Dr. Jay Badams, superintendent, and Brian Polito, business manager, on the financial status of Erie Public Schools
- ❖ *Pennsylvania Pathways Innovation Network*; Ambassador Conference Center; March 17; with representatives from school districts, businesses, and workforce development agencies; to explore the potential of participating in PA-PIN
- ❖ *Emerge 2040 Steering Committee*; Erie; March 17; monthly meeting of steering committee to discuss the regional strategic plan
- ❖ *Industry Certifications, PDE/BCTE Conference Call*; March 11; with administrators from other CTCs across the state; to discuss establishing a ranking system for industry credentials
- ❖ *Pennsylvania Labor Relations Bureau Hearing*; Pittsburgh; March 10; with Natalie Fatica, James Bucksbee, and Mark Wassell; to testify in a labor relations complaint hearing
- ❖ *School District Tour and Presentation*; Fort LeBoeuf School District; March 10; with Joe Tarasovitch; campus tour and presentations on ECTS, RCTC, Career Street, and Emerge 2040
- ❖ *Workforce Development Board, Sector Strategies and Career Pathways Committee Meeting*; Teleconference; March 9; quarterly meeting of Board subcommittee
- ❖ *Occupational Advisory Committee Meetings*; March 8; ECTS; semi-annual meetings of each program's business advisory committee, presented a recap of ECTS in 2015-2016
- ❖ *Workforce Development Board, Monitor and Evaluation Committee Meeting*; Teleconference; March 8; quarterly meeting of Board subcommittee
- ❖ *Professional Unit Negotiations*; ECTS; March 7
- ❖ *Professional Advisory Council Meeting*; ECTS; March 4; monthly meeting with superintendents