

Professional Advisory Council (PAC) Meeting – Friday, October 6, 2017

Submitted by Kenneth A. Berlin, M.Ed.

Attendance: Fairview, Fort LeBoeuf, General McLane, Girard, Harbor Creek, Iroquois, Millcreek North East, Northwestern, Union City, Wattsburg

Campaign for Grade-Level Reading

Representatives from the United Way, Mike Jaruzewicz and Laurie Root spoke to the superintendents about their efforts build and maintain a county, district, and community-wide culture of attendance through early and preventive outreach, cross-sector systems of support, and attention to data. The superintendents discussed ways in which school districts can collaborate with the United Way on this project as both organizations share the same goal.

ECTS Renovation Project

Architect, Chris Coughlin presented the renovation plans to the superintendents. This included a discussion of the historical and the current needs of the ECTS. The most pressing goals of the renovation are to address failing infrastructure, provide additional classroom space at ECTS and in the Skills Center, and modernize the instructional areas. Details of the renovation and construction plans were reviewed. The superintendents also discussed the cost and various options for funding of the project.

PA Economy League Report (PEL)

The superintendents provided detailed feedback regarding the draft Phase I PEL report with David W. Davare, Ph.D. Specifically, the superintendents asked for the inclusion of two additional aspects in the final Phase I report:

1. Relevant data from the recently released school district consolidation feasibility report commissioned by the state legislature, which shows consolidation of district and schools rarely results in large savings.
2. Revise the enrollment challenge numbers in the report to reflect that all displaced Erie High School Tech students cannot be accommodated by the ECTS.

The superintendents then discussed the data expectations for PHASE II of the report dealing with economics if Erie S.D. high schools are closed:

1. Transportation costs incurred by Erie S.D.
2. Tuition costs incurred by Erie S.D.
3. Actual capacity of receiving schools (not PlanCon capacities, which are inflated due to special education space requirements).
4. Increased special education costs for receiving districts.
5. Increased costs for English Language learners for receiving districts.
6. Increased security costs for receiving districts (Erie S.D. maintains a school police force).
7. Increased costs for additional teachers in receiving districts.

Enrollment Reports

- High School
- Transition Center
- CAEP