
**Erie County Technical School
Director's Report
April 2019**

Collective Bargaining

Representatives of the ECTS Classified Unit and the ECTS Administration (Dr. Walker & Natalie Fatica) have reached a "Tentative Agreement" (TA). The TA will be presented to the JOC tonight for consideration. Discussions remained positive without mediators or other outside representation at the meetings.

Building Security

All projects discussed with the JOC regarding building security have been completed. We do not anticipate further building security projects until there is clarity and direction for a renovation. Dr. Walker remains happy to provide any level of additional detail about building security with the JOC in Executive Session.

Budgeting

Dr. Walker has been working with Business Manager Birchard on budgeting. The budget has been through the consideration and approval processes by all School Boards and is being considered by the JOC this evening.

Renovation Status

Dr. Walker convened a meeting with the Facilities Update and Renovation Committee to discuss options for advancing the renovation. The Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) has contacted me to request detailed background information and financial statements as a precursor to scheduling meetings with various stakeholders. PDE wants all of the material they requested by Monday, May 6th. The meeting with legislators discussed at our last JOC meeting has been postponed until after the PDE assess the situation.

ECTS Operations

1. That portion of a lease from ECTS to IU5 for storage in the Skills Center will end July 31, 2019. That portion of a lease from ECTS to IU5 for the Regional Choice Initiative (RCI) held in the Skills Center will remain in effect.
2. PennDOT will be holding a public meeting at the ECTS on Thursday, May 2 to discuss the roundabout project.
3. Dr. Walker, Principal Tarasovitch, Business Manager Birchard, and several Superintendents met with representatives of the Sarah Reed Center on Thursday, April 18th to discuss terms for a revised Career Alternative Education Program (CAEP) for next year. That meeting had not occurred at the time this report was prepared, details of the meeting will be provided in my verbal report this evening.

4. Dr. Walker has been working on three goals this year:

- a. Move the renovation forward,
- b. Seek changes in the CAEP program and contract for next year, and
- c. Assess initial feasibility of beginning a JROTC program at the ECTS.

Progress on these goals is right where we need to be at this point in the year.

5. Dr. Walker is working with Principal Tarasovitch and Natalie Fatica on three this year:

- a. Special Education Manager – Finalist recommended to the Director,
- b. Co-operative Education Coordinator -- Applications are still being submitted, and
- c. School Nurse – Finalist recommendation coming to the JOC this evening.

6. NOCTI testing was conducted at the ECTS. Arrangements for, and security of, the exams is a particularly large-scale and complex process involving every room and laboratory in the ECTS, feeding all of our students/staff and exam proctors, identifying and coordinating exam proctors from our business community, and logistics in general are major pieces to the testing process. The entire NOCTI testing day was handled extremely well. A special note of thanks goes to our faculty and staff – each one of which is completely engaged in the testing process. A tremendous note of thanks goes to Ms. Sandy Carr and Ms. Mary Foulkrod who coordinated the entire process. The amount of effort over an extended period of time that it takes to make the testing possible should really be applauded.

7. Dr. Walker conducted a Staff Climate Survey. The survey was administered via “paper and pencil” to address concerns of anonymity and the survey was processed by a third-party vs. by ECTS Administration for the same reason.

It has been approximately five (5) years since such a survey was administered.

The survey revealed a generally positive climate within the ECTS, there were NO major issues or themes of dissatisfaction noted, and the comments provided a rich source of input we can use collectively to enhance our school.

Summary survey results were presented to two staff groups – Teachers, and then all other staff.

Dr. Walker will form a working group of staff next year to analyze the survey data in more detail and provide recommendations for specific enhancements.

Student Activity

Several ECTS students participated in the state-level Skills USA competition held in Hershey, PA. ECTS instructors Michael Miller and Travis Woodburn are the mentors and coordinators for the Skills USA students. Many thanks to Mr.'s Miller and Woodburn for their time and efforts!

ECTS Instructor Kayla Noonan took a bus full of students and chaperones to Chicago to attend the major Cosmetology Exposition. Kayla has nerves of steel and the patience of a Saint. The trip Kayla organized happens once every three years so that each student participates once during their ECTS careers. A special note, and a special note of thanks, goes to Kayla who organizes and conducts multiple fundraising events throughout the year to make this opportunity happen.

Other Action Items This Month

Other items the director has been working on this month include:

1. Dr. Walker participated in the Pennsylvania Inspired Leadership Program at IU4 (Grove City), March 18-19, 2019.
2. Dr. Walker participated in local/regional meetings – Erie Together, NCT³.