
**Erie County Technical School
Director's Report
December 2018**

Collective Bargaining

Representatives of the ECTS Clerical Staff have requested discussions regarding a potential “early bird” contract. Dr. Walker met with ECTS Clerical Staff collective bargaining representation and mediator David Ramsey December 18, 2018 for an official first meeting. Additional points include the following:

- 1.** We anticipate a process similar to our last experience with the Clerical Staff.
- 2.** Small group meetings – Dr. Walker & Natalie Fatica for ECTS and Marty Burnham and another clerical staff member.
- 3.** The first negotiation meeting is expected in early January.
- 4.** Dr. Walker will seek guidance from the JOC in an Executive Session.

Building Security

The JOC asked Dr. Walker to develop one or more options for building security. Dr. Walker will discuss building security with the JOC in an Executive Session.

Renovation Status

Dr. Walker has convened multiple stakeholder meetings regarding the renovation. At this point Dr. Walker has had an initial planning meeting with Architect Chris Coughlin, performed an initial walk-through inspection with George McMillan of H.F. Lenz Engineering Company, and met with Architect Chris Coughlin and all of the internal ECTS stakeholder groups to solicit input regarding the renovation.

All stakeholder meetings have been very positive, many great ideas and different perspectives have been shared, and meeting participants have been very appreciative to have been consulted.

Retirements

Dr. Walker has been notified that Pat Holland (ECTS Supervisor of Instructional Support) will retire at the end of the academic year. Dr. Walker will work with ECTS staff to update the job description and begin a search after the holidays with the intent of hiring a qualified candidate to start in the later Spring to provide for a smooth transition. Dr. Walker has already convened a meeting with internal stakeholders to plan and discuss the mechanics of a smooth transition and business continuity.

Dr. Walker has also been informed that Susan Tatalone (RCTC Supervisor) will retire in January 2019. Dr. Walker has already worked with ECTS staff to retain a temporary replacement to facilitate a smooth transition and sustain business continuity. Dr. Walker is working through the process of scheduling a meeting with internal constituents to plan and discuss the mechanics of a smooth transition.

Prior to searching for a permanent replacement for the RCTC Supervisor, Dr. Walker will convene a Leadership Team meeting to discuss personnel and financial resource needs for the RCTC going forward. Highlights of a revised RCTC operation were provided at the November JOC meeting and are summarized below:

Dr. Walker and the Leadership Team discussed repositioning the RCTC to include program-based offerings in addition to primarily individual course offerings. Dr. Walker presented a curricular design model facilitating “stackable certificates and micro-credentials” via a standardized model with the following characteristics:

1. Six courses would constitute a program.
2. Three courses would be common to multiple programs. These three common courses would be allowed to satisfy the requirements of more than one program (i.e., stackable). The common courses could be as follows:
 - a. Building code analysis and interpretation,
 - b. OSHA safety based on 10 and/or 30-hour certification,
 - c. Reading and interpreting blueprints and planning documents, and
 - d. Three course sequences for content areas/trades would be the basis for different programs. Initial programs would be carpentry, electrical, and plumbing – multiple other programs are possible.
3. The main lab in our Skills Center would be subdivided and used to support these programs.
4. The HVAC and lighting systems in the Skills Center are operational.

Reinitiating discussions about third-party vendors providing capital-intensive programming

Dr. Walker and Terri Birchard met with representatives of PA Pride which is the third-party vendor that offers the Commercial Driver's License (CDL) programs at the ECTS Skills Center. The purpose of the meeting was to review the existing contract and discuss PA Pride interest in potentially offering one or more capital-intensive programs such as the following:

1. Heavy Equipment Operator,
2. Heavy Equipment Mechanics (i.e., Repair and Maintenance), and
3. Diesel Mechanics (i.e., Repair and Maintenance).

PA Pride is very interested in pursuing the programs noted above which would require offering longer-term programs than the CDL program. Shorter-term programs such as the CDL fall under Title I funding which provides approximately \$3500 of one-time grant funding for adult vocational programs – There is no repayment required for Title I resources. Offering the programs noted above would require Title IV funding authorization which would enable students to acquire tuition assistance loans from commercial funding sources – Students must repay commercial lenders for tuition assistance loans.

There would be an application process required to become authorized for Title IV -- This process was initiated, but not completed by our former ECTS Director. Now, as in the initial

Title IV application process, we at ECTS DO NOT intend to seek approval to award the Associate of Science degree as we do not see that as a component of our charter.

Should a new initiative go forward with PA Pride, we envision using the Skills Center to host the program(s) as well as ECTS-owned land adjacent to the Skills Center. The topic of environmental permitting was raised as a potential concern and PA Pride had already evaluated this potential concern and found that while a storm run-off pond may be required (which PA Pride would install at their expense), that remaining above-grade with heavy equipment does not require Environmental Protection Agency approval nor does it require an environmental impact study.

At this point in time PA Pride is waiting to see if we at the ECTS are ready/willing to reinstitute the Title IV authorization process.

Other Action Items This Month

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

1. Dr. Walker successfully completed the New Directors Academy at Penn State Tuesday, December 11, 2018.
2. Dr. Walker extended his travel from the above course to meet Dr. Lee Burkett (PDE Director of Vocational/Technical Education) and her staff in Harrisburg Wednesday, December 12, 2018.
3. Dr. Walker returned to Penn State following the Harrisburg travel to attend a mandatory training regarding Perkins V grant funding with Principal Tarasovitch on Thursday, December 13, 2018.