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

Collective Bargaining

Representatives of the ECTS Classified Unit and the ECTS Administration (Dr. Walker & Natalie Fatica) have been meeting to discuss terms of a new contract since the last JOC meeting. Discussions remain positive without mediators or other outside representation at the meetings.

Building Security

All projects discussed with the JOC regarding building security have been completed with the exception of one last project scheduled for next week. 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. We remain on schedule for completing the budgeting process in April or May. At this point in time, the budget has received preliminary approvals from the Superintendents and the JOC. The budget is currently pending formal approval by School Boards and we would expect to bring a final budget to the JOC for ratification in April or May.

Renovation Status

Dr. Walker convened an initial meeting with the Facilities Update and Renovation Committee to discuss options for advancing the renovation. The committee felt it was more important to work toward garnering political support for the renovation vs. partitioning the renovation into smaller work packages scheduled over a longer period of time. We are in the process of coordinating a meeting with local legislators and representatives of the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE). The target date for a meeting with local legislators and PDE is April 5th.

ECTS Operations

1. Dr. Walker is engaging in the teacher evaluation process this year and will move into the teacher evaluation process even more next year.
2. Dr. Walker is preparing the school for new efforts and initiatives next year, particularly as these efforts and initiatives relate to the Danielson Model (Category I) used throughout PA for teacher assessment.

3. Dr. Walker has called for a retreat with the Student Services staff of ECTS in May, not something that has been done in anyone's memory. We are doing the retreat, in part, because two (2) of five employees in this area are retiring at the end of this year.
4. Dr. Walker will be working with the ECTS administration to prepare a work session/retreat during the summer. This work session/retreat will require more time and effort this year as we engage in more detailed, school-wide, planning and preparations for next year.
5. Dr. Walker will be taking the lead on RCTC operations. We hired two new RCTC Managers (in a part-time job share status) and Dr. Walker would like to work with RCTC to ensure a smooth transition, providing day-to-day guidance, engaging two new strategic initiatives (programs vs. courses and course structure/documentation), and considering one or more new programs.
6. Dr. Walker will be taking the lead on CAEP. Dr. Walker has been coordinating input from the Superintendents about desired changes in the CAEP contract for next year as well as a complete program rewrite the following year. Dr. Walker has called for the first contract discussion meeting with representatives of the Sarah Reed Center and he will continue with program refinement, contract negotiations, and an entirely new level of monitoring, supervision, and reporting – The change in CAEP involvement by the Director will need to be considered relative to performance expectations and the current job description.
7. Dr. Walker will begin a feasibility assessment this year considering a Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps (JROTC) program at the ECTS. This request initially came from the sending school district Principals and was supported by the Superintendents – for a feasibility study. There are JROTC programs only in two (2) or the 11 sending school districts.

Student Activity

ECTS students are preparing for NOCTI examinations. The examinations have been ordered, proctors have been secured, an examination date has been scheduled, and plans for students not taking the NOCTI examinations have been made with sending school districts. Many thanks and congratulations to our Supervisor of Instructional Support, Ms. Sandy Carr, and our Career Planning Coordinator, Ms. Mary Foulkrod, for coordinating the NOCTI testing process – There is a LOT of work to make the testing happen.

Other Action Items This Month

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

1. Dr. Walker attended the PACTA New Director's Academy Part II in State College, PA. March 5, 2019.
2. Dr. Walker participated in the Pennsylvania Inspired Leadership Program at IU4 (Grove City), March 18-19, 2019.
3. Dr. Walker participated in local/regional meetings – Erie Together, NCT³.