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

Collective Bargaining

The ECTS Classified Unit has ratified the collective bargaining agreement and the JOC will consider ratification at this meeting.

Roundabout

PennDOT has revealed their plans for a roundabout at five corners. Key points in the discussion of a roundabout are as follows:

1. Pictures of the graphics PennDOT displayed during the public meeting are as provided tonight.
2. PennDOT requested use of the ECTS facility to accommodate public meetings – Request granted.
3. PennDOT requested use of ECTS audio/video equipment during the public meetings – Request granted.
4. PennDOT does not appear to have consulted or inform any other ECTS stakeholders of the planned roundabout location or use of Eminent Domain.
5. While the assumption of our staff has been that the center of the roundabout would be located on the center of the existing intersection, that is not the case.
6. PennDOT intends to locate the roundabout, in its entirety, on the ECTS campus under the auspices of Eminent Domain.
7. PennDOT will also be taking additional ECTS property to facilitate relocating entry and exit connection roads to/from the roundabout.
8. The proposed design takes all of the road frontage from the roundabout to the tree line on Hamot Avenue.
9. The proposed design also takes some ECTS property on Oliver Road.
10. The proposed roundabout is the largest in the area – 190 feet in diameter, not counting traffic lanes vs. 145 feet for other roundabouts.
11. PennDOT shared a justification of using the ECTS property at the public meeting based on their being able reduce disruption of the five corners intersection while construction is underway.
12. The proposed location for the roundabout brings traffic much closer to the main ECTS building – Concerns for safety, noise levels, and distraction from the educational mission.
13. PennDOT has agreed to a meeting at the ECTS to discuss the roundabout Friday, May 31st at 1:00pm.
14. PennDOT stated that they will be responsible for snow removal in the roundabout.
15. Summit town officials expressed concern about the adequacy of PennDOT snow removal operations.
16. There was a brief conversation about using ECTS property to dump snow.
17. Tim and Chris Sennett have been notified and have contacted PennDOT on our behalf.
18. Tim and Chris Sennett will need to provide clarification on the legal aspects of Eminent Domain for the ECTS.

Renovation Status

PDE representatives Dr. Lee Burkett (PA Director of Career and Technical Education) and consultant Clyde Hornburger visited the ECTS, specifically Dr. Walker on Monday, May 6th. Much of the conversation revolved around history of the renovation project, individuals and school districts involved, and concerns about project scope given no discussion of renovations in the Skills Center and the need for new equipment and furniture.

PDE requested in advance of their visit copies of our last, current, and next year's budgets. There were conversations about procedures, protocols, and past practices in maintaining the buildings when repairs were required. A part of these conversations about repairs addressed funding, and access to that funding, to effect repairs.

It is my understanding that PDE will next address a wider set of stakeholder meetings, however, there was no indication of when the follow-on meetings would be scheduled.

A meeting with Legislators is scheduled for Wednesday, May 29 at 9:00am to discuss the renovation. The format of the meeting will focus on a presentation I prepared with discussion and additional points being made by members of the Facilities and Renovation Committee members as well as Superintendents.

ECTS Operations

1. 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. The meeting was cordial and it was consensus that representatives of the SRC would prepare a proposal reflecting increased costs based on requests by the ECTS delegation for changes in programming, procedures, staffing and the provision of ancillary tasks (i.e., building repairs, lunches, security, etc.). The revised SRC proposal has not been received as of the date this report was prepared. Business Manager Terri Birchard contacted representatives of the SRC today checking status of the proposal and representatives of the SRC shared with us that they are still working on a proposal.
2. 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.

3. Dr. Walker is working with Principal Tarasovitch and Natalie Fatica on three searches this year:
 - a. Special Education Manager – JOC approval sought tonight.
 - b. Co-operative Education Coordinator – Waiting for candidate acceptance/refusal at the time this report was prepared, and
 - c. School Nurse – Hired.
4. 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.
5. Dr. Walker conducted a Staff Climate Survey. The survey results were presented to the ECTS community on Wednesday, May 22.

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

Graduating seniors in our Culinary program held a “Portfolio Review” for friends, family, and the public on Thursday, May 16 in the ECTS cafeteria. The event was well attended, the student recognition portion of the event was well received, and the student recognition was developed by Culinary instructors Kelly Schoullis and Jessica Warren.

Following the portfolio review, the Culinary students prepared food for a nice reception and students shared time with instructors, family, and friends.

ECTS students and faculty are preparing for graduation. Excitement for graduation and anticipation for the summer break are building in the ECTS.

Other Action Items This Month

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

1. Dr. Walker participated in a Legislator's tour and review of the Pennsylvania College of Technology (PCoT) on Tuesday, May 14. The PCoT is remarkably aligned with the ECTS and represents many opportunities for ECTS students to continue their educations with advanced technical education at the Associates or Bachelors degree levels. Dr. Walker will be working with ECTS staff to strengthen the relationship with the PCoT via articulation agreements.