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

Renovation Status

Dr. Walker acknowledges the discussion at our last JOC meeting regarding a reboot of the renovation process met with some concern regarding loss of momentum.

Dr. Walker and Principal Tarasovitch continued work on the renovation by meeting with Architect Chris Coughlan. Mr. Coughlan was presented by Walker/Tarasovitch with a copy of Act 44 and relevant constraints known at this time (i.e., no work on the Skills Center, any size increases cannot exceed 20% of the existing structure size, one new theory room and laboratory must be included in the design, all square footage allocations must conform to PDE requirements, and that any mechanical contractor used must employ energy efficient technology) and invited him to submit a revised design concept on an expedited schedule. Mr. Coughlan is preparing a design for delivery/presentation in November. Dr. Walker is reminding all constituent groups that the JOC typically does not meet in November, although a special JOC meeting could be called if desired.

Dr. Walker and Principal Tarasovitch also requested that Mr. Coughlan prepare one design concept based on their input.

Dr. Walker would like to proceed as follows:

1. Present all designs (seven in total) mounted on display boards to key constituent groups as soon as they are ready as a complete set – An order of constituent group presentations must be developed.
2. Select an Architect as soon as possible, just before or after the holidays.
3. Engage constituent groups in a process of design review and refinement as soon as possible.

RCTC Program Development

Dr. Walker and the Leadership Team met with Mrs. Susan Tatalone, RCTC Director, to discuss needs for additional space to teach carpentry in January 2019. Current RCTC carpentry courses are being taught in the High School (HS) lab and interference between the RCTC and HS carpentry projects will not facilitate teaching the advanced RCTC carpentry courses scheduled for January.

Dr. Walker and the Leadership Team then discussed a larger issue in RCTC which was course offerings only vs. program-based offerings. Dr. Walker presented a curricular design model facilitating “stackable certificates and micro-credentials.”

After a substantive conversation it was agreed that moving toward a standardized curricular model enables RCTC to better serve community needs both in terms of offering new areas of instruction as well as offering greater depth of content. The standardized curricular model has 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 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 the Leadership Team would like to poll the JOC and others to assess interest in potentially using a third-party vendor to offer 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).

Laboratory Enhancement

Dr. Walker has learned that the Facility Maintenance lab, the only lab currently teaching very limited applications of plumbing, has not been enabled to build a scaled structural mock-up for instruction, demonstration, or installations. Dr. Walker has asked that planning begin to use all the trades within ECTS to build a two level structure within the current Facility Maintenance lab teaching all elements of residential plumbing – The Facilities Maintenance instructor is supportive of building the mock-up structure. The current lab, in its current configuration, can support the construction of the plumbing mock-up (which will also have a full electrical installation – HVAC could be added as well).

JOC Training and Governance

With concurrence of the JOC, Dr. Walker would like to schedule a training and “onboarding” session with the PASB or PACTA following School Board elections later this fall or early winter.

Career Alternative Education Program (CAEP)

Dr. Walker discussed the CAEP program at the last meeting of Superintendents. The Superintendents requested a meeting with representatives from the Sara Reed Center and the topics of discussion included damage to the facility, the number of Sara Reed staff on duty at any given time, status of the CAEP program relative to career education, reputational damage to the ECTS by housing the CAEP program on our campus, options for relocating the CAEP program off the ECTS campus.

Dr. Walker identified a potential path forward based on rebranding the Skills Center as a Sara Reed Center, having the Sara Reed Center provide their own maintenance and security, etc. The concept of further separating the CAEP program as described here was not dismissed by Superintendents.

Dr. Walker shared with the Superintendents that in order to make an option of leaving CAEP on the ECTS campus a viable option, a renovation would require adding four classrooms to the main building for operation as a dual use facility for both Regional Choice Initiative and adult education students.

Constituent Meetings

Dr. Walker is meeting with smaller groups of constituents (i.e., approximately 10 per group) to assess the operating environment and build rapport. These meetings are productive and are going well.

Other Action Items This Month

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

- 1.