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

Director's Progress with Entry Plan Implementation

Dr. Walker is continuing efforts implementing his entry plan. At this point an assessment of Strengths, Challenges, Opportunities, and Threats is complete – There are no emergencies that require immediate attention or intervention.

Dr. Walker continues visiting and meeting with each sending School District (SD) Superintendent and Principal, and touring the High Schools. The majority of meetings and visits at the SDs is nearly complete and all feedback about the ECTS has been positive.

Following completion of the SD meetings and visits Dr. Walker will convene a Transition Team (TT) to report progress and solicit guidance and feedback. A second and final TT meeting will be convened by Dr. Walker late this fall or early winter.

PIL Courses and New Directors Academy

Dr. Walker completed the New Directors Academy in Harrisburg/Hersey September 26th, 2018. The Tuition Assistance Memorandum of Understanding was modified to provide funding for this course.

Working with Neil Donovan as Career and Technical Distinguished Leader (CTDSL) from PDE

PDE provided a mentor, Mr. Neil Donovan, to assist in the transition process for Dr. Walker. Mr. Donovan has been meeting and coordinating conversations and PRAXIS preparations for Dr. Walker. PDE has confirmed that Mr. Donovan will be available for 15 days of service during Dr. Walker's transition.

Invitation the Joint Operating Committee (Retreat)

Dr. Walker would like to invite/request that the Joint Operating Committee (JOC) come together to engage in a conversation that may be used as the basis of documenting understandings and expectations, and documentation related, but not limited to, the following:

1. Current and future status of operations within the ECTS,
2. Current and future expectations of the ECTS Director,
3. Current and future status of key initiatives (ex. The renovation),
4. Staffing,
5. Job descriptions, and
6. General timing and sequence of events.

With concurrence of the JOC, Dr. Walker would like to invite Superintendents to attend and participate in some or all of the retreat.

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 toured the Skills Center in August and the overall condition of the facility is concerning. The facility is in substandard shape for a variety of reasons relating to deferred maintenance, however, it is clear that the CAEP students are excessively rough and are further damaging the facility.

There is a collateral damage associated with using the Skills Center for adult education and scheduling courses for the Regional Choice Initiative (RCI) programs in that patrons of the that facility are communicating their impressions of the substandard facility with friends and family which is negatively impacting perceptions of the overall quality of the ECTS. While it is true that neither the CAEP nor RCI programs belong to, or are operated by, the ECTS, the public perception is that these programs do belong to the ECTS.

Dr. Walker shared these concerns with the Superintendents at the last Professional Advisory Committee (PAC) meeting and the Superintendents were not uniformly up-to-date on history of the CAEP program, changes in CAEP programming, changing needs for additional emotional and psychological support/counseling, etc. The Superintendents requested that Frank DiPlacido, our primary contact at the Sara Reed Center who is responsible for the CAEP program, and be scheduled for a report to the Superintendents at the next PAC meeting.

PDE Supplemental Equipment Grant

Dr. Walker submitted on behalf of the ECTS a PDE Supplemental Equipment Grant application for equipment supporting the Construction Trades and Auto Body Repair programs. The amount requested in the grant was nearly \$40,000.

Building Renovation

Dr. Walker, Principal Tarasovitch, and Business Manager Birchard met with architects from HHSDR for a presentation of what has been referred to as a “second opinion” regarding a building renovation. The topic of a building renovation remains problematic and stalled for many reasons.

Dr. Walker will present tonight a process for a recommended “Path Forward.” The Path Forward will be presented tonight as a conversation starter only in the context of a “first reading.” The desired outcome of the conversation tonight would be a vote of endorsement to implement the “process” at the October JOC meeting.

With a JOC endorsement of a process as presented or modified, it is the desire of Dr. Walker to implement the process in a timely manner and in advance of disruptions associated with changes in the JOC coming after School Board elections.

Other Action Items This Month

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

- 1.