MIFFLIN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

201 Eighth Street - Highland Park
Lewistown, Pennsylvania 17044

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James A. Estep, Superintendent

Vance S. Varner, Director of Secondary Education
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Tracey M. Jones, Director of Special Education
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March 12, 2014

James Agras, Chairman
Vocational Technical Education Committee
Pennsylvania State Board of Education
333 Market Street
Harrisburg, PA 17126

RE: Mifflin Juniata Career and Technical Center
Mifflin County School District - Petition for a Single District Career and Technical Center Status

Dear Chairman Agras:

Pursuant to the Committee's January 2, 2014, request, we are writing on behalf of the Board of School Directors of Mifflin County School District to formally request that the State Board of Education approve the Mifflin County School District's Petition for the establishment of a Single District Career and Technical Center.

As your Committee is aware, the Mifflin County School District and the Juniata County School District have jointly operated the Mifflin Juniata Career and Technical Center for many years. In 2013, the School Districts approved a comprehensive Settlement Agreement along with new Articles of Agreement. Pursuant to both documents, the Mifflin County School District is obligated to seek State Board of Education approval for the Mifflin Career and Technical Center which will be a Single District Career and Technical Center. If approved by the State Board of Education, Mifflin County School District will continue to operate the Mifflin County Career and Technical Center in full compliance with all applicable regulations and certification requirements. It is the intent of the Mifflin County School District to maintain the current program offerings which have provided outstanding educational opportunities to the students of the Mifflin County School District as well as the students of the Juniata County School District.

In addition, the Mifflin County School District is committed to providing career and technical education opportunities to the students of the Juniata County School District. This fact is memorialized in both the Settlement Agreement as well as the Articles of Agreement approved by both parties. However, beyond the documents approved by the parties, the Board of School Directors of Mifflin County School District wishes to provide further assurance to the State Board of Education that it will continue to offer vocational technical education opportunities to Juniata County School District student for the indefinite future. The Mifflin County School District intends to work with the Juniata County School District in an effort to coordinate and improve the career and technical education opportunities provided to all students.

Currently, the Mifflin Juniata Career and Technical Center offers the following approved programs:

1. 01.0201 Agricultural Mechanization, General
2. 12.0401 Cosmetology/Cosmetologist, General
3. 12.0508 Institutional Food Workers
4. 19.0708 Child Care and Support Services Management
5. 46.0399 Electrical and Power Transmission Installers, Other
6. 46.0401 Building/Property Maintenance
7. 47.0603 Autobody/Collision and Repair Technology/Technician
8. 47.0604 Automobile/Automotive Mechanics Technology/Technician
9. 48.0501 Machine Tool Technology/Machinist
10. 51.9999 Health Professions and Related Clinical Sciences, Other

The CTC will be seeking PDE Approval to change from the current 01.0201 Agricultural Mechanization, General to 01.301 Agricultural Productions Operations, General which will begin in the 2014-2015 school year.

It is the Mifflin County School District's intent to continue the above-referenced Programs as structured and, if possible, expand the Programs offered by the Center as well as the corresponding areas of certification.

On behalf of the Board of School Directors and Administration of the Mifflin County School District, I would like to thank Dr. Lee Burket and her staff for their assistance, patience and support throughout this process. Change is, at times, difficult; however, we firmly believe that this transition to the Single District Career and Technical Center will improve the vocational technical education opportunities for the students in Mifflin County, Juniata County and any other student wishing to participate in the future.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

Board President
Mifflin County School District

James A. Estep, Superintendent
Mifflin County School District

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Vocational Technical Education Committee
Pennsylvania State Board of Education
333 Market Street
Harrisburg, PA 17126

RE: Mifflin Juniata Career and Technical Center
Mifflin County School District - Petition for a Single District Career and Technical Center Status

Dear Chairman Agras:

Pursuant to the Committee's January 2, 2014, request, we are writing on behalf of the Mifflin County School District; the Juniata County School District; and the Mifflin Juniata Career and Technical Center to support the approval of the Mifflin County School District's Petition for Single District Career and Technical Center.

As your Committee is aware, the Mifflin County School District and the Juniata County School District have jointly operated the Mifflin Juniata Career and Technical Center for many years. In 2013, the School Districts approved a Settlement Agreement along with new Articles of Agreement. In both documents, the parties have made commitments to continue to provide career and technical education opportunities to their respective students; however, beyond the documents, both School Districts wish to provide further assurance to the State Board of Education that, in the indefinite future, we intend to make available career and technical education opportunities to our students, including the opportunity to participate in the Programs offered by the Mifflin County Career and Technical Center.

This transition has not been easy for either School District; however, throughout the process one thing has always remained constant, and that is the shared commitment to providing outstanding career and technical opportunities to all of the students. There is, has never been; and, will never be any disagreement by the parties on this issue.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

Board President
Juniata County School District

Board President
Mifflin County School District

Superintendent
Juniata County School District

Superintendent
Mifflin County School District

Executive Director
Mifflin Juniata Career and Technical Center

Juniata County School District

75 SOUTH SEVENTH STREET,
MIFFLINTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA 17059
TELEPHONE (717) 436-2111

Karen Molchanow
Executive Director
State Board of Education
333 Market Street, 1st Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17126

March 12, 2014

Reference: Mifflin Juniata Career and Technical Center

Dear Executive Director Molchanow,

At a special board meeting dated May 7th 2013, the Juniata County School District Board of Directors voted to approve the Settlement Agreement dated May 7th, 2013. Within that agreement, Mifflin County School District took ownership of the CTC. The Juniata County School District recognizes that Mifflin County School District is seeking approval to operate the current Mifflin-Juniata Career and Technical Center as single district area vocational school. Included in the agreement are provisions for Juniata County School District students to attend the CTC until 2018 with yearly agreements thereafter.

Currently the Juniata County School District operates four (4) Department of Education approved Career and Technical programs. Juniata County School District has an agreement with SUN Area Technical Institute located at 815 E. Market Street & 21st Century Dr. New Berlin. The District is also constructing three new shop areas at our East Juniata campus and one shop at our Juniata High School campus so more students can receive career and technical instructions within their home district. The renovations include space and layout for more shops to be added in the future.

The Juniata County School District Board of Directors and administration would like to continue sending students to the CTC located in Mifflin County. If however, the Mifflin and Juniata County School Districts cannot come to an agreement after the 2018 deadline, the students in Juniata County School District will have approved career and technical education programs they can attend in our school based programs or at SUN Area Tech. The approved agreement also indicates a 1-year's advance notice if either party modifies or won't extend the agreement. Following the terms of the current agreement, the first follow up agreement should be completed no later than June, 2018.

Approved Career and Technical Programs at JCSD:

01.0301 Agricultural Production Operations, General
46.9999 Construction Trade, Other
15.1301 Drafting and Design Technology/Technician, General
51.9999 Health Professions and Related Clinical Sciences, Other

Anticipated Career and Technical Programs at JCSD:

32.0105 Human Services, Job Seeking/Changing Skills (offered but not yet approved)
46.0101 Mason/Masonry (at the advisory committee level)
46.0401 Building/Property Maintenance (at the advisory committee level)
46.0201 Carpentry/ Carpenter (at the advisory committee level)

I trust the letter outlines the commitment the Juniata County School District places on career and technical education and our plan to continue providing career and technical education services to our students long after the current agreement expires.

Respectfully,

Richard J. Musselman
Superintendent

Cc:
James Estep
Dan Potutschnig

Juniata County School District

75 SOUTH SEVENTH STREET,
MIFFLINTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA 17059
TELEPHONE (717) 436-2111

April 8, 2014

After speaking with Dr. Burkett I understand the board is in need of additional information concerning the vocational programs at Juniata County School District. Please allow me to elaborate.

Juniata County School District is demolishing two of our outdated and undersized shops and building three new shops with two additional classrooms. Two of the shops are for two of our approved vocational programs, Vocational Agriculture and Building Trades. The other shop will be for our technology education classes. The design also included a hallway so additional shops could be added in the future. We are currently in the permit and bidding phase of the project with demolition and construction expected to begin this summer. Move into the new shops is expected by mid-February. The district will also be upgrading the equipment for the shops. Total projected cost, prior to bid opening, is estimated at $ 2,758,318. This information was shared with the department to show the district's commitment to our vocational program.

At our other high school, the building trades class has been constructing a large shop, storage and classroom area for their program. This project has been under construction for the past five years and is nearing completion. The HVAC will be installed this summer. Students will completing some exterior and interior work throughout next school year. The building has all of the permits and inspections required by local building codes and regulations.

As shared in my previous letter, we were looking at adding other vocational programs. At that time, the proposals were discussion topics for our advisory committee. There is some interest to add or diversify some of our current programs however bringing those programs to life will require many other steps before the district could add them to the courses we presently offer. Funding isn't available at this time to add classes but such discussions are important to mold the district's vision. Again, this information was shared to relay our commitment of providing more career and technical programs for our students.

Juniata County School District did approach Sun Area Tech based on the fear that Mifflin County School District would try and remove our district from the attendance area. That was a question, among many others, that our solicitor asked of the Department of Education during the lawsuit to remove Juniata from the Mifflin, Juniata CTC. Not receiving support from the department, we felt it was in our best interest to investigate options should Mifflin succeed in denying our students with vocational education services. Speaking with Dr. Lee Burket yesterday, I understand our students may not attend Sun Area Tech unless we are included in

their attendance area and we cannot be in their attendance area and in the MJCTC attendance area at the same time. Logistically, it is much better for the majority of the district to remain in the MJCTC attendance area. That school is much closer to a larger portion of our district than Sun Area Tech. Although we feel Sun Area Tech programs are significantly better and they offer more programs which would be attractive to our students, we understand our students may not attend Sun Area Tech due to attendance area restrictions unless they request doing so and the school board approves.

Finally, Juniata County School District believes Mifflin County School District will honor their current agreement and renew the agreement with JCSD. We also believe MCSD will need to continue working with JCSD to help fund the programs at the CTC. Basically, the CTC located in Lewistown will continue to operate as it has in the past. Mifflin and Juniata students will be able to pursue career and technical programs. The actions Juniata County School District took during this ordeal helped us identify options available if MCSD should succeed in denying enrollment to our students.

Respectfully Submitted

Richard J. Musselman