



Mohawk Area School District

385 Mohawk School Road, New Castle, PA 16102

Business Manager/Board Secretary
Ms. Nancy C. Solderich, PCSBA

VIA REGULAR AND CERTIFIED MAIL AND EMAIL

July 3, 2026

RE: Proposed Amendment to the Supplemental Articles of Agreement of the Lawrence County Career and Technology Center

Dear Superintendent and Board Members of Fellow Districts in the LCCTC Jointure,

As the President of the Mohawk Board of School Directors, I am writing to you following action taken by the Mohawk Board at a Special Meeting held on July 2, 2026. This is an urgent matter to ensure that the Lawrence County Career and Technology Center ("LCCTC" or "Center") continues to be a vibrant and effective resource for the communities of the eight (8) school districts that attend the Center into the future.

Section 20 of the Supplemental Articles of Agreement states as follows:

This Jointure Agreement may be amended at any time and from time to time by the approval of a majority of all members of the Board of School Directors of each School District; provided, that each amendment shall have been submitted in writing by registered or certified mail by a School District or by the Executive Committee to every School District at least ten (10) days prior to the approval thereof by any School District. Each School District shall notify the Secretary of the Joint Board of its action within forty-five (45) days of the mailing of the written proposed amendment.

Enclosed with this letter is an amendment to the Supplemental Articles of Agreement which our Board is proposing and will be voting to adopt at the meeting to be held on July 14, 2026. I would ask that you place this proposed amendment on your own District's next meeting Agenda, and that you report the final vote back to the Secretary of the Center's Joint Operating Committee within the forty-five (45) days from this letter, as called for under the Supplemental Articles.

The proposed amendment strikes one sentence from the Supplemental Articles which gives New Castle four (4) representatives and Ellwood City two (2) representatives on the Center's Executive Committee, while the other six (6) school districts have one (1) member each, and to strike an outdated reference to the defunct County School Board. Under this amendment, seven (7) of the eight (8) districts would have one vote on the Executive Committee and New Castle would be reduced from four (4) votes to two (2). This is not an uncommon governance structure, as many southwestern Pennsylvania CTCs have this governance structure. More importantly, this revision reflects the reality that the respective populations of the component school districts and their student populations are significantly different from the 1960s, when the Supplemental Articles were adopted. The population of students in grades 10-12 in each home district—the population presently eligible to attend the LCCTC—has changed drastically in the last several decades.



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Specifically, below is a chart that shows the changes from 1964 to the present day in grade 10-12 enrollment in the component school districts, using the enrollment figures cited in the original LCCTC Application for Approval of August 11, 1964 and the 2026 grade 10-12 enrollment given by each district's administration or web page, noting the difference from 1964 to the present.

School District	1964 10-12 pop.	2026 10-12 pop.	Change / % Change
Ellwood City	1035	296	-739 / -71.4%
Laurel	289	272	-17 / -5.9%
Mohawk	542	301	-241 / -44.5%
Neshannock	444	264	-180 / -40.5%
New Castle	2091	530	-1561 / -74.7%
Shenango	444	195	-249 / -56.1%
Union	N/A	139	--
Wilmington	376	241	-135 / -35.9%

Please understand that this action has not been taken lightly. Mohawk's Board is not willing to continue to have our voice ignored and to not be able to meaningfully impact the direction of career and vocational education in the County for our students. Recently, a new Administrative Director was hired without the Executive Committee following the process that had been agreed upon by the full Committee. Other concerns include future commitments to capital projects and spending by the Center which would be binding on Mohawk taxpayers and whether the Center is going to offer programs which meet the needs of Mohawk students. Our Board does not want to be committed any further to the direction of a Center that is effectively run by three school districts, and we cannot wait any longer for Mohawk and the other component school districts to have fair and effective representation on the Executive Committee.

I am happy to schedule and attend any public discussion which the component school district Board members may wish to schedule in order to discuss these proposed amendments, and I look forward to hearing from each of you. Together, I believe that the LCCTC's best days are ahead of it and that we can work together to make it an invaluable resource for our students.

Sincerely,

Sherry Patton
Mohawk Board of School Directors
President and LCCTC Joint Operating
Committee Representative

Proposed Changes to 1966 Supplemental Articles of Agreement

SECTION 8. AREA VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL SCHOOL

COMMITTEE: There is hereby created an Executive Committee, which Committee, together with any other duties herein given to it, or which hereafter may be assigned to it by the Joint Board, shall consider and make a recommendation with respect to every matter concerning the Vocational Technical School to be subsequently considered by (i) the Joint Board in convention or by mail ballot, and (ii) the Lawrence County Board of School Directors, acting as agent for the Joint Board in the operation, administration and management of the Vocational Technical School. The Executive Committee shall also prepare and approve (a) the mail ballots sent out by the Secretary of the Joint Board and (b) the annual operating expense budget for the Vocational Technical School prior to consideration and approval thereof by the Joint Board meeting in convention.

The Executive Committee shall consist of one member of the Board of School Directors of each School District, which member is to be selected annually in November by such School District; except that if the School District has reorganized and an interim operating committee is in existence all School Districts in that administrative unit shall have only one such representative for the administrative unit; and provided, further, that New Castle Area Schools District, ~~or its administrative unit, shall have four~~ two such representatives. ~~and Ellwood City Area School District shall have two such representatives.~~ Each School District shall select annually from the members of its Board of School Directors an alternate representative for each representative it is entitled to elect to the Executive Committee, which alternate representative shall have authority to act on the Executive Committee in the absence of the regular representative for whom he is an alternate. ~~If the School District has a member on the Lawrence County Board of School Directors, such person shall be such, or one of such, School District's representative or representatives on the Executive Committee, as the case may be; and the present members of the Operating Committee under the Articles of Agreement, dated July 30, 1964, shall constitute the regular members of the Executive Committee until their successors are elected in November, 1966.~~ Any vacancy on the Executive Committee shall be filled by the School District which the member vacating represented. The Executive Committee shall elect annually a President, Vice President and Secretary whose duties shall be similar to those of such officers of a board of school directors of a school district. The Executive Committee shall meet monthly on a date and at a time and place to be set from time to time by resolution of the Executive Committee, and the Executive Committee may meet specially on a date and at a time and place as the President (or in his absence or incapacity, the Vice President) may determine,

or shall determine promptly on the written request of four (4) members of the Executive Committee. The date, time and place of each meeting shall be given by mail or personal contact to each member of the Executive Committee by the Secretary of the Executive Committee at least twenty-four (24) hours before the meeting time. A quorum at any Executive Committee meeting shall consist of at least a majority of all members of the Executive Committee, and an affirmative recommendation on any matter considered by the Executive Committee shall require an affirmative vote of a majority of all members of the Executive Committee. All votes in the Executive Committee shall be taken by roll call vote of all members present, who must vote, with the roll to be called by the Secretary of the Executive Committee in alphabetical order of the names of the members. All recommendations of the Executive Committee shall be in writing when giving to a Joint Board meeting in convention or shall be written on the ballots mailed to members of the Joint Board.