

MINUTES

A-TECH GOVERNANCE BOARD MEETING
NOVEMBER 16, 2016
APPLETON WEST HIGH SCHOOL RM 136

MISSION

The Appleton Technical Academy graduates students who possess the knowledge and skill necessary for successful entry into the career pathways of modern advanced manufacturing.

1. WELCOME:

Present: Paul Lindberg, Steve Straub, Steve Haas, Katy Kornowske, Wes Fietzer, Jerry Clish, Chris Linn, Greg Hartjes, Tim McKeag

Unable to attend: Jared Bailin, Phil Sabee and Kari Christoph

2. OLD BUSINESS:

Approval of minutes from previous board meeting

Motion to approve

Jerry

2nd Chris

3. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Principal Report: Greg

Field Experience handout- Goal: to have 4 opportunities per year for each student. Freshman and Sophomore students are attending as a group. Junior and Senior students are attending field experiences geared toward their particular area of interest.

Instructors are getting good feedback regarding Junior and Senior field experiences as the students are more interested and engaged! The Miron field experience went very well, impressive facility.

A new company, joined the field experience list, Qcomp. It was the opinion of the board that enough companies are on board to offer field experience opportunities. Greg felt that the expenses for transportation seemed justified and sustainable. Some guest speakers will also be coming to West, in the future.

Steve S. has a contact that he will connect with to see if he might be willing to be come to speak with the A-Tech students.

At the booth at Manufacturing First Expo - Sure Controls expressed interest in joining the Youth Apprenticeship program.

It was mentioned that the Youth Apprenticeships programs have been struggling a bit as student's placed in an apprenticeship program, can often express interest in different areas. Companies are investing money and time in the students, and end up not benefiting from the experience. The board decided that if a student has lost interest in that field, the separation from the program at the semester break, vs. having to stay committed for the entire year, would be the best for everyone. Concern expressed that there is a big gap between Job Shadowing and Youth Apprenticeship. Will explore ways to expose the students to hone in on their area of interests, rather than jumping right into an apprenticeship position. Concern expressed how companies are utilizing the students, best course, or just "cheap labor", short term thinking? Perhaps they are not gaining experiences in a wide variety of jobs in the shop setting? Maturity of the student was discussed as well, they are still young, do they really know what they want to pursue? Also, the early start time was discussed, not ideal for a high school student who's metabolism is better suited to later starting times! It was suggested that this also be discussed at the Advisory Meeting, perhaps they will be able to make suggestions.

BUDGET:

The term: Allotment means the money received from the district. It was mentioned that A-Tech receives money when students complete apprenticeships. The amount varies. Greg has not had to tap into the "Activity Account" yet. This account allows more flexible spending for the program.

No more grant money from the State has been received. Decreased budget means less travel and outside experiences for staff members. Discussion about how often to attend the Trade Show in Chicago, will rotate, to be determined, as the budget allows.

Paul mentioned that expenses will increase as the \$5000 credit at American Welding is depleted. Also, originally A-Tech had a lot of products on hand, wire, tips etc., but as that stock depletes, expenses will increase.

NEW SCHOLARSHIP:

A former West Alumni is offering \$20,000 for A-Tech students who will be continuing their education at FVTC. It will need to be decided on how to disperse those funds....multiple students, or perhaps a "free ride" for two students? Steve S. mentioned that FVTC cost approximately \$10,000 for a two program. Greg would prefer to have scholarship money go to motivated students only.

Also, the Rhoades Foundation Scholarship wants MORE money to be awarded this year. Continued discussion to follow as time draws near.

Marketing/Student recruitment: Chris

Chris mentioned that they hosted an informational breakfast discussion meeting for a group of 8, (11 were invited), Middle School Counselors, Tech Ed. and Academic & Career Planning teachers from the AASD. Mr. Lindberg gave them the background of A-Tech and provided them with an A-Tech student profile. Received great feedback, information well received. Some felt a personal connection in consideration of family members who would have benefitted from the A-Tech program.

The committee plans to create a flyer to engage parents.

Manufacturing 1st Expo, booth provided by First Business Bank, experience was great! Excellent, unsolicited, positive feedback received regarding students present at booth, very professional, represented the school well!

Engman Taylor expressed interest in being a source for discounted supplies for the program.

The committee is also working on trying to collect success stories, interview A-Tech graduates and plan to create a video of the stories.

Plans are underway for an open house for community business members to attend to have the opportunity to learn more about A-Tech and how they can be involved.

Curriculum: Steve S.

Committee discussed FVTC buying Programmable Logic Controllers for the A-Tech program.

Looking into how Math courses offered at West can be more in line with Math courses at FVTC. Greg expressed concern of the difficulty of some Math concepts covered in the technical school course. Will continue to look into this.

Community Partnership: Tim

The committee has a sales team ready and are waiting on information to prioritize companies to make contact with.

Budget & Finance: Steve H.

Continue to work on the useful life working plan. Trying to determine what expenses will be incurred between 2017-2021, machine replacement etc. Then would like to begin fundraising efforts. It was mentioned that companies prefer to donate when they can see what their money is used for exactly. Paul mentioned that he is interested in purchasing a CNC Mill/Haas (80 x 90) for \$18,000.

4. NEW BUSINESS:

Kari Christoph-HR Manager A to Z Machine Company-unable to attend

Strategic Planning follow up session-Greg

Student engagement:

Motivation needed. Students are divided up among the 4 A-Tech instructors. To meet with them 2 x month. The time varies per student, but discussion includes goals, grades and continued interest. Students enjoy this one-on-one time and look forward to time spent with the instructor.

Counselor Involvement:

Jon Meidam, is the A-Tech School Counselor. He is working with Seniors, following through if they are on track with graduation, credits etc.

Out of School Mentor:

Per Greg, may be tough to find, but would be a great asset to the program. Will need to contact local companies.

Field Experiences/Speakers:

Will continue with plans that are in place.

Improve Marketing:

Chris provided great information presented earlier in the meeting. Discussion with the board members involved how to reach people in a paperless society. Discussed placing posters in high traffic area throughout businesses with A-Tech brochures available to reach out to a larger audience.

Improve Projects:

Bob Lemke is heading this program. Students provided with more than 1 project per quarter. Constantly looking for ideas to utilize skills learned in the classroom. Working on keeping the students engaged!

Excellent Technical Instruction:

Training for staff on going, industry exposure. Paul is encouraging students to share their experiences. Trying to get A to Z Machine involved.

Community Partnership:

Tim spoke about approaching deadlines and created a tier for donors.

Greg mentioned that Steve Kuper would like to have a follow up training session. Greg suggested 2/17/16-Time: TBD for the training session, as that is a staff development day for the A-Tech instructors, allowing them to attend.

Greg will ask Jared to follow up with Steve K., to see if that date would work for him.

Mailing to 8th grade students-(\$500-\$800)

Greg would like to mail postcards to all 8th grade students, approximately 1150 students, in the district, advertising the upcoming A-Tech open house dates that will be offered on 1/9/17 (coinciding with the Counseling Office-Night of Knowledge evening) and 2/28/17, as a way to recruit students. The postage would cost is .34 per card. Suggestions were made to revise the pictures on the postcard to show that A-Tech offers a wide variety of interests beyond welding, such as electronics. It was also suggested that perhaps it should feature a female student's picture, to encourage that population to consider A-Tech as well Greg also mentioned that the postcard could be translated for the Hmong and Latino communities as well. This idea was approved by the board members.

Other thoughts and suggestions ensued about how to reach out to potential students some suggestions made: social media outlets such as: Facebook, twitter, snapchat, etc.

Also, spoke about how with the current A-Tech student's assistance could be helpful in helping to expand the outreach! The suggestion was made the message should be initiated by an instructor, so when "re-tweeted", it can be assured that the message is appropriate, offering a way to control content! Greg will speak to Steph Gorges, Appleton West Tech Integrator, to ask for her assistance.

Suggestion was made by Katy to consider offering a "referral incentive" for current A-Tech students, (free t-shirt, etc.) when referring a friend to the program.

Open houses:-scheduled for 1/9/17 and 2/29/17.

Local 400 Steamfitters and Pipefitters Union: Interested in becoming involved in A-Tech. Greg made contact with the contact person who inquired initially, and provided his e-mail address, but has not heard back from him yet. This could be a positive outreach as it would give exposure to students about working with a union. At this point, Greg is not certain how they want to be involved with A-Tech, but could be a great opportunity as they have a wonderful training facility.

Paul mentioned that unions are becoming more flexible with having non-union members, ie: students, working with them. Unions are experiencing low participation numbers and are losing members.

F.T.G.O.T.G.

The owner of Fox Valley Metrology approached the A-Tech booth at the Manufacturing First Expo and spoke with Jerry about being interested in becoming involved with A-Tech. He is offering to come to West to teach lessons for ½ of a school day, willing to teach things to students, not in the curriculum.

Katy announced that this will be her last year to serve as a member of the A-Tech Governance Board, due to family commitments.

MOTION TO ADJORN

Jerry

2nd Wes