

A-Tech Governance Board Meeting

November 18th, 2015

Room 136 – 4:00

1. Welcome
2. Minutes from last meeting - Greg
 - NEWMA award
3. Presidents Report – Jared
4. Notes from Advisory Group fall meeting – Chris & Greg ✖
5. Budget update – Greg
 - District allotment
 - Monetary donations
 - Materials donations
6. Leadership Fox Cities – Guests
 - Would like to support A-Tech with a specific project
7. Business partnership update – Greg & Jerry
 - Bemis, Faith, McCain, Muza, Miron Construction
8. Committee Reports ✖
 - Discussion of expectations
9. Other

ATECH BOARD MEETING NOVEMBER 18, 2015

Present: Jared Balin, Steve Haas, Annette Schwalenberg, Greg Hartjes, Katie Kornowske, Wes Fietzer, Jerry Clish, Steve Straub, Chris Linn, Paul Lindberg, Linda Bunge

Unable to attend: Phil Sabee

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW Manufacturing Alliance event Booth, sponsored by First Business Bank. ATECH received **an award** and \$500 prize money. Great feedback. Students represented Appleton West in a professional manner. Lots of comments made by participants how well-mannered the students were. The students themselves, were very proud as well. Paul mentioned that A to Z Machining offered to donate a CMM (market value \$12, 000-\$24, 000). Machine will be located in the ATECH office area for secure keeping as it is being used by students.

Paul attended FabTech in Chicago. Very informational and time well spent. Made lots of connections, total cost was less than anticipated. Youth Apprenticeship program paid for the trip. Paul handed out a brochure on "D Wire". A machine that is used to bend tubes and wire. The cost would be \$3495 (discounted show rate-offer expires 12/15/15) It comes with a software program. Company has own wire to be purchased, but Paul felt that "tig wire" (accommodates wire 1/8" to 1/4" diameter) on hand could be used instead, less expensive. Could accommodate larger wire, but a die would need to be purchased at the cost of \$350. Paul feels that this would give the students some hands on opportunities for projects in the classroom setting. The board members were intrigued, but also concerned regarding the budget and overall vision needs and wants on purchases needed as the program progresses. Concerns raised, needed? Will it be used? This machine would give foundation for CAD processes, trusses etc. Wish list...what is the priority? ATECH does not possess infinite funds. How does this fit in with the overall picture? Paul stated that the instructors are looking for "projects" for the students to have hands on experiences. Board felt need to distinguish between "planned expenses vs. impulsive purchases".

NEW BUSINESS:

President Report

Jared felt the monthly board meetings should begin with the President's Report. He stated that as a board, need to look for consistency/structure. Board members going out to businesses, need to gather information and share.

Strategic Planning

Jared felt the need to start over with the strategic planning. Original plan addressed the immediate needs of ATECH and was successful, however, need to refocus on overall picture moving forward. Feels the need to reorganize. Jared consulted with Steve Kueper who helps to facilitate groups to help gain focus, the process would involve sitting down one day with the company, end result, a clear Strategic Plan. Suggested to proceed after the holiday season, due to time constraints. There is a cost for the service but would be paid for by First Business Bank. This would help new and old board members to be on the same page. Positive feedback from board!

Greg expressed concern of covering for subs during the school year so that instructors could attend this meeting. It was suggested that perhaps February 15th, a day off of school, might work. Greg will check into this.

May 1st is the enrollment date for students then the 2016-2017 budget will be determined.

Jared mentioned that Lakeview Academy changed their status to a choice school. Greg mentioned that is possible after the charter school has been in service for 5 years. Strong opinion made that the Appleton West guidance office needs to "ferret" out students who will not be able to succeed in the ATECH program. The feeling is that this Freshman class has a lot of students who are struggling. ATECH should not be viewed as a program to "just get struggling kids through high school" who would not succeed in the traditional high school setting.

Jared mentioned that he would like to nominate Tim McKeag, from First Business Bank, as a new board member. Tim has expressed interest that he would be very excited to be a part of the board. He wants to help with soliciting funds from business contacts as that is his forte. The overall feel was that he would be a good addition to the board. At the present time, the by-laws state 9 board members, and Tim would be the 9th member. Greg mentioned that the By-laws can be change too. It was decided that Tim should attend the next board meeting before consideration is made, just to make sure that he is still interested and that the board feels that he would be a valuable addition to the board.

PRESENTATION FROM FOX CITIES LEADERSHIP TEAM:

This is a one year program of community leaders that form a team to work with existing organizations to help them achieve their goals as a committee. While making suggestions and listening to the needs of the committee.

The guidelines of the leadership team is that they need to work with a not-for-profit organization and they want to work with ATECH.

Members present representing the Leadership team were:

Nick Sattler- from Roberts, Ritschke & Tyczkowski, Ltd.

Jodie Larsen-from Pierce

Kari Meixl-from Bassett

Team contact person: Kari

Board contacts: Greg and Chris

LEADERSHIP TEAM GOALS

Raise awareness

Sustainable project

Time frame (may limit resources)

Open house

Which companies to target? Chris gave them a list, but it will need to be updated, Greg offered to do.

They offer:

Networking

Would offer a two pronged event-targeting both students and businesses as they would need to explain different aspects to each of the groups,

They really wanted to target business, but Jared thought that ATECH has a lot of companies on board already. Feels public, students and parents, should be the focus to gain interest in the ATECH program. Also, the board felt the need to improve the perception of manufacturing in the public eye. At the present time, students at Wilson Middle School are aware of the program, but need to bring awareness to Madison and Roosevelt Middle School students as well. Exposure of the program to female students needs to be targeted, as well. Suggestion made to have successful women in the industrial field speak with female students to spark interest.

A reach out effort to the Hispanic and Hmong population has been made. Need to collaborate with educators and guidance counselors. Suggestion made to have ATECH students make a project to be given to Wilson, Madison and Roosevelt schools to peak interest.

End of the Leadership Team presentation.

BOARD MEETING CONTINUED WITH THE AGENDA ITEMS:

Adult Teacher Assistants:

It was suggested to make the arrangement for Paul to have "Teacher Assistants", ie: retired machinist, welders etc. approximately 2 hours in the afternoon 1-2 times per week. Individuals would need to commit to 1 time per month. Would have to follow the strict guidelines of the Appleton Area School district, background checks, TB tests etc. Greg will supply those guidelines. Positive reaction from the board! This would help to offset the struggling student AND encourage the advanced students. How to reach out to retirees? Social Media and unions. This should be considered a big priority. Suggestion made to reach out to companies to have them include a flyer in their retirement packages! That would make the employee aware of this opportunity and allow them to remain connected to the industry and benefit students at the same time!

STEM

Jared mentioned that Brillion has a great district wide program, starting in Kindergarten! Felt it would be great for the board to visit and see the program in action. Wide variety of exposure. 35 % girls involved! It gives student the overall thinking process.

AASD BUDGET

The A-Tech budget is set at approximately \$15,000 for this year. Suggestion made that the board needs to keep in mind future budget needs. Machines break down, need to be replaced etc.

ATECH also has an account labeled "Activity Budget" (which was suggested to be renamed...as it doesn't really imply what the money is for and could give more flexibility to that money) Greg suggested that there could be several different accounts, depending upon how they wanted to label them. Discussion about using the "Activity budget" to offset expenses for student's needs, steel toe boots etc.

Concern express that district cannot use the activity account money to offset their allocated budget, Greg assured board, that could not happen. Felt that businesses would like to see a plan, able to show companies what donated money was, and will be, used for.

Greg told the board that in the near future, Linda will gain access to the ALIO program and budget. She will provide an updated ATECH budget print out at the board meetings.

DONATIONS:

\$3000 Eagle Supply and Plastics

\$3000 Bassett Mechanical

\$1000 Fox Communities Credit Union

\$500 Show award received (mentioned earlier)

\$730 A-Z Machining Company donated metal products

COMPANIES LOOKING TO SUPPORT ATECH:

Bemis- Michelle in the HR Department, is offering job shadowing and tours. Bemis, Innovated Machining and Werner Electric to pay for the expense for tours etc. Bemis cannot provide youth apprenticeships however.

McCain-was at the Charter School Fair downtown. Looking for people to work in maintenance. Will hire unskilled labor and pay for their schooling.

Muza-Oshkosh- wants to be a part of the program. However, it was decided that it is too far to transport students there, but ATECH may encourage students to apply upon graduation and consider Muza for employment. Perhaps they would be willing to donate money to the program?

Miron-concern express initially from the board members due to Miron being a construction company, but references made regarding steelworkers, mechanical design and CAD operators. Suggestion made to make a profile of what the board views as an ideal company to be involved with ATECH. Perhaps three different categories of what the board would like from that company. Face to face meeting....giving background of school, what to commit, how? Support? List of companies that are supporting ATECH at the present time.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Bunge
ATECH Secretary