

**MINUTES**  
**A-TECH GOVERNANCE BOARD MEETING**

**DATE: SEPTEMBER 20, 2017**

**TIME: 4:30 PM**

**LOCATION: APPLETON WEST HIGH SCHOOL-Room 136**

**MISSION**

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

Present: Phil Sabee, Jared Bailin, Mark McQuade, Paul Lindberg Chris Linn, Cathy Pfister, Jerry Clish, Wes Fietzer, Steve Straab.

Unable to attend: Steve Haas, Kari Christoph

**Opening Remarks/President's Report: Jared**

Jared introduced Cathy Pfister, an A-Tech parent, in consideration for the new board member position, to replace retired member, Katy Kornowski.

Cathy provided a brief background of herself, including work experience as an X-Ray tech, lived in the Fox Valley area for 20+ years. She has found A-Tech to be a wonderful option for her son, who is open enrolled from the Menasha School District. Since she feels strongly about what the A-Tech program offers, she felt she wanted to become involved as a board member! The rest of the board members introduced themselves, spoke about their work experiences, their strong belief in the A-Tech program and philosophies about the A-Tech program and about community/parent outreach!

Jared continued his report but outlying the duties of the board, and the need to manage the Strategic Plan created within the past few years. He wants to review duties for each of the committees to assure that everyone is on track with the Strategic Plan.

**2. Old Business:**

**Approval of previous minutes:**

Motion: Phil Sabee 2nd: Wes Fietzer-Motion Passed unanimously

**CNC Capital Campaign update:**

The committee has raised 50 % of the funds needed:

\$10,000 pledged from Eagle Performance Plastic

\$5000 pledged from NEW Manufacturing Alliance

The AASD will help finance the purchase of the CNC at 0% interest once 80% of funds have been secured through pledges and donations. Grant opportunities are also being pursued, as well.

At this point, the committee members feel that the \$30,000 goal will be reached, and any money received in excess, will be reserved for maintenance costs.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Two A-Tech students completed their course study over the summer, therefore the graduation rate is a 100%! There are lots of opportunities for graduates and the plan is to continue to work to improve the A-Tech program!

Mark and Paul Lindberg were interviewed by Reporter: Allison Dirr, of the Appleton Post Crescent, who will be running an article about A-Tech at the end of October in the Post Crescent as well as in the Green Bay Gazette. Topics discussed: How manufacturing has changed, spoke about the philosophies of A-Tech, and how it gives students the opportunities to discover a potential career path. He also mentioned donors throughout the community. Allison and a photographer will come to West to take photographs , as well interview A-Tech students.

A-Tech enrollment is at 76 students for the 2017-2018 school year.

Spoke about separating grades, in that the student will continue to receive a letter grade, but in addition, there will be a behavior/skills scoring system as a learning tool. This will create well rounded students when they enter the manufacturing world. See remarks under Lead teacher for more details.

The A-Tech budget is \$13, 825, not including salaries, for this school year. This money will be used for items such as: transportation for field trips, supplies, consumable products. The budget is similar to last year's budget. An open trailer was purchased at the end of the 2016-2017 school year with the remaining budget money, which filled a great need!

Concern expressed about the potential increase in cost of materials this year, due to storms in the in the southern parts of the United States!

### **Lead Teacher Report: Paul Lindberg**

Field experience opportunities have begun already, providing time for the students to find out more about the manufacturing opportunities! On 10/5/17, Juniors and Seniors will attend the Manufacturing Show in Milwaukee.

Several guest speakers are scheduled to visit West, such as: Local 400 HVAC/Steamfitters and the Oshkosh Corporation.

Paul spoke about the new grading system. In addition to letter grades, students will also be scored in 3 different categories which is grading them on "Employability /Essential Skills", however this will not affect the students GPA. It will make them more prepared for the working field. When speaking with a student, Paul points out to them how this not only effects success in the A-Tech program and but the future as well. This is a great way to staying current regarding the students employability skills, grooming towards graduation. Mark McQuade stated that this

will be discussed in the future if this information will be included in the official transcript. He will communicate with families with information as well. This process focuses on giving feedback that the students will need to get them where they want to be!

Paul felt that class schedule planning went well for the A-Tech students in the beginning of the 2017-2018 school year.

### **Marketing/Student Recruitment: Chris**

Chris is recruiting additional committee members, as he is the sole representative on the committee at this time!

Chris created an info graphic, see attached. This provides visual results of the A-Tech program.

A-Tech is starting its fourth year, so this year's seniors, will have the first graduates attending all four years.

Manufacturing First Expo-October 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>.

On the 25<sup>th</sup>-there is a Recognition Banquet

On the 26<sup>th</sup>-A-Tech will have a booth at the expo. This is a great chance for networking and students will be present at the booth as well, giving visitors their perception of A-Tech. In the past, the students have represented A-Tech in a positive and professional manner and have been very well regarded! Great PR!

There will be a Business Open House-Date: TBD. This open house will focus on manufacturing companies having in the Mechanical Design Functions. This is an opportunity to thank the supporters of A-Tech, as well as invite opportunities for current non-supporters to hear how to become involved in A-Tech. This helps with community awareness as well!

### **Curriculum: Steve Straub**

Steve spoke about the FVTC Advisory Board decision to offer a 7 credit Welding/Machine Certificate to students, prior to leaving West. This involves the first 3 courses that students take, making them more employable, as they could be considered a Machinist Helper. Some concern expressed by board members, if students will then choose to go into the working world immediately upon graduation, rather than pursue a technical degree.

Automation/Electronic-Loren Daane attended training over the summer, therefore there will be two more courses offered at West.

Ashley Furniture Company has visited West and they liked the FVTC dual credit offerings.

Phil Sabee mentioned that Miller Electric offers 40-60 elearning modules that will assist students. An example shared was that a student needed textbook, and it could be found online! This is being offered to 10-15 schools nationwide!

### **Community Partnership:**

Tim McKeag, is the former committee chair, as he is no longer a part of the A-Tech Governance Board, due to a conflict of interest, as he is a member of the AASD School Board.

Jared will be looking for a board member to chair this committee. This committee reaches out to the community for financial support. Jeremiah Jansen, who replaced Tim McKeag at First Business Bank, makes great effort to promote A-Tech when speaking to business in the community looking for investment opportunities!

### **Budget and Finance:**

No report given, as Steve Haas was unable to attend the meeting.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Nomination of new board member-Cathy Pfister

Motion: Jared Bailin, 2<sup>nd</sup>: Wes Fietzer Motion Passed unanimously

Motion to Adjourn: Jerry Clish

2<sup>nd</sup>: Wes Fietzer Motion Passed unanimously