

MINUTES

A-TECH GOVERNANCE BOARD MEETING
JANUARY 18, 2017
APPLETON WEST HIGH SCHOOL RM 136 4:00 PM

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.

WELCOME-

Present: Greg Hartjes, Paul Lindberg, Steve Haas, Jared Bailin, Chris Linn, Jerry Clish, Katy Kornowske and Steve Straub.

Unable to attend: Wes Fietzer, Kari Christoph and Phil Sabee

Special guest: Dave Reiter, from A to Z Machine

OLD BUSINESS-

Approval of previous minutes

Motion to approve:

1st: Chris Linn

2nd: Jerry Clish

PRESIDENT REPORT-Jared

No report presented

PRINCIPAL REPORT-Greg

Hiring new principal: Greg has accepted a position with the Appleton Area School District as the new Chief Financial Officer for the district! Congratulations! His new position will begin in July. He noted that Don Hietpas, current CFO, will help with the transition during the 2017-2018 school year. Judy Baseman, Assistant

Superintendent, will be leading the interview process. Five to seven candidates will be interviewed in the first round, then the top 2-4 candidates will be interviewed by a committee made up of West community members. This committee will be comprised of staff members representing Appleton West, as well as A-Tech and parent representatives. Chris Linn, from the A-Tech Governance Board is on that committee. Greg plans to look over the A-Tech By-Laws to make sure the process is in accordance with the charter.

It is Greg's opinion that 2 major aspects should be considered with hiring the new principal.

That person should possess an awareness that:

- 1) Every child is different
- 2) 4 year college is not the route for every student.

The new Principal should be selected by March. Greg will help with the transition.

Dual-credit courses-Greg

Steve Straub spoke that by 2022, by direction of the Higher Learning Commission, Fox Valley Technical College will require that General Studies teachers at the high school level, must have a Masters degree, in that particular area of education, for the students to receive dual credit when continuing their post high school education at FVTC. At the present time, the area of study that would be affected would be English. The instructor does have a Masters degree, but it is in a difference field study. When asked why this is necessary, it was explained that FVTC has this same guidelines for its instructors. They felt that there couldn't be two standards. Advanced standing may be consideration.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Marketing/Student recruitment-Chris

Creation of the marketing video process is going very well with the help of Joe Gorges, a freelance videographer. Great information is being provided by students involved in the project. Clearly shown in video, both students have connected their experiences with A-Tech and FVTC! Both are high achievers, very enthusiastic, articulate, and provided great answers! There have been other students involved

in the project as well, who have also done a great job. In particular, there is a female student on the video, that make a great spokesperson for that community.

Editing process will begin soon, with the goal to have the video ready for the February A-Tech Open House. Greg received an e-mail from a parent of the one of the A-Tech students with very positive feedback! She felt that the A-Tech program saved her child's academic career. Chris felt that in the future, an additional video could be made with testimonials from parents, students and instructors from FVTC providing a well-rounded message to promote A-Tech. The potential is there to use this to continue to encourage future A-Tech students.

Curriculum-Steve Straub

Curriculum handout created. Please see attached. Discussed that some tweaking is needed, to add newly added classes, but great visual and overall picture of the A-Tech curriculum program.

This handout has been used in the past and it received positive feedback to understand how the A-Tech program works along with the West curriculum for the student's high school academic career. This is a standard course path, individual students may follow an alternate path, but this provides a good overall picture. This committee may help with the implications of the CNC machine, as well.

The committee is trying to find electronic youth apprentice opportunities. Other committee members may help also with locating opportunities throughout the community.

Community Partnership-no new items reported

Budget & Finance-Steve Haas

Committee continues its work, but no new information provided.

NEW BUSINESS:

Haas Machine Center-Jerry

Dave Ryder, business owner, was present at the board meeting to share some insight, as a business owner, regarding the benefits, as an employer, for students to obtain hands on experience through the A-Tech program.

Jerry discussed that the committee met with the Haas representative to receive answers regarding specific questions in consideration for the purchase of the machine.

90 % of the requested service calls are responded to within 24 hours. A-Tech would be given the same service and consideration as any other company, regarding getting support from the company.

This CNC machine is very similar to other machines that the manufacture sells, but it has been adjusted to meet the needs of an educational needs of inexperienced operators. The board asked if any other educational systems have purchased this newly available machine to date. One machine is waiting to be installed. 17 local schools offer CNC machine training, but not on this specific machine. Purchase of machine includes free use of the computer programs for one year, but when the time period expires, the programs would need to be purchased.

Question was raised if any other discounts might apply? Perhaps the company would consider it valuable receiving feedback and testimonials from A-Tech about the machine. Provide added incentives or benefits?

It was stated that since A-Tech will be most likely be purchasing this machine a year from now, more information/feedback may be available in consideration of purchasing this machine. Training is provided by Haas as they are truly dedicated to the education process.

Paul mentioned that he spoke to Karl Ruppel, an AASD electrician, in consideration for the electrical needs regarding the installation of the new machine. He estimated that the total electrical cost would be \$100.

Jared stated that his facility contains almost all Haas machines, and spoke highly of the product, service and the company as a whole.

Paul mentioned that the internet would be a great source for obtaining project ideas for the students.

It was mentioned that there could be more student involvement when considering the mechanical design aspect. The board members felt that is great to have a well-rounded knowledge of the machining process.

Greg mentioned that with the referendum that was passed a few years ago, there is money set aside in an account for consideration for maintenance of the machines that were purchased at that time.

Question was raised by Paul, in consideration of planning the curriculum, when this machine may be available for use by the A-Tech students. The timeline being considered is to have it available by the second semester of the 2017-2018 school year. The latest projected date would be by September of 2018.

The board voted to move forward with the process.

Considerations:

- 1) Curriculum
- 2) Good plan in place
- 3) Training
- 4) Create a purpose for fundraising plan

Discussion continued about how many current students would be at the level to use this machine. At the present time about 7 students are on the machinist path. It was felt that even though the number may be small, perhaps having this machine would be a motivator to achieve that level of ability. It was mentioned that consideration should be given to the quantity of hours used in the education setting. Do not WANT non-motivated students using this machine! How does this relate to FVTC. Would it be of any benefit as the students continue on their education pathway.

Little Chute High School approached A to Z about the potential of making production pieces at the high school. The board wasn't sure if this would be a good route for the A-Tech students to take. Smaller programs can offer production capabilities. Each school is different.

Also, it was mentioned that a plan would need to be in place so that upon installation of the machine, the students would be ready and able to use the machine. Maintenance cost is a consideration as well.

Haas has offered to have Paul visit the Haas Brookfield facility for training. Paul asked that additional educator be allowed to attend, as well.

A final deciding vote on the purchase of the machine, will take place at the March, 2017 Governance Board meeting.

There is a possibility that the district will “front the money” for the purchase of the machine, with the understanding that a set amount will be applied to the balance yearly. This may be helpful with fundraising as a local company may want to donate \$1000 per year over a three year period.

Topics/issues to bring to the A-Tech advisory committee-Chris

Youth Apprenticeship-ideas to make it more effective? Greg mentioned that he has very low “turn around” results when meeting with local businesses to encourage them to offer apprenticeships.

Is the Youth Apprentice model good?

Manufacturers can have issues regarding the times that the students are available. Also, the lack of consistency with apprentice’s responsibility, ability, drive, reliability and motivation are factors.

Paul would like to know if there are still AMS and Mechanical Design jobs available for graduating students. Steve S. mentioned the FVTC report, which highlights employment opportunities, high on the list are: Welders, Machinist and Automation. There are a large number of opportunities for those positions throughout the state.

January 9th Open House-Paul

Paul Lindberg and Paul Endter hosted the January 9th, A-Tech open house. Approximately 10 middle school families attended. Paul Lindberg also hosted an A-Tech table at the City Center School Fair. Nineteen groups stopped by, some were potential families and some were manufactures. One company expressed an interest in becoming involved with A-Tech.

There will be an additional A-Tech open house held on February 28, 2017.

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

The Strategic Planning follow up meeting is scheduled for 2/17/17, noon to 4:00 at Eagle Supply and Plastics. Lunch will be provided by Jared. Jared will inquire with Steve Kuper, the trainer, regarding who should plan to attend.

(NOTE: Since the writing of these minutes it was decided that all instructors and all Governance Board members should plan to attend. Please RSVP to Linda as soon as possible! Thank you!)

MOTION TO ADJOURN-

1st: Jerry Clish

2nd: Steve Haas