

NDSEB EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Thursday February 29, 2024

The North Dakota State Electrical Board Education Advisory Committee was called to order at 8:30 AM by Executive Director James Schmidt. The meeting was held in the conference room at the North Dakota State Electrical Board.

Committee members present: Ivan Mass – On campus Representative; Vance Vesey – Power Limited Electrician Representative; James Schmidt – NDSEB Executive Director; Scott Halle – Training & Compliance Administrator; Tim Pull – Master Electrician Representative; Jeff Kirstein, Adam Kidwell, Rob Zachariason – On Campus Representative, Brian Poykko – Professional Engineer Representative by Teams; Steve Mundahl – Journeyman Electrician Representative by telephone.

Meeting agenda reviewed and no additional items added.

Meeting minutes from June 21, 2023 were reviewed, Jeff Kirstein motioned to approve, seconded by Steve Mundahl, motion carried.

The committee member list was reviewed, and Vance Vesey, Adam Kidwell, and Jeff Kirstien all agreed to serve another term on the Committee, James will recommend reappointment to the Board at the next meeting. James informed the committee that Brian Fuder is no longer employed at NDSCS for Apprentice ND, and he has informed NDSCS they need to get someone in that position soon. New committee member Rob Zachariason was introduced to the other committee members.

Committee was updated about the scholarship funds disbursed to date , and with interest rates up some of the scholarship funds have been invested in CD's to help maintain the funds.

Approved related training providers were reviewed by the committee, and James Schmidt informed the committee that the PEP program was forwarded by the Board as a proposal for the ND Administrative Rules which are currently going through the adoption process. James Schmidt explained the process for adoption of the administrative rules and where the process currently is at, recognition of a PEP program will need to wait until after adoption of new administrative rules.

Bismarck State College has received funding through the Department of Commerce for developing an electrical program, James updated the committee with information received from a meeting earlier this week with Assistant Dean Gregory Lugar. They are working with a group of industry representatives to determine the direction of the program and have a proposed start date of fall 2025, but not many details and no instructor are in place at this time. BSC was advised that for the program to be accepted for apprenticeship training they will need to conform with one of the two education pathways recognized by the Board and submit program for approval.

Discussion of Magnum Electric's application for their apprenticeship training program began with committee members giving their opinions of the program from looking over the included documents, after some discussion the group took a break so copies of the related training policy could be printed and reviewed before further discussion.

Committee took a break from 10:00 to 10:20.

Committee resumed discussion on Magnum Electric's apprentice program application and referenced adopted related training policy to determine process for continued evaluation of an apprenticeship program being conducted by a private entity rather than a separate entity as has been done in the past. These types of programs are going to need more oversight because they will not have an independent outside entity monitoring their processes like the existing providers have in place currently, how this can be accomplished was extensively discussed. After considerable discussion by committee, it was decided to send a letter to Magnum Electric with a copy of the related training policy and requesting a policy document from them outlining how they will meet the program requirements bullet points from the application document. The application from Magnum Electric will be tabled until further documentation can be provided.

AE Tech apprenticeship application was reviewed by the committee with curriculum and timeline being discussed at length, there is no program policy included with AE Tech application and the proposed training would be held for one month each year of apprenticeship. Committee spent quite a bit of time discussing how required hours per year can be accrued, and if condensing learning into a short window of time each year is an effective method for students to learn and retain information, committee members agreed it is not. Quite a bit of discussion was held about what amount of education should be required in various time frames, and the committee decided that education should at minimum be conducted on a quarterly basis per year. The committee decided that AE Tech needs to submit a policy statement outlining how program will address the bullet points provided on the application and a timeline broken out to quarterly training at a minimum to be conducted throughout the apprenticeship. AE Tech program application will be tabled until further documentation can be requested from them.

MMR apprenticeship program was discussed by the committee and documents provided were reviewed, the policy included with the application was a DOL document and did not include a lot of details about how the program would operate. Curriculum information was not aligned between different areas of submitted documents, creating confusion about what actual program consists of. The committee will request a clear policy be submitted to detail how the program will function in North Dakota and to address bullet points on application form. MMR application will be tabled until further documents can be requested from them.

Discussion about exams continued from the last meeting and James asked committee if 70% passing grade is appropriate, committee all agreed it should remain there. Open and closed book options were discussed, and Rob Zachariason cautioned that closed book questions should be selected carefully, overall the committee agreed there are things that an electrician should know

without referencing the code book. Waiting period for retaking an exam was discussed with the committee, the current NDSEB policy is a score 50 to 69 must wait three months and below 50 six months, after debating various options proposal was to suggest no waiting for anyone with a score of 60 or more, 50 – 59 wait three months, 49 and lower wait six months.

James discussed changes in legislature, Labor Commissioner has been tasked to study the operation of boards in ND to possibly adjust how they operate, this will be an ongoing process until the next session. Discussed if any changes to the current license structure are needed, no one felt that the current system needed changes.

Rob Zachariason made a motion to adjourn meeting, Vance Vesey seconded, meeting adjourned at 2:00 PM