

A-TECH GOVERNANCE BOARD MEETING

Meeting Minutes

August 19, 2020

4:30 PM

MEETING WAS HELD VIA GOOGLE MEET

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.

Opening

The regular meeting of the A-Tech Board was called to order at 4:30 pm.

Roll Call - Present

Ryan Scherer, Board President, Director of Operations - Miller (ITW)
Steve Haas, Board Treasurer, North American PMC Controller - Asten Johnson
Scott Ascher, Board Member, VP, Business Development, Werner Electric
Ron Buchinger, Board Member, Director of Operations - CMD Corp.
Jon Schloesser, Board Member, Training Center - Oshkosh Corp. (Pierce)
Jeremiah Janssen, VP, First Business Bank
Steve Meyer, Manager STEM Education & Deve
Catherine Pfister, Board Member, A-Tech Parent Representative
Mark McQuade, Principal A-Tech
Paul Endter, Lead Teacher, A-Tech
Loren Daane, Teacher, A-Tech
Robert Lemke, Teacher, A-Tech
Jason Ullman, Teacher, A-Tech

Not Present

Brandon Reichenberger, Teacher, A-Tech

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the previous board meeting were unanimously approved as distributed.

Welcome A-Tech Staff Members - Brief introductions from A-Tech staff members on call.

Paul Endter - lead teacher, has been with A-Tech since inception

Bob Lemke - welding and metal fabricator

Jason Ulman - math teacher

Loren Daane - drafting, electronics and blueprint reading

Mark McQuade - principal

Board Introductions

Ryan - newer with A-Tech, joined last year. With Miller 1.5 years. Power system division. Ops director in charge of two plants.

Jeremiah - 2nd year with A-Tech - commercial lender

Scott - 2nd year with A-Tech - Werner Electric 26 years -director of robotics

Steve H. - Austen Johnson - PMC divisions 33 years;

Ron B. Ops director at CMD 32 years - machinery

Steve Meyer - FCTV; and formally an educator for over 20 years

Mark - principal

(Not present: Brandon Reichenberger - Haas mini mill teacher)

Staff/AASD Updates

Principal Report: Mark reported that A-Tech is fully staffed, 23 incoming students and a total enrollment of 82 for school year (SY) 20-21, a slight drop from last SY. Mark gave an overview of the District's initial planning for students back in building and moving courses to one learning management system, CANVAS. With A-Tech's dual credit with FCTV, Blackboard is their learning management system. Students would still work with Blackboard, and AASD programming delivered in CANVAS. The District's hybrid model divides cohorts with face to face instruction and labs. At present, COVID numbers are not in line for safe return. Appleton Health Dept. collaborates with AASD to develop metrics for safe return. ADA Compliance for staff creates challenges resulting in teacher shortage and extreme substitute teacher shortage — especially in tech ed, science and math. Similar to the labor shortage in board member's workplaces. Goal is to get students back to hybrid model. Challenges for teachers with teaching virtually. Focus on training online systems, CANVAS and Blackboard and limitation is Google MEET. Not as powerful as Zoom. Google Meet can not group students and AASD looking into Zoom licensing to increase collaboration between students and teachers.

AASD will require students to log in when classes are on the schedule. Mark shared a slide of schedule based on Fully Virtual Schedule Fall 2020. Explanation of design for when we are back to normal hybrid schedule. Fewer individuals in the building to be safer. Staggered lunch periods for increased social distancing. 3 charters in building/cross enrollment - creative "block" scheduling designed for quick pivot back to face to face. Students get in the habit of checking in like they were in school.

Mark is proud of staff at A-Tech and AWHHS and added what is needed from Board - youth apprentices (YA). Can we get kids some practice? A-Tech cannot say doors are open for our students as it does not have that authority.

Lead Teacher Report: Paul added there is a need for individual protective gear and requests are being made looking for donations. Working on what A-Tech can do virtually for students Concerns about how to give students access to machines? Kits? Sanitizing? Opportunities for students while still being safe - biggest challenge: learning outside of the classroom while being safe. Not entirely certain how Board can help as issues around pandemic change daily; important to have staff part of board meetings and develop working relationships.

New Business:

1) Safety in the Workplace

Ryan reported he is responsible for 2 plants. No COVID at the workplace; discipline and protocols, small things but confident it's working; concern for risks outside workplace.

Ron reported he sent some employees home in March; run 3 shifts with restrictions - no visitors, doors locked, mask policy and now mandate; extra cleaning; no positives tests, but negative tests.

Jon reported even with the best plans and PPE everywhere, COVID has hit and is difficult to control once inside.

Mark shared the District's return to fall sports phased reopening during summer looking at fall sports. Good safety measures: West's 225 athletes had no Covid cases, but other 2 AASD high schools did have some. Athletes had skin in the game; other students may struggle with compliance.

2) Hands-on learning outside the classroom

Challenge for A-Tech students is to get hands-on learning during this pandemic.

Ryan offered up that Miller is offering back to school promos in PPE - welding specifically; and there is an education training department. Need to bridge how to build programs and systems to learn how to weld in a semi-virtual environment and hands on and added good ideas coming out of the pandemic; however, too much to do to implement before start of school year.

Lorne stated nothing has been purchased that can be used with students and that Inventor and AutoCAD on CB is going to be available and that A-Tech has been using WIS Online modules. As far as the DC1 electronic, it can be done through Blackboard, but to mock up circuits, there are not enough for students to take home.

ACTION ITEM: Paul will send out information on the number of students and their grade levels by classes so members will have this information when soliciting for business partnerships.

2020-20 Goals/Teams

1) Get kids back into the classroom. (Then increase enrollment.)

Mark indicated as long as A-Tech enrollment is above 55, charter is in good shape; 120 is goal.

Confident charter will survive downturn with COVID right now. A-Tech's selling point is the hands on and that cannot happen now.

2) Student Success Rate. Brief discussion on the need to clearly define metrics and how to measure student success rate

Paul stated graduation rate is 100 percent graduation from A-Tech. Having YAs secured for each student in the area of emphasis is a selling feature. We know there is a need in our local market and a

challenge is how to pitch this to parents. Emphasis on business partners, good functioning subcommittees to leverage partners and need for expanded virtual learning as well as; mentoring from business partners and more senior students paired with incoming students. Since summer camp didn't play out this year, need to focus on YA piece. For those businesses that are able to accommodate students, we need to identify and place students to help retain student population.

Mark added another metric is students enrolled at FVTC or gainfully employed in manufacturing field. Bottom line: producing graduates confident in plan for the next level whatever that plan may be - workforce direct (then go back for education - very little debt and increased economy in local market) - keep graduates local if possible, military, continuation in education.

3) Increase social media presence and awareness of A-Tech

Chris Burns of BConnected, LLC, will assist by conducting an audit of where we are at. Google Meet set for Friday, 8/21 @ 8:30 am. A link will be sent out to board members and Kylie Harwell of AASD.

4) Functioning subcommittees needed to help meet goals

Nominations of new board members

Vote IN

1) Jon Schloesser - Oshkosh Corp. (Pierce Manufacturing)

Jon S. shared some of his background; Steve H. and Ron interviewed him. And so did Ron.

Roll call vote: Ron, Steve H., Steve M., Ryan, Scott. Welcome Jon.

Vacant Positions

2) Open position #1

3) Open position #2 - Parent Representative (Mark is on the lookout)

Motion to Adjourn

First: Scott

Second: Ron

Board Officers:

President: Ryan Scherer

Vice President: Jeremiah Janssen

Secretary: Steve Meyer

Treasurer: Steve Haas

Next meeting September 23, 2020 @ 4:30 pm