

NDSEB EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday January 22, 2025

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: James Schmidt – NDSEB Executive Director; Scott Halle – Training & Compliance Administrator; Nichole Wischnak – Off Campus Representative; Rob Zachariason – On Campus Representative; Ivan Maas – Power Limited Electrician; Zach Sheeley – On Campus Representative; Steve Mundahl – Journeyman Electrician Representative by telephone; Brian Poykko – Professional Engineer by Teams.

The meeting minutes from September 11, 2024, were reviewed, Steve Mundahl asked that the process for accepting the IEC's PEAP program be reviewed and documented in the minutes to ensure a record of the process. The committee voted on September 17, 2024 to recommend approval of the IEC PEAP program to the Board.

Rob Zachariason made a motion to approve minutes, seconded by Steve Mundahl, the motion carried.

The committee opened discussion of JATC PEAP program.

At 8:42 AM Tim Pull – Master Electrician Representative joined meeting by Teams.

Discussion of JATC PEAP program continued about merit of program and completeness of the submitted documentation and process. Use of Electrical Systems textbook in all four years of program was discussed and also discussion that program must be conducted over a two-year period to be acceptable. After discussion and comments from committee members was heard, Rob Zachariason made a motion to recommend approving the JATC PEAP program to the Board, and Nicole Wischnak seconded the motion, the motion carried with all in favor.

H&H Electric's related training program application was discussed by the committee, they indicate using the NCCER curriculum and materials to conduct their classes, Tim Pull has worked a little with their materials in the past and indicated it was adequate when last he saw it. There aren't any instructor applications included with their submitted documents, and no supporting documentation included to indicate the qualifications of the individuals listed as instructors in the materials submitted. Several members discussed the lack of a policy manual or other method to address the bullet point requirements listed on the program application form, to clarify items such as attendance, grading and location of classroom. The included course breakdown needs to be cleaned up to be understandable and consistent with other documents included, many members felt the course hours did not match up between submitted documents. H&H needs to

include the ND Laws, Rules, and Wiring Standards as a required document in their curriculum, and to clarify their course delivery method and develop a calendar consistent with the curriculum.

Committee members unanimously agree that H&H needs to edit and resubmit their application.

At 9:45 the committee took a break until 10:00 AM.

The proposed Bismarck State College 2-year electrical degree program was discussed next by the Education Committee, items discussed included that the documents submitted seem to indicate that the first-year classes are not yet developed and that the second-year classes are basically taken from their electronics program and are not designed for the electrical trade. The electrician work-study course listed would be an option during the summer between the first and second year that would replace 6 lab courses from the second-year curriculum, and the committee did not support this option. There was considerable discussion of the accreditation of the program or a review, and if those processes have been accomplished yet, also when was the last time the college was reviewed by HLC or some similar accreditation body. Committee members determined there are too many open questions regarding the program application, and that the best way forward is to set up a meeting with the representatives from BSC and the education committee. The date proposed for setting up a meeting is February 19th 2025 at 8:30 AM at the NDSEB offices if all are able to attend, and BSC will be requested to bring any additional information needed.

James handed out the December exams to the committee members to look over the questions and results and asked the group if exams should be all open book or continue with the current format of closed and open book. James also provided the exam success percentages since 2012 and explained the methods used to collect data.

James discussed legislation that may affect apprenticeship in the future, HB 1036 would make changes to the apprenticeship process in the future if passed and could give oversight to the Department of Labor. James also talked about pending SB2336 legislation for conveyance equipment (elevators & escalators) which would create an inspection process for the NDSEB would deal with these types of installations.

The committee decided to leave the related training audits on the agenda for the next meeting.

Next meeting tentatively to continue discussion on BSC proposed 2 year degree program would be February 19th @ 8:30am if all parties can attend.

Ivan Maas made a motion to adjourn meeting, second by Rob Zachariason, all in favor.

Meeting Adjourned at 12:10 PM