

## NDSEB EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, January 13, 2026

The North Dakota State Electrical Board Education Advisory Committee was called to order at 9:06 AM by Executive Director James Schmidt. The meeting was held at the NDSCS-Fargo campus in room #116.

Committee members present: James Schmidt – NDSEB Executive Director; Scott Halle – Training & Compliance Administrator; Ivan Maas – Power Limited Electrician; Rob Zachariason – On Campus Representative; Nicole Lehn – Off Campus Related Training Provider; Brian Poykko – Electrical Engineer; Tim Pull – Master Electrician Representative; Adam Kidwell – Related Training Provider; Jeff Kirstein – Related Training Provider.

James asked for any additional agenda items, James informed the committee that Magnum PowerHouse instructor Christian Opp has applied to the Board to be added to the Education Committee.

The meeting minutes from June 18, 2025, were reviewed and approved as presented after a motion by Adam Kidwell, seconded by Rob Zachariason, the motion carried.

At 9:14 Clay Nagel joined the meeting by Teams.

BSC Electrical Revised Degree Program Follow Up – James was invited to and attended their first advisory board meeting. The meeting was good, James encouraged the BSC staff to take advantage of the Lineman Program at the college to expose the students to some medium and high voltage installation information as this is becoming more common in the industry. Adam had an opportunity to meet with Jason Dockter and discuss curriculum, he encouraged BSC to not focus students in narrow bands of subject matter to prepare them for more future opportunities. Discussion from group included requesting BSC to submit second year materials soon so there is time for committee to review in case changes are needed and if website information has been updated to reflect OJT component is no longer offered.

H&H Electric Related Training Program application status was discussed at length, Adam pointed out to committee that hours do not line up equally between different documents, why is this not consistent and could indicate insufficient time spent preparing program. Nicole also discussed how confusing the hours are, and the question about what is really going on here for structure. Is there some education in classroom and some outside of classroom and how are they balancing that, can't be going to work and getting credit for schooling as learning suffers in those situations, should be able to break down listed courses for year one and two and match them to calendar. Rob commented on how hard this position is to balance as it is not his full-time job, difficult to achieve along with other duties, better to be fully committed to the education position or may not be possible to achieve along with other duties. He also pointed out there is no documentation included with the application to show certification of the instructors as NCCER instructors.

James asked the group to each give their thoughts regarding the application:

Tim – NCCER material is well structured, do they have certified instructors?

Ivan – Questioned also about certification of instructors and process for them to become certified, also question use of shop as training area and commercial shop area and use of time.

Jeff – NCCER does require certification of instructors, clean up the confusion around class hours making it clear and he would lean toward provisional approval.

Scott – Agree instructor certifications are required and need hours to align in documents.

Brian – Need more electricians in state, instructor certification is important but inclined to provisional approval, we should help to get them going.

Rob – Instructor certification is necessary, then provisional approval if they clean up requirements.

Adam – Have a personal conflict, agree electricians are needed, worry about electricians who don't stay with H&H, need to keep bar high for good of all students in field.

Nicole – Hours need to be fixed, make it relatable to requirements for content and make content more transferrable and ensure instructor is available to students. Questioned how long it takes to become an NCCER instructor, need to get this done if not already to ensure qualified instructors. We need to hold the bar high; anything less hurts the students.

James – Not in favor of approving at this time, feels uncomfortable with the dedication to this process show and lack of timely communication from H&H, they should be pressing for more information.

More discussion was had by the group regarding H&H's application and how to proceed, we need to decide and inform H&H clearly what expectations will be for the future. There was discussion about suggesting that the board could require separation between businesses and the education provider, such as creating a separate 503(c) entity for education to isolate and avoid conflicts between management and the instructor/student. Discussion was also held about the transfer process between programs and how this is accomplished, the three related training programs present explained how they accomplish this to the rest of the group. Tim asked the question of why H&H wants to go through the trouble and expense of setting up and maintaining a program when there is a fully set up entity already doing education, they could sign up their apprentices and assist by providing space and time for them to complete their education.

Jeff made a motion to recommend provisional approval of H&H if instructors are certified and hours match up, Ivan seconded. There was considerable discussion of this motion and Rob made a second motion with similar language to Jeff's but including a final date for response. After discussing both motions and what is best moving forward, Jeff withdrew his motion and Rob amended his motion to recommend provisional approval based on submission of clarification of hours and evidence of instructor certification be provided by February 13, 2026.

A vote was called to accept the motion, 5 in favor, 3 oppose, and 1 abstain, motion passed.

Committee took a break from 11:00 AM to 11:22 AM when Teams connection with Clay Nagel was reestablished.

Meeting called back to order at 11:22 AM

James explained to the committee that the NDSCS college degree programs had never been assigned approval numbers as they have been in place since before the process was established. The Board formally approved the programs at the July 23 2025 board meeting, and they have been assigned approval numbers.

The JATC related training apprenticeship program has been revised from five years to four years and the hours reduced from 900 to 720 hours; Adam explained the change and provided information to the group.

Magnum Electric PowerHouse submitted a revised calendar for 2025-26 and group reviewed.

James discussed with the group that BSC will be conducting another advisory board meeting April 15 2026 and if any committee members would be available and interested in attending.

There was discussion about audits of programs and how we should proceed with this, potentially doing self-audits or other options. Nicole gave a progress report of their PEAP program with how the first year has been going, Adam and Jeff updated group on how their respective programs are proceeding as well.

Future committee work was discussed, Nicole will do a self-audit of program and asked all to let her know of any needed information, she will use the form and set it up as a pre-audit form. There were some questions about how the proctoring is going with the students and attendance issues to be followed up on were discussed. Jeff brought up to the group the impact data centers will have in the future on training and education, everyone will need to keep open minds on changes in the future due to this technology. Discussion was also had on keeping the meetings in Fargo, seems all agree it is easier for most of the committee, Nicole is agreeable to hosting but wants all to know they are welcome to as well, group agrees to keep options open. James explained changes coming in the elevator industry in North Dakota due to new legislation introduced during the last legislative session and how this may impact adoption of the 2026 ND Standards and the NEC.

Nicole made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Rob seconded, all in favor, meeting was adjourned at 12:21 PM