

North Dakota State Electrical Board Minutes

May 15, 2024 Meeting

The North Dakota State Electrical Board meeting was called to order at 8:32 a.m. by President Rodney Mayer at the Electrical Board office at 1929 N. Washington St., Ste A-1, Bismarck, North Dakota. Members Present: Rodney Mayer, Paul Durbin, Gerald “Poke” Buck, and James “Jim” Brandenburg. Members not Present: Christina Roemmich. Also Present: James Schmidt, Executive Director; Scott Porsborg, Special Assistant Attorney General; Anna Heinen; Christian Opp, Magnum Electric, Tim Pull, NDSEB Advisory Education Committee, Scott Halle, NDSEB Director of Training, and Adam Kidwell, JATC.

Schmidt added two agenda items: (1) Revisit Cert Fee Structure/Budget and (2) Elevators.

Buck moved to approve the consent agenda. Brandenburg seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Schmidt asked to move up the Education Committee item as there were people in the audience that were interested in it.

Education Committee

Schmidt asked the Board to approve Nicole Wischnak to be the off-campus rep. Durbin moved for Nicole to replace Brian Fuder on the Board. Brandenburg seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Board took time to read comments and recommendations from NDSEB Education Advisory Committee regarding Magnum Electric’s related training proposal. Schmidt discusses Magnum’s education program.

Tim Pull makes comments on behalf of the advisory committee. Adam Kidwell comments on the conflicts the committee had with letting an employer handle its own education. He stated that the vote was not unanimous but they are open to pilot it. Scott Halle discussed that Mangum has done the work to get this up and running but agreed that there was hesitation. Christian Opp, Magnum Electric’s instructor, spoke about the program. He also discussed that this program is a day program for Fargo Apprentices only and the education is in-classroom. Christian welcomed the Board to drop in as they pleased and stated that the program will be transparent. Mayer asked about the 4-year program they will offer, and Christian stated that there is only one instructor and one classroom, and they can’t handle more or online at this time.

(Nathan Svihovec, Paula Glass, Janel Redinger, Allison Carlson, and Jon Sayler entered the meeting.)

Schmidt asked for input from the Board. Buck had questions regarding the program and watching the program closely for the year. Discussions held regarding this opening the door for additional companies wanting their own programs. Brandenburg asked about the books and curriculum. Durbin talks about the provisions and what happens to the student in the program if it gets shut down before they complete their program. Mayer asks to table the discussions.

Labor Commission – Nathan Svihovec

Svihovec discussed the study/questionnaire the Labor Commission is doing with all State Boards. They are looking for Boards that don't have the funding, support, and consistency to efficiently process new licensees and to find how things can be done differently and better.

(Svihovec videocalls Caroline to assist.)

Svihovec goes through NDSEB's responses to the questionnaire and asks Schmidt for clarifications.

(Doug Grinde, Dustin Desjarlais, Attorney Michael Ward, and Ron Desjarlais enter the meeting.)

(Nate Svihovec, Janel Redinger, Allison Carlson, and Jon Sayler leave meeting)

NDSEB takes a recess at 10:10 a.m.

Board reconveys at 10:19 a.m.

Dustin Desjarlais (Present)

Ward explains that Dustin needs assistance to do and keep current his paperwork for his electrical work and that Dustin's father Ron is here today to explain more on their new contracting business. Schmidt explains Dustin's history with the Board and asks the Board to review the documents from Dustin. Porsborg gives the legal background to the Board and states to the Board their legal options for Desjarlais. Ward states that Desjarlais would be the Master Electrician for his father's contracting business, Greyhound Construction. Ward and Desjarlais discuss the eight jobs that need certificates and how soon Desjarlais can find a Master Electrician to get these outstanding jobs certified.

Durbin made a motion to go into executive session for attorney consultation on pending litigation. Buck seconded. The Motion passed unanimously.

[[NDSEB entered Executive Session at 10:50 a.m.]]

Buck made a motion to end executive session. Durbin seconded. The Motion passed unanimously.

[[Executive Session ended at 11:25 a.m.]]

Mayer asked Schmidt to discuss outstanding jobs with Desjarlais. Schmidt asked Desjarlais about, non-disclosed, non-certified electrical work for Roger Christenson's (aka Walschlager) detached garage, James Heinel in Stanley, and Don Nelson's rough-in.

(Jon Sayler enters meeting)

Sayler made comments regarding his inspections done on Desjarlais' non-certified work. Desjarlais explained the work done and the people he worked with.

Mayer asks for a Board Motion. Durbin made a Motion to continue the formal process of revocation. Brandenburg seconded the Motion. Ward reiterated his comments about the father doing the paperwork to ensure what happened with Dustin before would not happen again. The Board then roll called the Motion on the floor and the Motion passed unanimously.

(Jon Saylor, Attorney Michael Ward, Ron Desjarlais, and Dustin Desjarlais leave meeting)

Education Committee (continued)

Christian continues answering question from the Board relating to 100% in-class training and how he will handle the business' job deadlines vs. the students' education being a priority. Christian states that he, along with the Education Advisory Committee, will ultimately police the program. Classes run strictly Aug to May, and any new hires can't enter the education portion until classes open again the following Fall. Discussions continued regarding the interest in creating a committee to control/handle the education program in place of the employer, discipline of unruly students, transfer/acceptance of previous education, Magnum's interest in hosting personal education, and ND being the pilot state for this program.

Adam Kidwell spoke on behalf of the education advisory committee stating that the employer ran program was the big concern for them.

Mayer asked the Board for discussion on Magnum Electric's Application. Buck states he leans towards accepting the education advisory committee's recommendation. Brandenburg agrees with Buck. Durbin supports it. Durbin makes a Motion to accept Magnum Electric's Application for their Power House Apprenticeship Training Program with a provisional approval period of one-year and along with the listed provisions. Buck Seconded. The Motion passed unanimously.

Schmidt discussed the conditions on the program prior to approval. The Board will follow-up on the provisions at the July Board Meeting.

(Christian Opp and Scott Halle leave the meeting)

NDSEB takes a recess at 12:34 p.m.

Board reconveys at 12:51 p.m.

William Paul

Paul did not show for his 11:00 invite.

Inspector

Sean Allen was hired to create a new district 15 in northwestern North Dakota.

(Sean Allen enters the meeting)

Sean started last Wednesday and working through orientation. Sean gave the Board a quick overview of his work history. Sean will assist local districts for a while until he fully is trained in.

(Sean leaves meeting)

Schmidt still looking to redistrict the east and get another inspector out there in the future.

Reciprocity
Nothing new.

Baily Redwing
Schmidt states they didn't receive any additional information as requested by the board at its last meeting.

Brenda Perez
Schmidt states they haven't received any additional information as requested by the board at its last meeting as she was reluctant to provide it. She knows without it she wouldn't be renewed. Perez is living in Texas.

Reporting System
Nothing new.

Adakon
Schmidt explains to the Board that background and the contractor requested to come and explain his request to have unlicensed workers on a private power line to the Board. He didn't appear so nothing is needed from the Board at this time.

Education Committee (Continued)
Schmidt provided a worksheet for the board's review and is working on reviewing exam questions and perfecting any changes.

The education advisory committee met and discussed NDSCS college's program "Train ND" apprenticeship program because it needs substantial assistance. Schmidt thinks they need to assist or deregister the program if it's not improved. Schmidt supplied the email from Reed Mann for the Boards review.

Inspection Fees
Schmidt explains the new fee structure handout to the Board.

Revisit Cert Fee Structure/Budget
Schmidt discussed the possibility of proposing a new set of administrative rules that would keep the updated cert fee structure from sunseting in July. Schmidt advises leaving the structure and budget alone for now which the board agreed keeping in mind pending replacing the reporting system expense.

Elevator
Schmidt explains the record keeping NDSEB does for inspections done on elevators- what they check and what they don't. The Board was approached by several individuals who believe ND should have inspections of elevators. Schmidt said since we are already keeping records of new elevators and elevator manufacturers / installers, he would like to volunteer the NDSEB to be part of the actual elevator inspections.

Administrative Rules

Received approval by AG’s office May 1st and was sent to legislative council the same day to adhere to the May 1st midnight deadline. The tentative meeting is June 13th with the Rules Committee to discuss the rule changes. Schmidt is hoping for a July 1st implementation.

Cobra Policy

Schmidt discusses the Cobra Insurance Policy and needed revisions. Buck made a motion to accept the revised NDSEB Cobra Policy. Brandenburg seconded. The Motion passed unanimously.

City of Minot

Schmidt describes the letter regarding ornamental city lights. An inspector was sent to check the situation and everything was found to be in code. Schmidt responded to the complaint and stated that the NDSEB has no jurisdiction.

(Adam Kidwell leaves meeting)

Power Companies

Schmidt discussed the letter that was sent to all ND power companies regarding wiring certificates.

State Fleet Trucks

Schmidt explains the spreadsheet he made regarding the trucks used by NDSEB.

Paul Durbin resigned as the owner investor representative on the board as he retired from Xcel Energy and will no longer be their representative. Mayer explains Durbin’s last meeting and thanked him for his time on the Board.

Mayer states the next Board meeting is July 17th. Durbin makes a Motion to adjourn. Buck seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

The Board adjourned at 1:50 p.m.

Date _____

Date _____

Rodney Mayer, President

Paul Durbin, Secretary