

NDSEB EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, March 31, 2021

The North Dakota State Electrical Board (NDSEB) Education Advisory Committee meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m. and conducted by Executive Director, James Schmidt, at the office of the North Dakota State Electrical Board, 1929 N. Washington Street, Suite A-1, Bismarck, North Dakota.

Committee members present: Tim Pull – Master Electrician Representative; Steve Mundahl – Journeyman Representative; Brian Fuder – NDSCS Apprenticeship Program Representative; Christian Opp – Apprentice Educator Representative; Adam Kidwell – JATC Representative; Ivan Maas – NDSCS Representative; James Schmidt – NDSEB Executive Director; and Scott Halle – NDSEB Training & Compliance Administrator. Committee member present by telephone: Brian Poykko – Professional Engineer Representative. Also present was Paula Glass, NDSEB Office Manager. Committee member absent: Jeff Kirstein – IEC Dakotas.

The Agenda was reviewed and asked for additional agenda items. A sign in sheet was passed around to ensure correct contact information of each member. James Schmidt reiterated these Committee meetings are official and minutes must be kept as they are subject to open records. Subject matters cannot be discussed among members unless it's within the context of an official meeting.

The February 17, 2021 NDSEB Education Advisory Committee Meeting minutes were approved as read.

James Schmidt emphasized the need for group discussions and efforts as the purpose of this Committee. Discussion commenced on the Electrical Core Class Related Training Minimum Requirements (ECCRTMR) spreadsheet. Classroom credit hours were recently received from Faith Technologies apprenticeship program and added to the spreadsheet.

James Schmidt discussed the minimum standards and requirements that the Committee needs to decide on. Committee discussed curriculum versus contact hours and a possible compromise. The Committee reviewed the ECCRTMR comparison of hours between various providers to determine and agree on minimum hours guideline. Schmidt reiterated the auditing process of these classes need to be taken into consideration as well.

Committee discussed whether the core courses listed in the ECCRTMR are accurate, what the competency hours are required for each course and what should be addressed and/or included with each course. This will help educators maintain consistency. Regional discrepancies should be addressed by adding flexibility and electives. Core courses should also meet minimum code requirements. Further discussion commenced on whether 576 hours should be the minimum.

- The NDSEB Midco TV electrician public service advertisement was played for the Committee to view.

With various events, including the COVID pandemic, apprentices are once again picking up where they left off, which may include old or outdated materials. Discussion included a timeline on materials, taking into consideration short-term versus spread out programs and if the apprentice would need to retake the course. The programs need to be parallel with on-the-job learning, and

determination on when an apprentice decides on career and when they start. This will be left up to the educators, however, emphasis was made on keeping up with the code book in the current cycle.

The Committee discussed a timeframe on this entire process. James Schmidt suggested by fall to have Board approval of a provider application (with minimum classroom credit hours set) and auditing process implemented.

Discussion took place on the percentage expected to train and what the result will be for the employer hiring the apprentice, especially based on different electrical trades and pathways. Should the code classes be based on chapters of the National Electrical Code and percentage of each article? The core courses on the ECCRTMR will give structure and contain code.

Committee further discussed assessment based on academic standards versus work industry. Core course measurements were compared to the Journeyman exam. Even though the core courses are not inclusive, an apprentice still needs knowledge of.

At 9:50 a.m., the Committee recessed for a short break.

At 10:05 a.m., the Committee reconvened.

The Committee continued discussion on the ECCRTMR and what are the minimum requirements.

It was motioned by Adam Kidwell and seconded by Ivan Maas to accept the NDSEB category of minimum set hours. James Schmidt indicated he would present it to the Board at its next meeting and implement by Board policy. Discussion took place which included not enough course variance especially if companies are paying for these apprenticeship classes. Committee voted 7:2 to reduce minimum hours from 499 to provide more variance, which will include more electives. Motion failed. Committee discussed the course titles and variance of hours.

Committee further discussed electives totaling 101 hours. Providers will supply this information through the application process, and the Committee will review and discuss at their meetings.

It was motioned by Adam Kidwell and seconded by Ivan Maas to approve the adjusted numbers as shown in the ECCRTMR spreadsheet and as reflected above. Motion approved. James Schmidt again reiterated that this will be presented to the Board at its next meeting, and a policy will be developed.

Committee discussed the Apprenticeship Related Training Requirements. These requirements will be used to develop the application, instructional sheet and/or audit checklist. The Committee discussed accreditation, instructor qualifications and accountability. Qualification for instructors are already referenced in the Education section of the North Dakota Laws. Rules & Wiring Standards 24.1-04-01-03. The requirements were discussed.

At 12:45 p.m., the Committee recessed for a 30-minute break.

At 1:15 p.m., the Committee reconvened.

The committee reviewed the NERA comparison spreadsheet of reciprocal states and requirements, which included classroom training. Military time was also briefly discussed.

James Schmidt also reviewed the list of NDSEB's approved continuing education classes available on our website. The Committee reviewed non-code credits approved on this list.

A promotional tool/signage was presented by Christian Opp. James Schmidt reviewed with the Committee a page from the Board's website: "Become an Electrician." Scott Halle presented the Committee with flyers used for educational classes and showed a demonstration performed at Marketplace for Kids. James Schmidt asked the Committee for more ideas on educating electricians. He announced an Expo by the Minot Area Career on November 10, 2021. This would be a great opportunity to promote the electrical industry.

Related training programs will be discussed, including AE Tech at the next Electrical Board meeting on May 19th..

The Committee discussed apprenticeship training information getting out to apprentices. James Schmidt reviewed the Apprentice Registrant document that goes to every new apprentice with their registration card. Also, when apprentices renew each year, the question is asked about training and/or school, and if the apprentice indicates none, a letter is generated to that apprentice emphasizing the training requirement.

Further discussion took place on NDSEB's 16 CEU classes, and the possibility of two different type of classes to choose from. Ideas are obtained from comment cards. The board office has approved over 160+ classes so electricians have options of subject matters. The 2020 NEC Table of Contents was handed out for ideas.

Suggestions for acceptable non-code continuing education was reviewed based on the 50% rule in 24.1-04-01-01. If any changes are going to be made, it must go through legislative rule process, which was explained. Homework assignment for next meeting is to bring ideas for non-code credit.

The Committee set the next in person meeting for Wednesday, May 12, 2021, at 8:30 a.m.

For the next meeting, Christian Opp, Scott Halle and Ivan Maas were to provide a format for the minimum requirement credits for a 2-year college degree program. The related training for apprentice program application and audit form checklist will be drafted by the NDSEB office for review at the next committee meeting.

There being no further business, Adam Kidwell motioned to have the meeting adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 2:40 p.m.