BATES TECHNICAL COLLEGE
STEAM CERTIFICATION BOARD HYBRID MEETING

August 16, 2024
9:02 a.m.-10:23 a.m.
South Campus Room A102A & Zoom

ATTENDANCE

Attendance: X=Attended E=Excused U=Unknown

Board Members				Bates Administrative Staff		Guests	
U	Nabeel Al Shakerchi	X	Tony McNamara	E	Roseann Berg	X	Steve Frazier
X	Scott Best	X	Aaron Meisenheimer	E	Samuel Cureton	E	Andrea Major
X	Terry Chapin	E	Jose Miranda	X	Amelia Fortuno		
X	Jeff Frazier	X	Joel Rasmussen	E	Johnny Hu		
X	Cameron LaFreniere	E	Christopher Jackson	E	Yifan Sun		
X	Dr. Graham Malek	E	Jim Wrenn				

MEETING MINUTES

I. Call to Order

II. Welcome/Introductions
Introductions were made for guest.

III. Approval of Minutes
Moved, seconded, and carried: *unanimous decision to accept the minutes from the May 10, 2024 meeting as written.*

IV. Reports
Boiler Exam Report (Samuel Cureton)
Amelia Fortuno presented the report in Samuel Cureton's absence.

- May: One Class IV exam administered and passed.
- June: One Class IV exam administered and not passed.
- July: Four Class IV exams administered. Two of them passed.

Moved, seconded, and carried: *unanimous decision receive the quarterly boiler exam report as submitted.*

Class Curriculum Review Committee (Tony McNamara)
Nothing to report.

Adapting Municipality Report (Joel Rasmussen)
Joel Rasmussen, City of Tacoma Plan Review Engineer, mentioned Foss High School submitted plans to update the heating for their swimming pool.

- They currently have two 5 million BTU/hr heaters that they run one at a time, which are cycling on and off too much.
- The plan is to install three 2.5 million BTU/hr heaters that are manifolded together and run one heater at a time for a longer cycle.
    - Not setup as lockout/tagout, which would be 7.5 million BTU/hr capacity.
    - It would be a heavy lift for the school district to cover the staffing cost for attendance and the boiler certifications for the operators.

Discussion:

- Steve Frazier, City of Seattle Chief Boiler Inspector, said in Seattle they would handle it by requiring that a switch be installed that would only allow for one boiler to be run at a time.
    - Pertains to the City of Seattle Steam Engineer and Boiler Operator License Law 6.420.100.G.5.
    - He has only seen it with two boilers on an A/B selector switch.
- There would have to be a mechanical condition, physically preventing the bypass of safety protocols like putting a blank in the gas line.
- Qualified employees versus cheap labor.
- Scott Best reminded the Board that their role is as a curriculum and training approval body and not part of code review or enforcement.
- Cautioned Joel to remain consistent and not compromise on safety.

Joel also gave an update on a task, he was given several meetings ago, to contact the state boiler inspector about getting a list of how many boilers were inspected in Tacoma.

- The list he received had around a thousand.
    - It included water heaters in schools, hospitals, laundromats, etc.
        - Additional research needs to be done to find the boiler classifications.
    - Steve Frazier mentioned he has a list of about 4,000 active boilers in Seattle, which does not include water heaters.

Boiler Training Pathway (Cameron LaFreniere)

Cameron LaFreniere said the Boiler Fireman Class III & IV and the Boiler Refresher courses through Continuing Education are going through the curriculum review process.

- He found someone who is interested in teaching the Boiler Fireman Class III & IV boiler training course.
    - Proposed that the Saturday schedule be offered first.
- Amelia Fortuno will look forward to an update from Peter Speelmon, Curriculum and Assessment Coordinator, since she is the class builder.
- Aaron Meisenheimer asked Amelia Fortuno if she spoke with a former WestRock operator who was interested in teaching the boiler training course.
    - She confirmed speaking with that person, but could not move forward with the employment and scheduling process until the course completes the curriculum review.

V. Tabled/Unfinished Business

Terry Chapin brought up an item that Jim Wrenn, who was unable to attend the meeting, wanted to be discussed again.

- Is the school district doing their own boiler training and not taking the certification exam?
    - Amelia Fortuno responded that employers are not tracked in the certification application/examination process.
        - The City of Tacoma enforces certification requirements.
        - She is aware that they have contracted with Renton Technical College for on-site Boiler Refresher classes just for their employees.

Action Item	Tasked	Due Date
Contact the administration in facility management and ask if the school district has their own boiler training program and whether or not people are taking the certification exam.	Joel Rasmussen	November 8, 2024

One-Address License/Certification Discussion:

- Terry Chapin wanted to know if the boiler certificates and licenses had one-address restrictions (i.e., only allowed to operate at one address)?
    - Amelia Fortuno answered that the Bates certificate does not have that specification.
    - Steve Frazier said Seattle used to, but does not do it anymore.
        - They no longer track employers.
            - It used to be up to operator to list their employer.

        - Dr. Graham Malek added that back when there was one-address restriction, if a plant was upgraded and the operator held a lower classification level, they would get the corresponding higher license to be able to continue to operate at that address. That higher classification would not follow them should they leave to operate at another address.
            - Steve Frazier recalls the last time this may have occurred was around 2004 when Seattle Children's Hospital switched from a Grade 3 plant to a Grade 2, but does not remember if the operators received that location upgrade or if they all passed the exams to get the higher license classification.

Boiler Symposium Debrief Discussion:

- Cameron LaFreniere attended only one day.
    - Something happened with the hotel group block and his room reservation was canceled.
    - A few of his students attended the event.
- Amelia Fortuno received a list of 28 people who completed the requirements for the event to count as their Boiler Refresher.
    - From those that attended or who spoke with the organizers, not all of the attendants used the event as a Boiler Refresher substitute.
- Jeff Frazier mentioned that the Western Washington Stationary Engineers Training Trust/International Union of Operating Engineers (I.U.O.E.) Local 302 are interested in to host this event again.
    - They would continue to hold it at their Bothell location.
- How to improve the event.
    - Earlier notification and a longer registration period will help to increase the number of attendees.
        - Amelia Fortuno said when Bates hosted the event, save-the-date postcards went out in February.
        - The agenda can be advertised later.
    - Make sure the hotel group reservation block is confirmed.

Moved, seconded, and carried: *Express gratitude to I.U.O.E. Local 302 for sponsoring the Boiler Symposium.*

Action Item	Tasked	Due Date
Send letter of gratitude to I.U.O.E Local 302 on behalf of the Steam Certification Board.	Amelia Fortuno	November 8, 2024

VI. New Business

Reviewed Board membership term limits for elections at the November meeting.

- Terry Chapin is on his third year of his third term, but he is completing someone else's term, and would be eligible to serve another three-year term.

VII. Good of the Order

Terry Chapin announced that the next Board of Boiler Rules meeting is next week.

- Tuesday is the study session, virtually only.
- Wednesday is the Board meeting, in-person.

Amelia Fortuno gave the Bates update.

- Currently certificates are in the 45-day grace period of the renewal process, which ends on September 15.
    - The last renewal notice has already been mailed and there were no other Boiler Refresher classes being offered in summer and fall.
- 52 operators still need to complete the boiler certificate renewal process.
    - 25 of those operators are required to complete their Boiler Refresher requirement in order to renew their certificate.
        - A few of these operators paid the renewal fee, but have not submitted their proof of Boiler Refresher completion.
- Please save-the-date for the Bates Advisory Committee Dinner.
    - November 21, 2024 (Thursday before Thanksgiving)
      Downtown Campus Auditorium
      5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.
    - This will be the second time that this is being held.
        - Jeff Frazier and Jose Miranda attended last year.
    - The Bates Culinary Arts program will cater and serve at the event.
    - The organizing committee is looking for speakers at the event.

VIII. Next meeting date

- November 8, 2024
- February 14, 2025
- May 9, 2025
- August 8, 2025

IX. Adjournment