BATES TECHNICAL COLLEGE
STEAM CERTIFICATION BOARD HYBRID MEETING
November 8, 2024
10:02 a.m.-11-15 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	E	Steve Frazier
X	Scott Best	X	Aaron Meisenheimer	X	Samuel Cureton	E	Andrea Major
X	Terry Chapin	X	Jose Miranda	X	Amelia Fortuno		
X	Jeff Frazier	X	Joel Rasmussen	E	Johnny Hu		
X	Cameron LaFreniere	E	Christopher Jackson	X	Yifan Sun		
U	Dr. Graham Malek	X	Jim Wrenn				

MEETING MINUTES

I. Call to Order

II. Welcome/Introductions
Introductions were made.

III. Approval of Minutes
Moved, seconded, and carried: *unanimous decision to accept the minutes from the August 16, 2024 meeting as written.*

IV. Reports
Boiler Exam Report
Samuel Cureton, Bates Chief Boiler Examiner, presented the quarterly boiler exam report.

- August: Three Class IV exams administered and not passed.
- September: Exam canceled due to no applicants.
- October: One Class II and one Class IV exam administered and not passed.

- Amelia Fortuno added that there was one reciprocity (operator using their current City of Seattle boiler license to obtain an equivalent Bates boiler certificate) for a Class IV in November.

Discussion:

- Is the exam too hard?
    - Samuel Cureton answered that he is not getting comments that the exam is too hard. He said it's more that they come to the exam unprepared or not studying enough.
    - Amelia Fortuno mentioned that there could be a long gap between their training/education and when they take the exam.
        - For example: one of the examinees, in this report, had a boiler certificate that expired and they had to complete the examination process again.

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

Adapting Municipality Report (Joel Rasmussen)

Joel Rasmussen, City of Tacoma Plan Review Engineer, reported that there were no new permits since his last report.

He gave an update on the Foss High School swimming pools heating project.

- Currently there are two 5 million BTU/hr and the plan is to install three 2.5 million BTU/hr heaters that are manifolded together to run one heater at a time for a longer cycle.
- Discussed with them, over the phone, that a lockout/tagout would not be allowed. He gave them the mechanical solutions that the Board had talked about, at one of their previous meetings, like installing blanks and A/B switches.
    - There has been no further conversation since.

Boiler Training Pathway (Cameron LaFreniere)

Cameron LaFreniere, Bates Facilities Maintenance Engineering Instructor, did not have anything to report.

Tabled/Unfinished Business

Jose Miranda did not attend the last meeting. He will work with the rest of the boiler symposium planning committee to get a financial report of the event.

Action Item	Tasked	Due Date
Distribute a financial report on the boiler symposium and any amount donated towards scholarships.	Jose Miranda	February 14, 2025

V. New Business

Amelia Fortuno introduced a letter from "A Concerned Tacoma Class 3 Operator" that was received after the last Steam Certification Board meeting.

Concerns that were mentioned in the letter:

- Exploitation of a loophole to get a Class III/Grade 3 without any boiler experience
    - By using testing with the City of Seattle for their boiler license and then using reciprocity to get an equivalent Bates certificate.
- The City of Seattle is not checking credentials.
- Applicants are giving false contact information so that friends and family are taking calls and making false claims about training and experience.
- Applicants claiming experience with recently shuttered mills.

Discussion:

- Terry Chapin mentioned he is an oral board examiner for the City of Seattle and went through the process and his experience.
    - The oral boards are conducted via Zoom.
    - He receives a copy the examinee's written test and data prior to the oral board exam.
    - He recalls having questions about the experience of an examinee and made a point to ask the test administrator if the are checking the experience and was assured that they were.
        - He was also informed that they accept the information that is listed on their application and will pursue if there are any questions.
    - During the first 5-10 minutes of the oral board, he asks the examinee to talk about their boiler experience and details about the boiler/plant at their work.
        - Samuel Cureton mentioned doing something similar in his oral board exams for Bates.
            - The examiner panel introduces themselves and their boiler experience. Then the examinee is asked to tell the panel about their boiler experience.
- Jose Miranda talked about his members at WestRock before their closure while he was a business representative for IUOE 302.
    - One of the goals for the employees was to get an affidavit from their supervisor about their boiler experience before they left.
    - He mentioned many were upset that their in-house training may not count.

    - There were lower-levels working in the powerhouse that may not have had much experience working with the boilers.

- The application process for someone wanting to upgrade their boiler certification license/to a higher classification level.
    - Terry Chapin mentioned that the City of Seattle have the affidavits that need to be signed off.
    - Amelia Fortuno answered that Bates does not require affidavits. The operator would complete the application process the same as when they initially went for the certification. The experience listed would then be reviewed by Samuel Cureton.
- Discussion on the difficulty of passing the Grade 3 City of Seattle written and oral board exams, aside from the boiler experience concern.
- Tony McNamara asked if there were any changes made to the City of Seattle written exam since he tested. Terry Chapin mentioned essay questions and creating line drawings were removed. The questions are now in multiple-choice format.
- If the Board is still comfortable with reciprocity and the process.
    - No concerns were brought up to initiate any changes.

Action Item	Tasked	Due Date
Send a copy of the letter to Steve Frazier, City of Seattle Chief Boiler Inspector.	Amelia Fortuno	February 14, 2025

2025 Board Membership

Executive Officers

- Jose Miranda will transition to Chair at the conclusion of this meeting.

Nominated and unanimously approved: *Cameron LaFreniere to serve as Vice Chair and Jeff Frazier to serve as Secretary.*

VI. Good of the Order

Amelia Fortuno gave the Bates update.

- Reminded that the Bates Advisory Committee Dinner on is November 21.
- The 45-day grace period for the annual boiler certificate renewals ended on September 15.
    - 39 boiler certificates expired.
    - 312 current boiler certificates.
- Bates will be celebrating 85 years next year.
    - New logo branding has already been rolled out.
        - New logo will be on the certificates when they are renewed starting in June 2025.

Action Item	Tasked	Due Date
Email the Board the symbolism behind the new Bates logo.	Amelia Fortuno	February 14, 2025

Tony McNamara talked about House Bill 1257, Clean Buildings for Washington law and a customer request to evaluate their dollar saving. It is an area in a plant that can lead to huge saving opportunities that can be demonstrated and calculated. Boiler operators maybe called upon to contribute towards their facilities calculation.

Cameron LaFreniere mentioned the ballot initiative that no legislation can restrict the use of natural gas, the supply of natural gas, or the monetary incentives to not use natural gas.

Terry Chapin announced that the Washington State Board of Boiler Rules will have their study session on the 19th and their meeting will be on the 20th.

VII. Next meeting date

- February 14, 2025
- May 9, 2025
- August 8, 2025
- November 13, 2025

VIII. Adjournment