BATES TECHNICAL COLLEGE
STEAM CERTIFICATION BOARD HYBRID MEETING

February 14, 2025
10:03 a.m.-12:15 p.m.
South Campus Room A102A & Zoom

ATTENDANCE

Attendance: X=Attended E=Excused U=Unknown

Board Members				Bates Administrative Staff		Guests	
X	Nabeel Al Shakerchi	X	Tony McNamara	E	Roseann Berg	E	Steve Frazier
X	Scott Best	X	Aaron Meisenheimer	E	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	X	Christopher Jackson	X	Yifan Sun		
U	Dr. Graham Malek	E	Jim Wrenn				

MEETING MINUTES

I. Call to Order

II. Welcome/Introductions
Introductions were made.

III. Chairperson Appointments
Jose Miranda, Chair, appointed Christopher Jackson and Jim Wrenn as alternates for the duration of his term. No changes were made to committee memberships.

IV. Approval of Minutes
Christopher Jackson asked for a recap of the Foss High School swimming pool heating project regarding lockout/tagout.

- The project proposed installation of three heaters at a lower BTU/hr to replace the two currently being used.
- Joel Rasmussen, City of Tacoma, had told the project proposal team that lockout/tagout would not be allowed. Mechanical solutions like installing blanks and A/B switches were given. There has been nothing to report since.

Moved, seconded, and carried: *unanimous decision to accept the minutes from the November 8, 2024 meeting as written.*

V. Reports

Boiler Exam Report

Amelia Fortuno presented the report in Samuel Cureton's absence.

- November: One Class II administered and not passed.
- December: One Class II administered and not passed. Three Class IVs administered with two passing.
- January: Canceled due to no applicants.
- Reciprocity Achieved (operators using their current City of Seattle boiler license to obtain an equivalent Bates boiler certificate):
  - December: Four Class IIIs
  - January: Two Class Is
  - February: One Class II

Discussion:

- What happens after someone fails a written exam? Do they go over what they got wrong?
  - Cameron LaFreniere, Bates Facilities Maintenance Engineering Instructor, will reconnect with his students to see if there is something he is not covering.
- Cameron voiced additional concerns.
  - Not knowing what is covered on the exams.
    - Amelia Fortuno mentioned the list of topics in the Curriculum Review Procedure and the "What Every Operator Should Know" document.
    - Tony McNamara said the questions were taken from the referenced materials.
  - Examinees are not told which questions they got wrong and what their exact score was.
    - Amelia Fortuno replied that the actual exam score is intentionally not listed in their result letter to avoid any potential negative impact on the examinee (e.g. two examinees going for the same job at the same company).
      - She added that examinee's can request their score, but it will be in a separate communication.
- Changes to the exam made in the past.
  - Removed having to create a boiler drawing.
  - Illustrations for questions were enlarged.
- Members taking the Seattle exam to compare with the Bates one.

Action Item	Tasked	Due Date
Provide exam pass rate statistics for the last two years	Amelia Fortuno	May 9, 2025
Connect with Cameron LaFreniere regarding his concerns that he is not covering topics on the exam.	Samuel Cureton	May 9, 2025

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

Adapting Municipality Report (Joel Rasmussen)

Joel Rasmussen gave a brief overview of the City of Tacoma's process related to boiler installation.

Discussion:

- The enforcement of operator certifications.
    - The roles of L&I and the Board of Boiler Rules.
    - The City of Tacoma does not have a boiler inspector.
- There is no RCW pertaining to boiler certification/licensure, checking for them is not a requirement for state inspection.
    - The difference in requirements at the state vs. city level.
        - The City of Seattle's code is higher than the state's and they have inspectors to enforce it.

Boiler Training Pathway (Cameron LaFreniere)

Cameron LaFreniere shared that he currently has ten students in his boiler classes. He has been working on and off with the state, DES and DSHS, on their interest in a boiler apprenticeship.

Tabled/Unfinished Business

Reciprocity Concerns

Cameron LaFreniere emailed the board, after the November board meeting, that one of his students had concerns about operators obtaining a certification through reciprocity based on what they are hearing at their workplace. The email alleges that instructors at Renton Technical College (RTC) are saying that if they take the class at RTC (i.e., Boiler 3&4) twice they can test for Class III even without experience. It also included a name of someone that they had concerns about.

Summary of the email discussion:

- Amelia Fortuno was able to figure out who the person was that was given in the email and notified the board of when they obtained their certificate, through reciprocity, and the employer they listed on their application form.

- Tony McNamara suggested a period review of reciprocal programs, similar to curriculum review for approved training, and including the adopting municipality (i.e., City of Tacoma) in the process for granting reciprocal certification.
- Terry Chapin shared that at the November Seattle Licensing Advisory Board (SLAB) meeting he received confirmation that the experience was and is being checked and that the affidavit of experience is being modified and expanded to include more information on the person signing the affidavit attesting to the candidate's experience.

Discussion:

- Amelia Fortuno added that she received a boiler curriculum request from SLAB, which she passed onto Cameron LaFreniere to submit.
- Whether or not the reciprocity using the Seattle boiler license should be suspended or revoked.
- International Union of Operating Engineers Local 302 wanting a statewide certification.

Jose Miranda appointed an ad hoc committee to review reciprocity. The members are:

- Cameron LaFreniere
- Joel Rasmussen

Action Item	Tasked	Due Date
Contact Steve Frazier, City of Seattle Chief Boiler Inspector, for an invitation to the next Seattle Licensing Advisory Board (SLAB) meeting.	Amelia Fortuno	May 9, 2025
Email the Steam Certification Board members the links to the City of Seattle boiler license exam application portal.	Amelia Fortuno	May 9, 2025

VI. New Business

Amelia Fortuno gave a reminder that the bylaws is up for period review.

- The removal of the Reciprocity Committee was never formally taken out of the bylaws.

Action Item	Tasked	Due Date
Send the Bylaws Committee the bylaws and policy document with info about the periodic review.	Amelia Fortuno	May 9, 2025
Bylaws Committee review the bylaws and policy document.	Scott Best	May 9, 2025

VII. Good of the Order

Jose Miranda reported on last year's Boiler Symposium.

- 28 operators took the Boiler Refresher test.
- There were six sponsors at $500 each.
- Total taken in: $6373.28
- Expenses: $2530.23
- Profit: $3843.05
- $1921.51 will be donated to both Bates and Renton Technical Colleges for their Boiler Symposium scholarships.

The 2025 Boiler Symposium will be on June 26-27. The final program schedule will need to be reviewed by the Board at the next meeting in order to be approved as a Boiler Refresher substitute.

Amelia Fortuno gave the Bates update.

- Reminder: A survey was emailed regarding curriculum relevancy and new technology to all Bates advisory committee members that is due today.
- A revised boiler exam application form is being uploaded to the boiler certification webpage.
    - The Bates logo is updated and the fax number removed.

Jeff Frazier reported that Local 302 has been working with L&I to come up with Senate Bill 5694 concerning a statewide boiler certification. There is a public hearing on February 17.

- It leaves aside the Seattle, Tacoma, and Spokane jurisdictions and fills in the blanks that are the rest of the state.
- Directs the State Board of Boiler Rules to come up with a scheme for the certification of boiler operators.
- Does not encroach on the certification/license in the City of Seattle, Tacoma, and Spokane.
- Would go into effect January 1, 2028.
- Window period for being grandfathered in using a certification/license for the state certification would end on January 1, 2029.

VIII. Next meeting date

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

IX. Adjournment