BATES TECHNICAL COLLEGE
STEAM CERTIFICATION BOARD HYBRID MEETING

May 9, 2025
10:01 a.m.-11:33 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	X	Roseann Berg	E	Steve Frazier
X	Scott Best	X	Aaron Meisenheimer	E	Samuel Cureton	X	Andrea Major
X	Terry Chapin	X	Jose Miranda	X	Amelia Fortuno		
X	Jeff Frazier	X	Joel Rasmussen	X	Johnny Hu		
X	Cameron LaFreniere	X	Christopher Jackson				
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 February 14, 2025 meeting as written.*

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

- February: Exam canceled due to no applicants.
- March: Three Class IV administered and passed. Two Class V administered with none passing.
- April: Two Class III administered with none passing. Two Class V administered with both passing.

Discussion:

- Jose Miranda shared his experience taking the exam after having just completed the two boiler classes in Bates' Facilities Maintenance Engineering program.

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

Adapting Municipality Report (Joel Rasmussen)

Joel Rasmussen gave an update.

- Foss High School swimming pool heating project.
  - He received a new submission with a different engineering company.
  - It lists two 2.6 million BTU/hour heaters.
- Bellarmine School is tearing out an old steam boiler (180,000 BTU/hour).
  - It was running through a steam to water heat exchange.
  - Taking out heat exchanger and installing a hot water heater.

Discussion:

- Tony McNamara asked for an update on the enforcement of operator certifications.
  - Joel is still determining what the City should be doing regarding interview facility owners.
    - For example, are the boiler certificates posted at the place of business?
  - Christopher Jackson mentioned what he experienced as a former inspector.
    - He would accept the certificate/license not being posted if they could quickly be shown, considering the atmosphere/environment being near boilers.

Moved, seconded, and carried: *unanimous decision to receive the adapting municipality report as submitted.*

Boiler Training Pathway (Cameron LaFreniere)

Cameron LaFreniere shared that there is a possibility that there will be boiler classes in the fall or winter quarters.

Moved, seconded, and carried: *unanimous decision to receive the boiler training pathway report as submitted.*

Bylaws Committee Report (Scott Best)

Scott Best gave an overview that the Bylaws Committee met and shared a draft of revisions relating to the Bylaws.

Changes to Policy Document:

- Updating the dates (*Scheduled Review* and *Actual Review Date)*.

- Removed any mention of the Reciprocity Committee
    - Reciprocity was supposed to be reviewed on a five-year basis or if there or if there changes to materials.
    - At the November 2018 meeting, the Board approved to eliminate the Reciprocity Committee due to inactivity, but the change was not captured in the bylaws.

Changes to Bylaws:

- In Article 4, Section 5, replaced the word *insure* with *ensure*.

Moved, seconded, and carried: *unanimous decision to approve the changes to both the policy document and the bylaws.*

Moved, seconded, and carried: *unanimous decision to receive the Bylaws Committee report as submitted.*

Reciprocity Ad-hoc Committee (Cameron LaFreniere)

Cameron LaFreniere shared that the committee discussed potentially taking the Seattle exam to evaluate the difficulty level and getting invited to the next Seattle Licensing Advisory Board (SLAB) meeting.

Aaron Meisenheimer mentioned speaking with someone who took both Class I (Bates) and Grade 1 (Seattle) exams a couple of years ago and they said the Seattle one was a tad more difficult.

Moved, seconded, and carried: *unanimous decision to receive the Reciprocity Ad-hoc Committee report as submitted.*

Tabled/Unfinished Business

Reciprocity Concerns

Cameron LaFreniere discussed what occurred at the SLAB meeting on April 30. Jose Miranda and Amelia Fortuno also attended the virtual meeting.

Discussion:

- Cameron did not feel the curriculum was an issue but had concerns about how the exams are conducted.
- Since the pandemic, the Seattle exams have been conducted online.
    - There is very little to no proctoring. There is very basic proctoring software, intellectual verification of the test takers, or checks to see if anyone is cheating.
        - The test prevents changing tabs within the browser.
- At the start of the pandemic, tests had initially been done virtually using cameras with a proctor present. The process was changed due to the time and staffing constraints.
- The process and testing are overseen by administration without necessarily any boiler experience.

- There were a couple of oral board examiners that were present who have not been contacted for several months to be on an oral board exam panel, required for Grades 1, 2, and 3.
- Terry Chapin commented that the oral board exams are proctored and occur with cameras on.
- Cameron will be allowed to take their tests, if it is not for licensure, at no cost.
- Steve Frazier is going to talk to his administration to see about bringing the testing back to in-person.
    - The space that had been used for the testing had been reallocated for a different purpose.

Action Item	Tasked	Due Date
Send a letter to Steve Frazier addressing the concerns regarding how the tests are being conducted and give a deadline to respond before the next Board meeting.	Tony McNamara	August 8, 2025
Email Tony McNamara the Steam Certification Board letterhead.	Amelia Fortuno	May 10, 2025

Boiler Exam Statistics

Amelia Fortuno had been tasked with providing the pass rate for the boiler exams. She provided an older document that was done for the 2009-2011 exams when the Board decided to remove the portion where examines had to create boiler drawings.

The document recently created includes average scores per exam date and the inclusion of the Class V Boiler Fireman data since there are more people testing for that classification now.

V. New Business

Jose Miranda presented the Boiler Symposium agenda for consideration to approve the event as a Boiler Refresher substitute.

Moved, seconded, and carried: *unanimous decision to approve the Boiler Symposium as a Boiler Refresher substitute.*

VI. Good of the Order

Amelia Fortuno gave the Bates update:

- Her supervisor, Yifan Sun, has stepped away from her position. The new dean, Teri Harris, starts on May 16, 2025.
- Boiler renewal notices will be sent out at the end of May.
    - There are 323 boiler operators.
    - 12 operators still need to complete a Boiler Refresher class.

Jeff Frazier mentioned that Senate bill 5694 did not pass.

- It made it through the Senate and through second review but did not pass the House.

VII. Next meeting date

- August 8, 2025
- November 13, 2025

VIII. Adjournment