

## HVAC Advisory Meeting

Friday, April 5, 2019

Members present: Dan Holland, Chad Birk, Gary Bye, Paul Vandergon, Joe Kurke, Dwayne Gapinski

Staff present: Jim Ruhland, Rhonda Wiggins, Chad Murphy, Joe Worm, Stephen Harper, Susan Markes, Todd Carlton, Anna Poteryakhin, Melissa McGarry, Kim Urahn

Introductions were made.

Minutes of last meeting were approved without correction on a motion by Paul, second by Gary.

Stephen Harper of Student Life and Career Development department joined the group today. He asked our industry partners to take a short survey regarding what qualities/abilities they are looking for in new hires.

Rhonda thanked everyone for all of their support to the program.

Student status – Jim 19, Mark 26, John 24, Rhonda 23, Joe 21, Chad 23, unsure what Skip's count is.

Some of the fall classes are already full. Word of mouth is very influential. Many people have said HTC has the best labs of all of the area schools.

The Advisory Appreciation dinner will be held on Thursday, April 11, 2019, at the Brooklyn Park campus, beginning at 6:00.

The next HVAC advisory meeting is scheduled for Friday, September 27, 2019, at 7:30 a.m at the Eden Prairie campus.

### **Industry Trends –**

Employers are planning ahead to fill upcoming vacancies due to retirements in the aging workforce. Continuing training is a challenge. The administration/service management portion of the business is a challenge too.

Younger employees are better at technology but not at face to face interactions, they need more “soft skills”. There is consensus among the group that communication skills are needed.

Rhonda teaches a one credit class – Completing the Call – to help address this lack.

Dwayne talks with his apprentices during ride-alongs and emphasizes the importance of staying off their personal phones while working. Some technicians use tablets rather than cell phones, it looks more professional.

Refrigerants are a problem, there are too many of them. Starting to see more propane use.

Meeting was adjourned on a motion by Gary, second from Dwayne.