

Medium/Heavy Truck Technology Advisory Committee Minutes
Tuesday, November 12, 2019
11:30 am
Hennepin Room
Brooklyn Park Campus

I. Call to order

The advisory committee meeting was called to order at 12:15pm on Tuesday, November 12th, 201 by Dale Boyenga.

II. Introductions

All members present introduced themselves and the company they represent.

Members Present:

Industry

Trent Bergstrom, JME Companies
Don Wolf, Metro Transit
Mike Zachow, Republic Services
Kyle Gillett, AllState Peterbilt
Brian Hattenberger, Scherer Brothers
Tim Jansen, Truck Country

College

Duane Rasmussen, MHTT Faculty
Dale Boyenga, MHTT Faculty
Alison Leintz, Interim Academic Dean
Susan Markes, Interim Academic Coordinator
Melissa McGarry, Administrative Assistant
Wayne Clarke, 2nd year Student

III. Minutes Approved

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the April 11, 2019 meeting. All members were in favor.

IV. Additional Agenda Items

No additional items

V. Program report

• **Student Status:**

Dale and Duane reported there are currently 19 students in second year class and 21 students in first year of program. Started the fall with 25, but lost a few.

• **Internships:**

At nearly 100% - exception being one student who was let go due to a background check. Mike Zachow said he would take a look at the student.

There are several new companies that we haven't worked with before for internships as some students had found their own internships.

Duane spoke of a success story with Countryside Diesel in Buffalo. A former 2002 graduate opened up a new shop and there are two former graduates and one current student working there.

- **Donations/Purchases through leveraged equipment:**
Duane noted that last year, a vendor sent out an email about Ultrashift Plus Transmission that Duane was able to respond to quickly and HTC got the transmission as donation. This past spring Mike Z. donated equipment that the program is hoping to get set up and in use by students in spring semester.
Dale and Duane commented on how donations from vendors are typically matched by the state in leveraged equipment dollars. Over the past two years, MHTT has tried to beef up the equipment in the program to become more modernized to meet industry needs. Duane talked about some of the equipment hoping to purchase.
- **Metro Transit Technician Program:**
Currently in session and is going well. There are 16 students with outside instructors. Dale some mentoring with the students.

VI. Budget/Equipment Planning

Over the past two years, the program has purchased two trucks: 2015 Freightliner and 2014 freightliner box truck . Asked what should the program be focusing on between transmissions/vehicles. Discussion of some of the things coming – MN legislature will probably approve allowing assistive driving technology that will allow one driver to control three trucks, lots of new technology coming. Exciting to see what is happening in the industry, but industry still having hard time getting technicians; seems that some senior technicians aren't really looking at the new training, jobs are taking longer to get done due to less technicians available.

VII. Program Recommendations

Dale said that the program has been rolling along on autopilot these last few years since classes are working well. Any thoughts from industry on changes? Kyle mentioned that recruitment into the program needs to change from targeting on the "almost drop-outs" to focusing on the computer savvy students and get them excited about the prospect of technical schools. Emphasize that this is a skilled profession. Tim said he is seeing that kids who are coming into the industry don't really have a hands-on background like older people did during high school.

VIII. Industry Trends and Technology

Don with Metro Transit commented that it is not getting simpler – more and more computers being integrated into everything, all computer controlled. Discussion that entry-level people

can't pass the pre-employment exams since they can't figure out the electrical aspects of getting the bus computer to speak to mechanics.

Some of the challenges include industry-provided training from OEM, there are new requirements for safety equipment for the electric buses, need new protective gear related to the electric buses. Have found that charging buses in house not working as well as it should. Mentioned that the Met Council is looking at all electric buses by 2040. Mike Z. said that they are testing a fleet of 61 CNG electric vehicles/trucks across the country.

Duane announced that he will be retiring at the end of the summer and that he thinks this is his 43rd Advisory meeting he has participate in! The committee said that they would like to be involved as much as possible for the recruitment process for a replacement.

Meeting adjourned at 1pm.