

NCTC Auto Body Advisory Board Meeting – Fall November 18 -2025

Cody Johnson called the meeting to order at 5:45 pm. Board members in attendance; Cody Johnson, Chuck Hoard, Ira Johnson, Mike Paulson, Jackson Brouse, Martin Castano and Cassidy Qualey. Instructors; Kent Wagner and Joe Griffin.

Brief discussion about the annual NCTC Advisory Board appreciation dinner and program. One of the guest speakers discussed a new program intended to aid recruitment and bring enthusiasm to students considering attending a technical college.

Reviewed spring board meeting notes.

Current enrollment at 7. Kent's 2025-26 operating budget is \$11,500 which does not include resale expenses which are recovered by billing customers.

Discussed the importance of advisory board meetings, input from the board and its role in advising the department.

AAS Degree – in depth review on why the AAS degree was dropped and only diploma and certificate are offered. Main reason is there is no demand from the industry and students weren't completing the non-technical classes. Current program consists of two certificates; 1) Sheet Metal Repair Technician (30 credits) and 2) Refinish Technician (30 credits). Students completing both certificates earn a diploma. After much discussion about what to do for those students wanting an AAS degree a motion was made by Ira Johnson and seconded by Cody Johnson to pursue alternate ways to provide AAS degree. Students will be referred to Amanda Hoglo for advice and their options to attain the AAS which they can pursue on their own. Motion passed.

NCTC/Street Wizards Career Days – Attendance this past spring was better than 2024 but still not getting enough prospective students. Members all agreed that the event needs to be held in conjunction with regularly scheduled NCTC Career Days which is almost a month earlier. This would limit the number of Street Wizards cars available but all agreed that even 4-6 cars would be sufficient. Also, members agreed that having cars that students had worked on or were currently working on was very important. Motioned made by Cassidy Qualey, seconded by Jackson Brouse to revisit date of the event once NCTC Career Days are known. Motion passed.

Street Wizards truck project with NCTC is on hold at this time due to questions/concerns about who will be responsible for financing of the project.

Tool Sales via book store – this option for students has been cancelled due to the book store's concern of how to deal with tool returns if student drops class within 2 weeks and they're left with "used" tools.

Tool/Equipment Requests for 2025/26 – Kent submitted requests for; 1) Self Piercing Aluminum Riveter – a couple board members recommended withdrawing the request as this tool is already obsolete in the industry due to changes in how aluminum panels are replaced. 2) SprayVerse Painting/Sandblasting Simulator and 3) ADAS training – Snap-on is scheduled to provide training on their system which is used by Auto Body and Auto Mechanics programs.

Suggestions from Adawn Nelson –

1. Increase margins on parts and materials for customer vehicles. Motion made by Ira Johnson, seconded by Chuck Hoard to change price charged to customers to the “Suggested Retail Price” which will help offset program costs. Motion passed
2. Acquire financial sources such as sponsorships, endowments, etc. Kent has talked to Abdul Chamma, Foundation Officer, who is soliciting businesses and foundations for funding to support all technical programs. Board would like Abdul to attend our spring meeting to inform us.
3. Program adjustments to reflect changes in the industry. After much discussion, a motion was made by Mike Paulson, seconded by Jackson Brouse that we look into making Auto Body a 1 year program. Motion approved. Board will meet at a later date to determine how to accomplish this.

National Science Foundation grant (~\$1,000,000) explained by Joe Griffin. Joe explained how he used his time on sabbatical to interview over 18 local school’s CTE instructors. He discovered there are too few CTE instructors, thus no exposure to the trades in schools. Joe spent about 5 months recruiting at these schools, often visiting multiple times, and as a result the 2025 Auto Mechanics program has 19 students! During this time he and Kent Wagner wrote an application for a grant from the National Science Foundation which was awarded. This nearly \$1,000,000 grant gives over \$140,000 for tools and training aids to be used for student recruitment at the schools. The balance is for 3 year employment of a recruitment instructor to take these tools/training aids to the local schools to introduce students to auto body, auto mechanics and welding. A search is currently underway for that instructor. The board congratulates Joe on a tremendous job!

Joe also proposed signage for all departments on the east side of the TRF campus. This was initially approved but later rescinded after it was determined that TRF couldn’t have the signage if EGF campus didn’t get signage as well. The advisory board was unanimous in requesting that TRF campus get the signage.

Ira Johnson motioned to adjourn, Mike Paulson seconded, motion passed at 8:30 pm.