

## Advisory Board Meeting Minutes 5-2-2024 4:00pm

Meeting started at 4:00

### Members in attendance

- Monty Johnson – Dean of Technical Programs
- Karl Krogfoss – HVAC Instructor
- Jack Hanson – Construction Plumbing Instructor
- Mikki Freige - Vilandres
- Kurt Gamache - Vilandres
- Chris Plante - GF City plumbing inspector.
- Kevin Storstad - GF City mechanical inspector
- Ben York - Northern Plumbing
- Chuck Savage - CL Linfoot Co
- Kevin Bosh - Anytime Plumbing
- Jeff Lundaby - Grand Forks Winsupply
- Phil Kramer – Lunseth Plumbing and Heating

I thanked everybody for coming and introduced our new Dean of Technical Programs, Monty Johnson. I forgot to review the minutes of our last meeting.

Karl does offer the EPA test twice a year, once before Christmas, and once again in the spring. He did express to the people in attendance that if they had any employees that need to take it, they can sign up and Karl and proctor the exam. He proctored the exam the morning of our advisory board meeting.

Karl asked Ben and Jeff from the supply houses about the new refrigerant R-32 and when the old 410A will stop being available, Ben from Northern talked that the end of May will be the last day to purchase it from Goodman. He is not expecting the new equipment until next year.

Karl talked about the outside vendors from gastite and wardflex that come in and get the kids certified. He asked if there was anything else that they think that we should be doing.

Phil filled us all in on how the Tech Ed Center is coming along. He talked about how they are a little short of the total funding needed so they are moving ahead with construction and there will be plans for additions to it as more funding becomes available. It is going to open the summer of 2025 with its first students the fall of 2025. It sounds like there will be students during the day but also plans to have adult education after hours in the evenings in order to get the max use possible out of that facility. Some of the things that are going to be taught are STEM tech ed, automotive, culinary arts, building trades, and health career seminars. I am hoping that this will help to interest students and maybe get them to head to NCTC to attend our courses.

Kevin talked about the Red River house that the high school students work on.

Kevin Bosh brought up the fact that we need some kind of location where the plumbing students can do some groundwork. There has been talk about some type of sand box where the students can get some experience digging, and with learning layout. When he went to plumbing school in Whapeton, they had a place inside the shop where they could pull up the floor a dig. He talked about how it would be ideal to then have some type of structure above it where the kids could then stack. Phil said to consider a type of pole barn structure where that could happen or even a large building with airplane hanger doors where a house could be built inside that haul out to whoever bought it when it is done. There are some schools down south where they do that. Maybe some type of place where we could get a mine excavator and do some digging. That would be great for the program.

The topic of internships was brought up again. It used to be a graduation requirement when I went to school here, however we haven't done it since I started teaching. It sounds like they stopped doing internships due to uncertainty about insurance issues on the job since they aren't employees and questions about pay, Kevin Bosh thought it should be made clear that these would be unpaid internships and have some type of provision that the students shouldn't be stuck doing too much grunt work but some actual plumbing.

Phil talked about the possibility of lending an experienced journeyman for a few days when (hopefully one day) there are a pile of students, to help. He also brought up that we should be reaching out to our state representatives to push for more funding for trades/tech ed programs. Some states receive a lot of funding specifically for that reason.

Meeting closed at 5:23

Since our advisory board meeting, I have talked to several people that were in attendance, and they were very pleased that our dean had been there and listened and contributed to the meeting. It has been a long time since that has happened.