

Advisory Board minutes

Diesel Technology 2-19-21

Meeting starts at 12:00

Attendance: Mike DeVries, Peter Girard, Paul Lanoue, Scott Oberg, Chuck Vlaminck, Todd Martin, Nate Brandt, Peter Zephyr.

1. Mike DeVries starts out with going over Foundation scholarships. Explains that incoming students have availability of two – five hundred dollar scholarships and two first year students have available of five hundred dollar scholarships. Peter Girard explains that the students getting the scholarships need a 2.5 gpa to be eligible. Peter and Mike also explain that it is difficult for students to take the initiative to do the paperwork to get the scholarships. Paul Lanoue also explains that he doesn't get why the students won't apply to get these scholarships. Paul Lanoue also talks about banners out in front of dealerships that are from Lake Area that advertise free tuition reimbursement. Nate Brandt also talks about he has intern going to Lake Area. Todd Martin says he's not real excited about hanging a banner in front of his dealers advertising for Minnesota West or any other school.
2. Mike talks with board about covid and how it's affecting their business. Todd Martin explains how they are limiting exposure to their customers and employees. Mike explains how covid is affecting our school numbers. Mike talks about what we did for the students by getting the students done by Thanksgiving. Peter talks about other diesel schools having low numbers like us. Paul Lanoue talks about students taking a gap year about going to school. Paul also talked about gearing up for fall semester and making sure the students keep learning. Paul has a cold. Todd Martin talks about how to push these students to get to a school.
3. Paul Lanoue talks about campus wide issues. Talks about how Minnesota West is about 7 percent low on students. Talks about how our budget is good and other colleges are in trouble financially. Paul talks about how to spend money in our department creatively. Mike talks about that we have 13 students already signed up. Peter talked about breaking traditions coming up on 2-23-21. There are about 50 students signed up.
4. Mike talked about the extravaganza and how we weren't doing it this year and how much money we made. We made about 7000.00 dollars off of the raffle. Peter says that we are sitting at about 24000.00 in the foundation from the extravaganza.
5. Mike talked about the resale account. How it affects the school and where the money goes. It goes into the college fund. We have very few projects in the shop that are money makers.
6. Mike talks about student numbers. 7 students in first year and Peter has 9 students in second year. Peter talks about how one student in second year didn't come back for last semester. Todd Martin asks why the student left. Mike talked about why student left and the conclusion was money. Peter talks about maybe the student will come back. Paul talks about emergency fund that could possibly help students. Peter talked about leveraged equipment dollars and how great it is for us. Paul talked about the dollars we got from leveraged equipment. Mike talked about leveraged equipment to the dealers about the financials on how we get to use donations for leveraged equipment. Todd Martin asked about what we need for donations. Peter talked about how we will take anything from them.

7. Mike talked about our budget. We get about 20.000 a year to run the diesel program. Peter talked about how much we spent on soap, towels etc.
8. Mike asked about machine requests. Nate Brandt agreed that they will bring up a Western Star. Mike and Pete talked about how we use Diesel Laptops for diagnostics. Pete talks about how student use our diagnostic tools to check out new equipment when the dealers bring it in. Peter feels like he is begging. Todd Martin asks when is a good time to bring these new machines. Pete says bring these machines from now until the end of April. Paul tells that we aren't having a spring break. Mike asks the advisory board what they want from us as instructors. Todd Martin says we are doing a good job and explains that keep teaching them hydraulics and electronics. Nate Brandt wants the students to know the basics and to know how to document their work. Chuck Vlaminck talks about punctuality within the students. He thinks that school projects are important to student education. Chuck says good job. Todd asks about cell phone use and how we battle with the students. Peter talks about phone use and how he doesn't allow it. Mike asked Scott Oberg about students and he says he is very happy with the students they have got. Peter Zephier say the students that they gotten are knowledgeable and is happy with our students. Peter Girard explains that what the advisory board wants is what they get. Scott Oberg talks about Ethernet and how they are being used in John Deere equipment. Paul asks that anyone that knows of new training that comes out that Mike or Pete would like any help. Advisory board concluded at 1:05 pm.