

*Minnesota West Community & Technical College
Pipestone Campus*

*Carpentry Program
Advisory Committee*

Meeting Minutes

March 16th, 2010

I. Call to order

Luke Olson called to order the regular meeting of the Carpentry Advisory Committee at 6:00 on March 16th, 2010 in room 404.

II. Roll call

Luke Olson conducted a roll call. The following persons were present:

Steve Tutt: Contractor, Marshall MN

Matt Jakels: Contractor, Curry MN

Larry Hartman: Contractor, Hartford SD

Terry Skyberge: Contractor, Jasper MN

Chad McClure: Contractor, Luverne MN

Andy Paap: Student Representative

III. New business

a) **2010-2011 Project House Update:** Luke Olson reported that the Carpentry class will be building a project house this year. The house will be located on the NW side of town; the address of the project house is 701 5th St. NW. Luke reported the budget is being set and the project house will be started in weeks to come. The advisory committee started a discussion on this topic by stating the project house is a necessary tool for the students to gain knowledge needed for the work field. The committee also asked what portions of the house are completed by students. Luke Olson reported that the Carpentry students complete the house from foundation to finish. The committee commented that the student must be well rounded. When the times are tough they shall be able to pick up different areas of the trade including tiling, flooring, and finishing woodwork such as staining. The committee stated they believe these aspects should also be taught.

b) **Direction of the Program, Two year vs. 1 year:** Luke Olson started the discussion that the carpentry program was headed towards a one year program. Where in that one year program a project house would be built. The advisory committee directed a question asking if this direction is good for the program, also, asking if much will be lost by teaching a one year program

versus a two year program. Luke directed the question to the student representative Andy Paap. Andy noted that he thinks the first year is necessary based on the knowledge he gained this first year. Andy stated that if a student comes into the program with no base knowledge and does not even know how to read a tape, how are they to start out building a home. Andy said proper and different techniques must be learned and it may be harder for the instructor to teach that while overseeing all the students during the construction of the house. The advisory committee members started out stating that the hands on instruction is a must, but after listening to Andy they understood where a two year program may be needed.

- c) **Local Remodeling Projects:** Luke started out stating that if there were local remodeling projects available to the class within the community of Pipestone, would this interfere with the local contractors. The committee expressed that any hands on experience as long as it was beneficial to the students, especially home remodeling; would benefit the students and not upset the local contractors.
- d) **Codes:** The advisory committee expressed their concern on a few new codes that were being implemented this year and another one in process of being implemented next year. The first code addressed was lead abatement, this code came into effect last year and states that all contractors remodeling home that may contain lead paint pre-1975 must have a lead abatement license. The problem with this code is that not all municipalities are enforcing it, and who is enforcing this in the rule areas. This license is an additional fee from the original residential contractor's license. The concern the contractors have with this portion of the license is that it is a gray area and the state is not enforcing it in all areas. Luke Olson commented that lead abatement is a safety issue and is being taught during the safety portions of class. The other code addressed was pertaining to residential fire sprinklers. The committee talked about who would teach the installation of residential fire sprinklers which could come into effect next year. As of now there are no license requirements to install residential fire sprinklers which means, this can be done by the contractor. The advisory committee stated their concern with this up and coming code.
- e) **Old house Projects:** Luke stated he receives calls, sometimes weekly, concerning house projects that are up to ten years old. Most of the problems are minor and he sees no reason why he should not help the homeowner fix the problems if of no cost to the school. The question discussed was, where the line is drawn and what do we help the homeowners with. Luke said he knows what terms are stated in the contract. The committee believes maybe this is a good spot for the students to do small remodeling and repair jobs. Their concerns are of the small community and they believe this would be beneficial to the community, campus relationship.

f) **Student Learning:** The committee started this topic out with, “What is the level of research students perform on the products?” One of the members stated if a new product comes out and they are to be using it, they advise their lead of the product and expect him/her to research and advise the crew on the product. The committee believes the internet has proven to be a viable resource and students should learn to manipulate their way around researching products on the internet. Luke Olson noted this and will be implement more research in his class.

The committee expressed their views on the expectation of a student to foresee the reason for specific tasks, and to be able to visualize the next step. The committee commented that this is where the project house plays a big role, and instead of the students going through the motions, they must realize why it is they are doing what they are doing. This is where someone who is educated can stand out compared to a carpenter’s laborer. It was stated that there are dozens upon dozens of prospective workers that can only swing a hammer, and that a contractor has to be more and more business savvy in these times, and in that he has no time to train his workers. Now bring in a student graduating from a carpentry program and all members agreed they would pay \$2 to \$4 more starting wages for someone who can see a projects’ direction.

The committee took a tour of the shop, commented on its cleanliness, and checked out the various tools and student projects.

IV. Adjournment

Luke Olson adjourned the meeting at 8:30pm.

Minutes submitted by: Luke Olson, Carpentry Instructor