



DATE: July 17, 2014

TO: Michael Cronk Jr.
Ray Litt
Ric Preuss
Marian Swint

FROM: Bert McAlister, Acting Chairman

RE: **BOARD OF ELECTRICAL EXAMINERS MEETING**

AGENDA

1. Approval of the minutes of the last meeting
2. Board Hearings
3. Board Considerations:
 - Mr. Michael Warren-Accommodation Request
 - Mr. Mario Villanueva-Accommodation Request
 - Mr. Glenn Davis-Contractor Fees
 - Mr. Jimmi Smith: Testimonial Memoriam Resolution
4. Applications for Approvals and Reviews
5. Correspondence:
 - Board invitation to Mr. Eric Jones
 - State of Michigan Contractor Fees Listing
 - Approval/Denial Letters for Accommodation Request
6. Unfinished Business:
 - Accommodation Request Review:
English as a second language application
 - Board Appointments
7. New Business
 - Electrical Division Newsletter
 - Apprentice Coordinator Forum
8. Adjournment

Cc: Durand Capers, Supervising Electrical Inspector



MINUTES OF MEETING FOR JUNE 19, 2014

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Ray Litt
Bert McAlister
Marian Swint

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

NOTICE OF THE MEETING WAS POSTED ON THE BULLETIN BOARD, LOCATED IN THE FIRST FLOOR EAST LOBBY, OF THE COLEMAN A. YOUNG MUNICIPAL CENTER, TWO WOODWARD AVENUE.

The meeting convened at 10:19 a.m.

Mr. Durand Capers: Supervising Electrical Inspector and Mr. Michael Cronk Jr., Ex-Officio member was present at the meeting.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

A motion was made by Mr. Litt and seconded by Mr. McAlister to approve the minutes of May 15, 2014: **Motion carried.**

BOARD HEARINGS:

None

BOARD CONSIDERATIONS:

Local 58 Neighborhood Advisory Group Discussion:

Present for this discussion was Mr. Ric Pruess: Business Agent, IBEW Local 58, Mr. Gary Polulak: Training Director for Detroit JATC (Joint Apprentice Training Committee) affiliate of IBEW Local 58, and Ms. Kathy Price: Office Manger Electrical Industry Training Center IBEW Local 58.

The abovementioned individuals are present to discuss trade industry employment within the new Illitch project (new *Red Wings* stadium, neighborhood re-development with retail and housing). Mr. Litt is a member of the Construction sub-committee for the Neighborhood Advisory Board (a 16 member board approved by the Detroit City Council that monitors what contracts are given, the percentages of Detroiters hired, and how residents in the proposed stadium area can find employment within/from that project.) Mr. Litt suggested the JATC move a part of their training program to the City of Detroit so that applicants will have easier access and transportation to the program.

Mr. Polulak began with an overview of the Apprenticeship school. The school is sponsored by Local 58 and NECA (National Electrical Contractors Association) and certified by the Department of Labor. The school's three main roles are:

- 1. Recruitment**
- 2. Placement**
- 3. Curriculum Development**



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BOARD CONSIDERATIONS: CONT.

There are three programs from which to choose:

- 1. Residential**
- 2. Low Voltage/Telecommunications (3 years)**
- 3. Inside Wireman (5 years)**

The aptitude test is the same for each program. If you are struggling in your program, you don't just fall to the waist side. The school offers mentoring and guiding programs to assist those students.

Specific to the City of Detroit, the school has always had a very good relationship in tapping the youth at Detroit Public Schools. When it comes to recruitment, the Randolph Center is an excellent resource. The school has community exposure, works with the Science Expo that is affiliated with the Detroit Building Trades, participates in career fairs, specifically the NAACP's job fair at Cobo Hall.

The Explorer Post, instructed by Bo Burton, brings in potential recruits (approximately 8-12th grade) for a four hour evening. This involves a school tour, opportunities present in the Apprenticeship program, with a well rounded discussion on the who, what and why of the school. Mr. McAlister asked how many students are in the Explorer Post? Mr. Polulak stated approximately 20-30 students per evening. Once these students reach the age of 18 and obtain either a high school diploma or GED, and are still interested in the Apprentice program, they may then apply to the school. Mr. Litt asked for additional information so that he may provide this to Cass Tech.

Much of the school's success is based on the work available. It is not the number of applicants, it's the ones who qualify and want to be in the trade industry. Sometimes an applicant will pass the aptitude test and interview well, but realize the trades are not for them. Those who wish to remain in their program have a very high graduation/completion rate.

One of the main issues at present, are applicants who cannot bring enough math skills to the table. This skill is highly needed in the trades industry. For example, the school has a conduit bending lab that uses algebraic formulas to learn how to the bend the conduit. These formulas are the most productive way to learn how to bend the conduit. Other factors include understanding how to estimate systems, troubleshooting, and reading technical manuals. Ms. Price provided another example. The school gets minimally 100 applicants a month. Out of the 100, approximately 56 applications are returned. Out of the 56, approximately 30 applications return with the required transcripts. Out of that 30, approximately 22 show up to take the aptitude test, and out of that 22 approximately 7 may pass the aptitude test to proceed to the next level: the interview process.



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BOARD CONSIDERATIONS: CONT.

The average age of an applicant is about 27, but what about recruitment of the older applicant? Mr. McAlister stated that in teaching at a few community colleges, he is always approached on the subject of how do I become an electrician? Mr. Polulak stated that there is not an age limit to the Apprenticeship program. There are multiple ways to get into Apprenticeship. For instance, job hours and experience may be substituted for the aptitude test.

But what about those applicants who are not up to snuff on math skills? Help is available. The *Access for All* program offered through the Detroit Building Trades and funded through sponsors (Kresge Foundation, Ford Co., Blue Cross Blue Shield) involves an avenue in terms of math, soft skills, safety aspects, hands on training, and classroom hours to prepare the applicant on what it takes to successfully get into a building trades apprentice program. For more information about this program, please contact SERMetro Detroit at 313-945-5200 extension 4317. (www.greeningdetroit.com)

As to the question of bringing the training program to Detroit, Mr. Polulak stated there have been discussions in doing off site training, but the ultimate determination has to be made by the school's sponsors (Local 58 and NECA) and brought before the Apprenticeship JATC committee. As to the transportation issue, Mr. Polulak stated that there is funding/grants available that offer a transportation stipend. An applicant may try SERMetro Detroit, Detroit Employment Solutions, and the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) (www.doleta.gov).

Mr. McAlister stated that the Board is aware of what is at stake in the industry as to training and education (i.e. Senate Bill 358) and wanted to acknowledge the fact that the highest percentage of electrical examination applicants in the City of Detroit that pass the exam the first time are from Local 58. Also, almost without failure, the female applicants have a 100% pass rate.

The second issue brought forth, is in regard to letters of documentation for exam applicants and Apprentice Registrations. The Board has had some confusion as to the documented hours and/or years in some of the letters presented from Local 58. As well as, outdated letters provided to the Board from Apprentices. Examples of such letters were provided for review.

After review and discussion: If in future there are any questionable letters, the Board is to contact Ms. Kathy Price directly for a resolution.

Mr. Litt expressed his pleasure with this informational meeting, which he will take back to his sub-committee, and the Board will look forward to furthering a continued fellowship with Local 58.



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BOARD CONSIDERATIONS: CONT.

Journeyman Test Review: Mr. Capers has presented a second 2011 Journeyman Test for review and approval. Mr. Litt made a motion to accept the 2011 Journeyman Exam with exceptions noted to questions in Part I and III. Ms. Swint seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

Accommodation Request Application-English as a Second Language:

The Board Secretary spoke with Ms. Livingston at the State of Michigan Electrical Division, regarding their procedure to a request for more examination time for an applicant where English is not their first language. Although the State has not encountered this request as yet, they determined that the applicant must put this request in writing instead of filling out their Accommodation Request form. After review, the Board determined that time extensions will be based on a case by case basis.

APPLICATIONS FOR APPROVAL/REVIEW

Coleman, Terence

Denied for Master's: Inappropriate letter of documentation

Martin, Antwan

Approved for Journeyman Exam

EXAMINATIONS/RE-EXAMINATION

None

APPRENTICE REGISTRATION

Vance, David

APPLICANTS NOT APPROVED

None

ELECTRICAL CONTRACTOR'S LICENSES & REGISTRATIONS

None

JOURNEYMAN ELECTRICIAN

None

MASTER ELECTRICIAN

None

FIRE ALARM CONTRACTOR

None



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FIRE ALARM TECHNICIAN'S LICENSE

None

FIRE ALARM APPRENTICE

None

SIGN SPECIALTY CONTRACTOR'S LICENSE

None

SIGN SPECIALIST LICENSE

None

OLD BUSINESS

- **DTE Board Appointment:** A letter was sent to Mr. Bill Cloutier, Jr. about the recommendation of Mr. James Brown. Mr. Cronk offered to physically take a copy of the Board invitation letter to Mr. Brown at DTE. Mr. Cronk was provided a copy of the letter, and will deliver it to Mr. Brown next week.

NEW BUSINESS

- The Buildings, Safety Engineering & Environmental Dept. has a new Director: Mr. Eric Jones, formerly Assistant Chief of Police for the City of Detroit.
- Mr. Michael Cronk Jr. received a *Spirit of Detroit* award for his past and continuing service to the Board of Electrical Examiners.

CORRECTIONS:

None

ACTING CHAIRMAN MCALISTER

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday July 17, 2014 at 10:00 a.m. in the Conference Room in Room 408 Fourth Floor, Coleman A. Young Municipal Center.

BERT MCALISTER

Acting Chairman, Board of Electrical Examiners

WM/ms