

Aviation Maintenance Technology/Avionics  
Advisory Meeting Minutes  
August 20, 2014

Attendees:

John Mullen/Nimbus Capital, Greg Houston/Rolls Royce Corp, Walter Fix/City of Glendale-Airport, V. Riedler /John F. Long Properties, Mark Haines/Southwest Skills Center, Ron Cohoe/UTC Aerospace Systems, Katie Mehin/West-MEC, Terry Menees/West-MEC, Wayne Bingham/West-MEC, Troy Gabaldon/West-MEC

Enrollment:

The committee reviewed the district enrollment report. 88 students are in Aviation and 23 in Avionics. A total of 176 are attending the Central Campus. The category on the report regarding young adults was asked to be clarified. This is a group of students that have completed the high school experience and choose to attend a program at West-MEC. By new state statute these students can attend programs at no tuition cost. Up to age 22 a student may attend and the district may collect state funding. This is a great opportunity for students after high school. The entire enrollment in the new programs at both training centers will double next year as we start a new junior group.

Adult classes:

The committee reviewed the tutoring, testing, oral and practical tests set up for Luke Air Force Base. One class has been completed and second group is ready to start in September. There are 18 students in the Adult A&P section split into two classes. One in General, one in Airframe and a third section scheduled to start in January 2015.

DME:

Terry Menees is an FAA approved DME for the aviation school. Terry is paid a stipend by West-MEC for providing this service to the adult and secondary students. Students save approximately \$300 on the oral and practical test with this service. The district foundation is positioned to reimburse secondary students for the expense once they pass the oral and practical.

Testing center:

West-MEC has been approved as a CATS (Computer Assisted Testing Service) for all written FAA tests. Students may schedule a time to take any or all FAA written tests. Each test has a charge of \$150. The existing computer center and library has been restructured to serve as a testing center. Testing stations, one way glass and cameras have been added to comply with the CATS guidelines. Another service for the students.

Placement:

The combined statistics for the class of 2013 and 2014 shows 20 students with Airframe Certification and 16 with an A&P Certification. Of the 16 with the A&P Certification 11 are currently working. Several students have chosen to go to college and/or the military. Please remember the class of 2014 just completed all the courses on June 28 of this year. Thus the numbers will continue to increase. Career services are available for the students seeking interviews or career guidance.

COE certification:

The district is preparing for accreditation through the Center on Occupational Education. The accreditation will allow the district to be recognized for excellence as well being authorized to acquire;

process and offer Federal Student Aid to adult students in Aviation and Medical Assisting. A Financial Aid Officer has been hired by the district to set up policies, procedures and guidelines to access and process student loans. This is another great opportunity for the adult students. The committee was given the opportunity to review the FAA/West-MEC Operations Manual which includes Curriculum, Procedures, Objectives, Grading, Attendance Procedures and much more. The committee was comfortable with the present manual.

Equipment needs:

- Aviation
  - 172 Cessna any condition
  - Turbine engines
  - Lycoming engines
  
- Avionics
  - old radios and connectors
  - wire harnesses

Contact Troy with any leads 623-209-8052

West-MEC future plans:

The committee reviewed the future plans for two more campuses, one in Buckeye and one in Surprise. The one in Buckeye should open for adults in January 2016 and high school students in August 2016. Each campus will house between 12-14 programs or 450-650 students at full capacity. The campus in Surprise is scheduled to open in 2017 if all goes well. It was suggested that the district look at an Aviation offering at Deer Valley for adults.

Others:

John Mullen offered to set up a field trip to view his plane going through an Airframe make over at the Deer Valley airport. Troy and John will coordinate. Walter Fix shared with the group the status of a left turn signal from Glendale Avenue on to Glen Harbor Blvd. A permissive light is best and that will take an alignment at the intersection. Walter plans on including that cost in an ADOT grant for improvements to the airport. Walter asked for enrollment projections, parking and other information that will impact traffic.

Next meeting:

**December 10, 2014 at Aviation.**