

Aviation Advisory Committee Minutes

May 3, 2012

Attendees: Mark Rubin, Valerie Riedler, Dean Petersen, Tom Triolo, Ron Cohoe
Fred Hovater, Richard Shortridge, Troy Gabaldon

Welcome and Introductions-Mike Ruiz

Reviewed February 7, 2012 minutes

Enrollment Applications:

An enrollment report was reviewed indicating 61 applications for 50 slots for this August with 37 having paid their fees. There should be a total of 89 students for this next school year.

FAA Timeline:

FAA timeline was reviewed. Troy reported that the project guides and task sheets have been approved for Power Plant. The inspection date is set for June 11. Mike indicated that he was speaking to an FAA inspector who praised the work of the Aviation school and staff.

New Hires:

Eight instructors are on board for next year. We are in the need of one part time person for 5 hours per day with a general aviation background. Contact Troy if you have anyone to recommend.

Adult Services:

West-MEC has received Advanced ED accreditation for the secondary program. The adult or post-secondary accreditation is next. The District would like to start an adult component this October or January of 2013. The goal right now is to get the FAA certification for Power Plant in place and fine tune the curriculum. Fees were discussed with WM projecting \$13,500-14,000 for the whole 1900 hours. The cost for books and tools needs to be added on at approximately \$1300 for the two. The committee felt the fees were too low. The price could be around \$18,000 and still be very competitive. Fees in other schools around the country are around \$21,000-30,000. There is discussion taking place with Glendale Community College to provide up to 30 credit hours towards an Associate degree and possibly credits towards a Bachelor's degree at ASU. The district is also in discussion with GCC regarding a partnership in running the adult program.

Future Programs:

Future program discussion for the next instructional building took place. The committee felt the following programs should be considered: CNC Machinist/CADD, Certified welding, Electronic/Avionics, Composites, ROTC.

Other:

The aviation/district storage and maintenance building is on track to be completed by June 30, 2012. This will provide an additional space of 4500 sq. ft. for aviation.

Equipment procurement is still in progress. We are in very good shape for the Power Plant phase of the program. Please refer any companies or individuals who have excess aviation equipment, tools, planes parts etc., to Troy or Cliff. We can always use more equipment.

The West-MEC Board has decided to go for a bond campaign this November for future growth of training programs in the west valley. The funds will be used for new buildings, facility improvements, program expansion, equipment etc. - all for student career and technical opportunities. The bond for the district is set at \$74.9 million with cost to a homeowner with a 100,000 full cash value at \$3.93 per year. More to come later.

Next meeting September 11, 2012 9:30am Aviation Center