

**Polaris Career Center  
Advisory Council Minutes, High School and Satellite  
Fall Meeting – October 11, 2016  
Program: Heating Ventilating & Air Conditioning**

**Council leaders present**

1. Rick Reitz

**Members in attendance:**

2. Al D'Ambola
3. Dave Masciarelli
4. Tom Meckes
5. Jim Oswald
6. Tony Papagna
7. Michael Platka

**Members Absent**

1. Bill Miller
2. Marc Maple

**Welcome and introductions**

Mr. Reitz thanked everyone for coming. Mr. Reitz mentioned that Mr. Maple and Mr. Miller could not make the meeting, but he had talked to both of them at length the day before.

**Review spring advisory council meeting minutes**

The group looked over the minutes. Mr. Reitz said how nice it was to come out to the board members place of employment. At this time, the group also talked about the progress of the former Polaris students they have hired. Mr. Meckes commented that two former students are working in the PM group at Gardiner and one student is in bldg. automation. Mr. Masciarelli mentioned he has a former student working in the shop. Mr. Papagna also added that Kevin is working in service and doing well. Mr. Platka told the group he has had two former students as helpers. Mike said one student had a great attitude and the other was very smart about his helpers that formally attended Polaris.

**Review purpose and scope of advisory councils:**

Mr. Reitz talked to the group about building the size of the council (we are looking to build the council with people who are committed to help young people like you). Many of you have helped with mock interviews, hosted field trip opportunities, and provided job shadowing.

**Polaris Mission Statement**

Mr. Reitz talked about the Polaris administration interaction with the students, especially Mr. Evans the vice principal. These people bend over backwards for our students. Everyone at Polaris works to develop quality young people. Mr.

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Platka said he attended Polaris back a few years ago, and when he visits he can see the difference in the expectations of the students that now attend Polaris.

**Program Review**

Mr. Reitz told the group that he is about to rewrite the curriculum. Mr. Papagna asked what book we use. Mr. Reitz told him Refrigeration & Air Conditioning Technology. Mr. Meckes said he used that book 32 years ago at Westside Institute. Mr. Reitz said the students purchase the books so they have them as a resource in the field. The students get OSHA 10 training and EPA 608 certification. The students most take state mandated testing, called the web exam. As a group, we need to provide the students with as much exposure to the industry as possible. The council agreed to provide ride along opportunities for ten students.

**Program Data Discussion**

The senior class has 16 students. We started with 21 students, we lost three due to drug testing and two students moved out of district. The Junior class has 23 students at this time. Out of the graduating class of 2016, more than half of the students are employed in the HVAC/R industry.

**Equipment Needs and Recommendations**

Last year, Mr. Baker gave Polaris Career Center three new furnaces. Two years ago, the skills USA team won a new furnace. We need to update all of the residential equipment in the lab. More than one half of the units still run on R-22 which has not been used for more than five years. We also need new refrigeration equipment.

**Additional program specific agenda items:**

This was covered in the above areas.

**Council member feedback, questions and comments.**

All members of the board members are looking to hire the right young people. They all agree that drug free and a good driving record is a must. Mr. Oswald will do three ride a longs and is looking to hire one or two of the students. Mr. Oswald asked for two students by name that he met doing mock interviews last month. Mr. Papagna will work with Mr. Reitz to solicit equipment and arrange a field trip to a Giant Eagle store.

*Spring meeting will be held at a time determined by each individual council leader but no later than May 12, 2017.*