



# Steam Certification Board Meeting

## MEETING MINUTES

**Date & Time:** February 10, 2023, 10:02 a.m.-11:49 a.m.

**Meeting Format/Location:** Hybrid, South Campus Room A102A and Zoom

**Facilitator:** Terry Chapin, Vice Chair

**Attendance:** X=Attended E=Excused U=Unknown

Board Members				Bates Administrative Staff		Guests	
X	Scott Best	X	Jose Miranda	E	Samuel Cureton	U	Sue Coffman, City of Tacoma
X	Terry Chapin	X	Joel Rasmussen	X	Amelia Fortuno	U	Steve Frazier, City of Seattle
E	Christopher Jackson	X	Jim Wrenn	X	Yifan Sun	X	Cameron LaFreniere, Bates
X	Dr. Graham Malek					X	Jeff Frazier, I.U.O.E.
X	Tony McNamara					X	Andrea Major, W.W.S.E.T.T.
E	Aaron Meisenheimer						

### Call to Order

Introductions were made for guests.

### Minutes from Previous Meeting

Moved, seconded, and carried: *unanimous decision to approve the minutes from the November 18, 2022 meeting as written.*

### Standing or Committee Reports

#### Chairperson Appointments

- Jim Wrenn was appointed for another term as an alternate member.
- Committee member updates:
  - Tony McNamara was appointed as Chair of the Class Curriculum Review Committee.
  - Jose Miranda was appointed as a member of the Bylaws Committee.
  - Cameron LaFreniere (elected as a new board member under *Tabled and Unfinished Business*) was appointed as a member of the Appeals Committee.

#### Boiler Exam Report

Amelia Fortuno presented the report in Samuel Cureton’s absence. She passed along Sam’s message that the scores reflect using larger diagrams on the exams, which was his task from the last meeting.

#### December 2022-January 2023 Exams

- December: One Class III administered that did not pass and one Class IV administered that passed.
- January: Two Class IV exams administered, one passed. One Class V exam administered that did not pass.



Discussion:

- Jim Wrenn wanted to know why there were so few applications for the exam and why is the failure rate so high?
  - There are not a lot of people taking the boiler classes at Bates (through the Facilities Maintenance Engineering program), which may account for the low application numbers.
  - Lack of studying, preparation, and motivation were mentioned regarding the low pass rate.
  - Tony McNamara summarized the history of Board reviewing the appropriateness of the exam questions and reminded everyone that the role of this board is to make sure the exams are a reasonable measure of the skills necessary to do the job.
- The types of boilers and heaters being installed in buildings in order to get LEED or green certification.
- Tony McNamara asked how many current boiler certificate holders there are.
  - Amelia Fortuno answered that there are under 500 certified operators.
- The frequency of Seattle boiler license holders using reciprocity to obtain an equivalent Bates certification.

Moved, seconded, and carried: *unanimous decision to receive the quarterly boiler exam report as written.*

**Class Curriculum Review Committee Report**

**Boiler Operator Certification Exam Referenced Materials List**

Amelia Fortuno did a recap from the last meeting since Tony McNamara, Committee Chair, had been absent. The board had decided to create a document similar to the City of Seattle’s *What Every Boiler Operator Should Know* to be included into the boiler certification application packet. Tony McNamara asked the board for a final review and approval of that document and the revised draft of the *Boiler Operator Certification Exam Referenced Materials List*.

Discussion about the relevancy of having oral board topics on the referenced materials list occurred.

Action Item	Tasked	Due Date
Send a copy of the oral board procedures to board members.	Amelia Fortuno	May 12, 2023
Send oral board topics to Amelia Fortuno.	Tony McNamara	May 12, 2023

Moved, seconded, and carried: *unanimous decision to adopt the What Every Boiler Operator Should Know into the boiler certification application packet.*

Moved, seconded, and carried: *unanimous decision to adopt the revised Boiler Operator Certification Exam Referenced Materials List without “oral board topics” in the list.*



## Tabled and Unfinished Business

### Board Member Vacancies

- Education Representative
  - Terry Chapin switched (from Education Representative) to a Class I Chief Representative to fulfill Bill Haselhuhn’s term at the last meeting.
  - Cameron LaFreniere, Bates Facilities Maintenance Engineering Instructor, was nominated.
    - Moved, seconded and carried: Cameron LaFreniere will serve as the Education Representative (completing Terry Chapin’s vacated term).
- Legal Representative
  - Yifan Sun spoke with someone from the Washington State Office of the Attorney General. They asked for more information to see if they or one of their colleagues are available.
  - Jose Miranda introduced his guest, Jeff Frazier, who serves as in-house counsel for the International Union of Operating Engineers (I.U.O.E.), Local 302.
    - After a brief interview, Terry Chapin appointed Jeff Frazier as the Legal Representative.

## New Business

Tony McNamara mentioned challenges he has encountered trying to complete his Boiler Refresher requirement as a Class I Chief Operating Engineer. The classes at Verify Training are approved for up to Class II/Grade 2 Operating Engineer because that is the certification/license level of the instructor.

### Discussion:

- Current curriculum review procedure says that the instructor must be certified/licensed at a minimum of the level to that they are teaching.
  - The City of Seattle does not have this requirement for their license.
- The Refresher does not have classification-level specific material; everyone attends the same class.
  - At Bates, the enrollments were separated by Operating Engineer and Boiler Fireman (separate class item numbers), but were taught together since the instructor held a Class I Chief Operating Engineer certification.
- There is precedent for industry training and the Boiler Symposium being used as substitutes for the Boiler Refresher, which were taught by subject matter experts who did not have a boiler certificate/license.
- The reasoning behind having an open-note test being a requirement for the Boiler Refresher.

Action Item	Tasked	Due Date
Draft language updating the curriculum review procedure regarding the Boiler Refresher instructor qualifications to include having a minimum of a Class III/Grade 3 Operating Engineer certificate/license and/or the Steam Certification Board must review qualifications.	Tony McNamara	May 12, 2023



## Good of the Order & Future Meeting Dates

Jose Miranda asked for some historical background on why there was not a statewide boiler license.

- Reasons given:
  - It is opposed by industry.
  - There has not been a need for it (e.g. a catastrophic event).
  - It should also takeover Seattle's other licensing programs (e.g. plumbing, gas fitting, etc.).

Bates Update (Amelia Fortuno)

- The second Boiler Refresher reminder was mailed late because of wanting to include Renton Technical College's spring schedule.
  - They will offer two online and two in-person classes.
    - They have two instructors.
      - Josh Cook, who was already submitted for curriculum review under their Commercial Building Engineering (School of Technology) program.
      - They still have to submit the new instructor's boiler license information.
  - A total of 286 notifications were sent out.
- Another Boiler Refresher reminder will be sent when Renton's summer schedule is available. Verify Training has been advertising their schedule for the whole year.

Discussion occurred about the Boiler Symposium being offered again.

- The Western Washington Stationary Engineers Training Trust will do some research to see if they are able to host one in 2024.

### Future Meeting Dates

2023 Meeting Dates

- May 12, 2023
- August 11, 2023

Respectfully submitted by: Amelia Fortuno