

Marin County High Schools
Automotive Technology Advisory Committee

Minutes of the Meeting

DATE: May 8, 2019
TIME: 6:00 to 8:00 PM
PLACE: Terra Linda High School Auto Shop & Classroom

Participants:

Judd Blunk is retired from management positions at Porsche Cars of North America and serves as Chairman of the committee.

Vince Van Hoven is a master technician at Mercedes of Marin and the father of a former Terra Linda auto tech student.

George Hritz is Executive Director of the California Automotive Teachers and retired from teaching at College of Marin and San Marin High School.

Dale Miller is President of the Golden Gate Electric Vehicle Association.

Dave Del Grande is an automotive instructor at College of Marin and retired from management at the City of San Francisco's Central Shops.

Mike Grant is Career Technical Education Director for Marin County Office of Education (MCOE) that sponsors, in full or in part, the automotive programs at Terra Linda and Tamalpais High Schools.

Corey Shultz is a retired high school/ROP automotive instructor and will act as coordinator/instructor for the Terra Linda evening CAPP program

Jesse Madsen is Assistant Project Manager for Marin County Office of Education.

Brian Scott is heavy equipment mechanic for the County of Marin Garage.

Dan Silin is the auto shop teacher at Terra Linda and Tamalpais High Schools and serves as Secretary for the committee.

Charlie Goodman is the founder of "Shifting Gears" and owner of the "Checkers" car collection.

Quynh Dao is Human Resources Manager for Mercedes of Marin.

Scott Xuereb is our Snap-on account manager.

We began by discussing the open position for a new automotive instructor at Terra Linda, since Dan is retiring from Terra Linda and will only teach at Tam High next year. Mike explained that the job opening has been formally announced, but that it is not easy to find a qualified instructor who is willing to teach for a part-time salary (two sections equals 40% of a full-time load). MCOE can provide a preliminary credential but a new teacher will have to take some classes over a period of a few years to "clear the credential." One individual has expressed interest in the position so far.

Judd asked why, if the State really recognizes the importance of Career Technical Education (CTE), so many automotive programs have been cut in our County in recent years. Is it because the students are no longer interested in cars or is it because of a lack of support from administrators?

Mike and Jesse claimed that things are changing for the better and that State-funded grants to fund CTE program improvements are in the works. With changing technologies, including electric and autonomous vehicles, our goal is to position programs so they will be sustainable in the future. Judd wondered if we could develop an electric and autonomous vehicle program at San Rafael High School.

Mike introduced the Car Appreciation and Preservation Program (CAPP) to begin in the fall. This is Charlie's brainchild and he hopes for commitment not only from the teacher and administrators but also from parents. That's why he invited parents to the CAPP kickoff event that took place on April 23 at his "Checkers" auto museum.

Judd and others wondered if we could patch together a full-time or close to full-time position for a teacher at Terra Linda who would also help plan and implement a state-of-the-art advanced transportation technology program in the new CTE wing at SRHS and perhaps work in the CAPP program as well.

In any case, it's very important that we get the word out that a position is open for an auto tech teacher at Terra Linda.

Charlie described the impetus for the CAPP program: wondering where we will find the next generation of mechanics to maintain, repair and restore classic cars. Corey will be the lead teacher. It will be a for-credit class, probably meeting one evening a week for two or three hours. Charlie envisions maybe obtaining several Miata engines and having the students assemble them or perhaps restoring a Miata and then taking it up to the track and letting the students race it. Charlie has obtained the funding to sustain the CAPP program for three years.

Dale mentioned the possibility of obtaining grant money for the development of an electric vehicle program or for instructor training.

Mike explained that MCOE can advise and offer support but cannot dictate to the school districts or to the individual school sites.

As Vince has done at our Career Fairs, perhaps we could bring classic and/or modern high performance or electric cars to the schools to excite more student interest.

George suggested that a small engine class might be a way to get more students interested. The curriculum is readily available and the class can be conducted in a relatively small space without expensive tools or equipment.

Dale suggested that we distribute information about the job opening at the May Madness event coming up on Saturday.

Scott promised to get the word out about the open position to his clients in education and industry.

George mentioned that autonomous vehicle training is being offered for instructors at Sinclair College in Dayton, Ohio this summer.

Judd asked about and Charlie described the May Madness car show coming up on Saturday.

Dan expressed an interest in the field trip to the Marin County Department of Public Works Garage coming up on May 22nd. He wants his students to see Brian at work on the heavy equipment so that Brian can communicate his enthusiasm about his work. Jesse is arranging

this, with students coming by bus from Novato and San Rafael High Schools. He will try to arrange for participation by Dan's students as well. There is even a possibility of setting up student internships at the County Garage.

In addition to our on-going articulation with College of Marin's Indian Valley College automotive program, Jesse suggested that we do more to engage the interest of middle school students who will feed our programs in the future. Dave agreed that we should reach out to younger students who don't know which end of screwdriver is which. Vince thinks we might reach them with a small engine class and Charlie thinks we should show off some cars.

Quynh remembers that, as a student, project-based-learning classes engaged her interest the most. Judd remembers his high school foundry class as one that changed his direction in life.

George explained that California used to award Industrial Arts teaching credentials. But this credential has gone away. It doesn't exist any more. And the teacher training that was required has also gone away – not a good way to promote professionalism in our fields.

Judd thinks the German educational system works better than ours in some ways. Students choose a university or trade pathway. Those that choose the trades are guided to take classes that prepare them for a successful career. We all agreed that our society has overemphasized college preparation and given short shrift to CTE pathways that could be routes to success for many of our students.

Vince remarked that the hands-on shop classes he took in high school put him on the path to a successful career. When he was in high school, auto shop was so popular, you had a hard time even signing up and getting into the class.

George recalled that many Marin High Schools had full-time auto tech teachers when he started out teaching. Now we have only four periods of auto tech in the whole County.

In response to some of Judd's questions, Jesse explained a little about the hierarchical structure of educational institutions from the State Department of Education, to the County Offices of Education, to the School Districts and down to the individual school sites. Each level has its own authority.

Brian wondered if a basic electricity course might be successful in motivating our students, especially since electricity and electronics are coming to play ever increasing roles in our industry.

Jesse mentioned a physics class at San Rafael High School that will articulate with Mark Barrall's class at IVC.

Charlie wants our students to gain a feeling of accomplishment. We should encourage them to follow their passion. The money will come.

Dale asked when students take a hands-on class or study electricity. Without exposure to these fields, how can they make informed choices about what they want to study in the future?

George mentioned that California Automotive Wholesalers Association is offering \$1500 scholarships to automotive instructors.

We all agreed to do what we can to get the word out for a new instructor at Terra Linda.

We adjourned to tour the shop and Jesse took a photo of the rest of the group.

We will meet again in the fall.

Minutes submitted by Dan Silin.