

Marin County High Schools
Automotive Technology Advisory Committee

Minutes of the Meeting

DATE: Wednesday November 6, 2019

TIME: 6:00 to 8:00 PM

PLACE: Tamalpais High School Auto Shop & Classroom

1. Welcome & Introductions

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

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

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

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

Corey Shultz is the instructor/coordinator for the Car Appreciation and Preservation Program (CAPP) at Terra Linda High School.

Larry Bacon is the auto shop teacher at Terra Linda High School; he owned and operated his own shop for many years.

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.

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

Vince Van Hoven is retired as 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.

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

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

Steve Hamilton is the Service Manager at Audi Marin.

David Gilmore is a third year student in the Tam High automotive program.

2. Website and Minutes of the Last Meeting

Dan showed how to access and navigate the advisory committee website <https://dsilin.wixsite.com/advcomm> and how to access the agendas and minutes of previous meetings. Participants received copies of the minutes and the minutes were approved.

Judd suggested that a packet explaining some of the educational structures and jargon be prepared to distribute to new recruits to our committee to help get them up to speed.

3. Grand Jury Report

Mike explained that a civil grand jury is a group of volunteer citizens who serve their community by investigating local issues and making recommendations. The "Status of Career Technical Education in Marin County" is the subject of a report published in June of this year. Mike and Jesse presented the report to the Marin County Board of Education and the Board expressed broad agreement with its findings.

According to the report, parents and educators "feel that everyone needs a college degree to succeed." But statistics show that only about half of high school graduates end up getting a college degree. The report concludes that we should direct more resources to career technical education. All of us, of course, agree with this conclusion and are glad to see it expressed in a formal grand jury report. It is unclear how much difference this will make in the long run.

Dan mentioned that the grand jurors had visited his program at Tam High and interviewed him for the report. A link to the report is posted on our advisory committee website.

George emphasized the importance of counseling for students. If the counselors don't know the value of the CTE programs and pathways available to their students, then many students will miss these opportunities. He drew our attention to this recommendation in the report: "High school counselors should receive in depth training in the available CTE opportunities to enable them to effectively counsel all students." Perhaps we should work on making this happen.

4. EV Charging Station Donation

Dan thanked Brian for arranging the donation of electric vehicle charging stations for each of our high school programs. Jesse worked with the County Garage to facilitate this donation.

Someone mentioned that charging stations are also being installed in the staff parking lot at San Rafael High School. This triggered some discussion about the future of CTE at SRHS.

5. Terra Linda Program

Larry described some of the challenges he faces at Terra Linda. He is trying to instill values of professionalism needed in the real world of work. Unfortunately, a significant percentage of students at Terra Linda seem to lack the motivation to learn. And some students may be "testing" a first-year teacher to find out where the boundaries are.

Larry questions why so many students who do not meet reasonable behavioral expectations are being assigned to his class. We all deplored the tendency for counselors to assign students to auto shop if they have failed in academics. We need motivated and capable students to make our programs successful in training future technicians.

Mike reminded us that we have an obligation to serve all students. Some of them come from unimaginably difficult backgrounds where families may be struggling with poverty, discrimination, lack of education, addiction and even homelessness. There will always be a spectrum of backgrounds and abilities and we need to do the best we can.

Dan agreed but also questioned whether it is fair to the other students (and to the teacher) to allow one or two really negative students to drag down the class for all the others. He wishes the counselors would heed a teacher's wishes to move a student out if he (or she) is poisoning the environment for everybody else.

Steve pointed out that dealing with people with different backgrounds and abilities is a challenge in industry as well. 90% of your time and effort might be spent on 10% of the people. That's just the way it works in the real world.

He also suggested that we might consider making better use of teams as is done at many dealerships. Team leaders with greater skill and experience work with other less skilled technicians. This helps develop both technical and leadership skills while making everyone more productive. Perhaps we could use similar team structures in our school shops.

6. Car Appreciation and Preservation Program

Corey and Charlie are running this program one night a week at the Terra Linda auto shop. Both agreed that the program is going well and Charlie invited us to come and visit. They hope to give students some exposure to the service industry and possibly get them jobs. They have six Chevy small-block engines and six toolboxes outfitted with basic sets of tools. Corey keeps the students busy taking apart and assembling these engines. The students enjoy seeing what's inside an engine and how it all fits together. The engines will never run again so broken rings and mangled bearings are not much of a problem.

Unlike Larry's students, all the CAPP program students are pre-selected in the sense that they have expressed a real interest in learning about cars and are motivated to give it a try. This program also has fewer students than Larry's regular classes at Terra Linda. Twenty students with two or more adults is a lot easier to handle than 25 to 30 with only one.

7. Tam High Program

Dan's program is going well. He has been told that he has \$18,000 (remaining from the sale of the 1965 Mustang restored by former teacher Lisa Miller and her students) to spend this year. He asked the advisors if they would recommend investing in an on-car brake lathe. Some felt that this was a reasonable idea. Vince pointed out that Mercedes never resurfaces rotors – they only replace them.

Dan and George described the Automotive Technician Training Standards program that inspects and certifies automotive training programs. ATTS was put together as a joint venture by the California Automotive Teachers and the California Automotive Business Coalition to provide an alternative, and more easily achieved, certification compared to the NATEF (National Automotive Technicians Education Foundation) version supported by ASE (National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence).

Dan introduced the ATTS Inspection Standards and the ATTS Student Outcomes skill list (links are provided on the website). George will act as inspector and Dan hopes to achieve certification in the spring.

George asked Dan why he wants to get his program certified. Dan stated that, by taking steps to meet the standards, he hopes to make his program better. Earning certification will enhance the program's credibility with administrators, students and even with parents.

Getting back to the theme of motivation as the key to program success, Tam student David Gilmore was asked what made him successful in auto shop. He replied that he has had a longstanding interest and that he enjoys working on machines. David is an example of a student who is motivated and therefore likely to succeed.

8. Career Workshops

For his unit on careers in the motor vehicle service industry, Dan will probably invite Robert Benge of UTI to present his career workshop as he has done in the past. But Dan also wants to invite a few local industry reps to meet with his students.

A field trip to a local service department might be even more educational. But the logistics of arranging a field trip are challenging. It's a lot easier to bring 3 or 4 industry reps into the classroom than it is to bring 40 or 50 students to a local shop.

Dan asked for volunteers to participate in such a career day event in January, saying that the exact format could be worked out later. Brian and Vince said that they would be willing. Dave Del Grande and others might be willing as well. Perhaps we could even invite counselors to join us.

Dan also mentioned that he and Dale hope to arrange an electric car day as they have done for the past three or four years. In a later conversation in the shop, Steve said he would be willing to bring an Audi e-tron and a perhaps a technician to participate. This event will be scheduled for May or June.

It should go without saying that Larry would be welcome to bring similar industry-related events to Terra Linda as well.

9. & 10. Internships, Job Shadows, Field Trips and Other Business

Although our School to Career Liaisons were not present, Jesse offered to work with us to promote internships for our students. Perhaps we could do something with Mercedes of Marin as we have done in the past.

11. Next meeting, Shop Tour, Photo

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

We will meet again in the spring.

Minutes submitted by Dan Silin.