

Automotive Technology Advisory Meeting
Wednesday May 4, 2022
5:30pm-6:45pm

In attendance: Jim Valliere - Instructor

Shawn McMillan - Service & Parts Director - Brattleboro Subaru

Sam Perkins - Lead Technician - Brattleboro Subaru

Discussions:

Members walked through the shop and looked at the layout of the shop, the cleanliness of the shop and the shop equipment. The comment was made by one of the members that this was the cleanest and most organized high school automotive shop that he has seen in recent years. They were very impressed with the equipment being up to date and meeting industry standards. The program's equipment is right in line with what they have in their dealership. We discussed the fact that the only piece of equipment I am lacking is an on-car brake lathe. Their dealership does a fair share of machining rotors and it would be beneficial to get the students up to par with measuring and machine rotors.

We discussed the future of Electric Vehicles. As of now, Subaru only has one fully electric vehicle that will be out in the middle of 2022. They were not convinced that all manufacturers will be fully electric in the near future. Understanding the changing times and knowing that our students are not coming to us with any mechanical background or knowledge, they can see it being difficult to add electric vehicle training to our curriculum. They feel it is more important to concentrate on the core systems of a vehicle. Students can receive electric vehicle training at the post secondary level or in the workforce.

Mr McMillan was happy to find a couple vehicles to donate to our program for training purposes. Although he likes the idea of running a live shop with the students, he also knows that we are limited on time in a class period and having program vehicles would allow us to go further into vehicle diagnostics for learning purposes.

We discussed the possibility of sending students out on a co-op status or even a job shadow. They would like to get the students to their dealership to shadow all aspects of the facility. We talked about possibly having students spend a week in the service department, a week in the sales department, a week in the parts department and maybe a week in the reconditioning department. This could turn into a co-op possibility and maybe even a job right out of high school.