

Automotive Technology Advisory Board Minutes

Monday November 14, 2022

5:30 pm - 6:15 pm

In attendance:

Bob Goderre - Owner : Performance Motors of Keene
Michelle Hilger - Owner : Mongoose Power Solutions & Onsite Power Academy
Jamie Claudeo - Lead Instructor : Onsite Power Academy
Rob Ricket - Instructor : Onsite Power Academy
Scott Beaudine - Owner : Scott's Subaru Repair
Jim Valliere - Automotive Instructor : Windham Regional Career Center

Discussions:

We discussed the fact that Electric vehicles will more than likely not be ready to fully overtake fossil fuel vehicles for quite some time. The fact that Lithium costs so much to mine coupled with most of our lithium being imported, makes it tough for industry to produce enough electric vehicles to supply the demand of people. The charging time issue with these vehicles and the mileage between charging is also another challenge for the electric vehicle industry. People do not want to wait 45 minutes to an hour for charging on the go, and they are only getting 200-250 miles between charges. This is a major inconvenience for most people. The disposal, recycling and replacement cost of lithium batteries also pose another challenge for the industry. The committee agrees that all these reasons add up to why we should not be wasting our time and resources teaching our students EV's at a high school level at this time. It was an understanding that Technicians at a dealership need to be at a Master Technician level in order to do work on an electric vehicle.

Another discussion took place around the option of getting students into being a generator repair technician after high school. The training around this would be in diesel engine troubleshooting and repair, electrical troubleshooting and repair, and diesel fuel reading, cleaning and servicing. These are a lot of these skills that I teach my students at the high school level. This would give them a big head start compared to someone fresh off the streets looking to get into this industry. There are many opportunities and options in this field and there is also a high demand for generator field service technicians. The pay in this field ranges between \$20-\$40 per hour depending on experience. The fact that there is a state of the art training facility right in our area makes it even easier for students to enter this field and start making good money, pretty much right out of high school.

The committee gave the Instructor some great ideas on research projects for the students, such as solid state batteries vs lithium ion batteries. There were websites and companies given that are doing the funding and research on solid state batteries that may be the only way manufacturers can go in order to produce the mass of EV's for the public. This is great information that can be used for student learning on electric vehicles.

The committee agreed to meet up again in April at the Career Center to tour the auto shop and check out the equipment and layout of the shop and maybe come up with ideas to help better arrange the space to better fit the teaching needs.