

Essex Technical High School
Environmental Technology Program
Fall Advisory Board Meeting

17 October 2017

Meeting Minutes

Introduction to 'new' Environmental Technology Advisory Board

→ Introductions (members present at meeting):

Jane Eydenberg - MWRA - Wastewater engineering - **New member!** New membership form included in red folder)

Lynn Fletcher - Salem State Biology and Etymologist

Joe Butner - Salem State Aquaculture

Rob Pelletier - NRC Services - Hazardous Materials Management

7:00

→ Discussion about representatives from industry

We really want to try to get more people from the industry to be part of the board in some way.

Potential additional representatives from the following organizations were suggested:

- The Trustees of the Reservations (environmental non-profit)
- MWRA (drinking water specialist)
- Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries
- Potential Student/Parent representatives - Sophia P. (sophomore) and Mother

- Environmental Technology currently does not have a Chairperson. No one at meeting was willing to commit to serving as Chairperson. Dr. Joe Buttner took responsibility in signing required forms for the Fall 2017 meeting.

→ Membership form was review and signed by Dr. Joe Buttner.

→ Talking about distinctions between Environmental Technology & Natural Resources programs

It's been a steady move toward separation of the programs but we still need to continue to figure out ways to make us unique. The following activities to distinguish ET and NR include the following activities in the ET Program:

- Adding certifications - wastewater and drinking water, confined space entry
- Existing certs - OSHA 10 & OSHA 40 (HAZWOPPER)

ET Curriculum Focus- Sustainably using a resource for financial gain - revenue generation - value added - 'conservation with a purpose, not for conservation's sake'

NR Curriculum Focus- Conservation restoration - 'living on the kindness of others' - salvaging and saving what is there

Technology (ET) vs Conservation (NR)

Adding projects that advance the program and continue to distinguish Pollinators as part of forest ecology - Value added

→ There remains concern about admissions and ET and NR competing for the same type of student. How are ET and NR programs advertised to recruit potential students?

7:20

Co-Op vs Internship opportunities

"Wouldn't prospective parents and students care about student internships?"

MWRA could be an excellent source for co-op opportunities
Internships are still going to be a massive project for us

We have few co-op chances but they are often 18+ (age). Some seniors would be able to join these co-ops but most often internships are the only option for our students.

The board discussed the value of internships and discussed options to help Essex Tech administration understand the importance of unpaid work-based experience (internships). The following are ideas to help justify the value of internships:

- Ask alumni that have participated in internships to describe the importance of internships.
Tomas Lopez
Brianna Proulx
Jeremy Jacobson
Diana Garcia-Peugro
Rebecca Smalley
Sadie Backstrom

Email guidance about finding names for alumni

Introduction to Quality Assessment Tool - Perusing the titles

→ reviewed (short time, lots of details, uncertain board's role)

Curriculum Bias Review Checklist

-Our program doesn't use textbooks often and the resources we do use are scientific in nature

-Our curriculum is based on science (science in nature is not biased)

Teachers will continue to discuss ways that we can diversify our curriculum and the delivery of it.

→ Board was not comfortable signing the form, as the form was very general and did not appear to be applicable to curriculum in Environmental Technology

Annual programmatic review

Started with a board member asking, "Why are the advisory board members asked to do this?"

→ Went through the checklist while pointing out applicable parts of the Environmental learning spaces.

→ ET shop meets requirements.

→ Signed by Dr. Joe Buttner.

Budgetary & Equipment Needs

The following is a wish list of new technology that would complement and improve Environmental Technology program:

- Remotely operated underwater vehicle
- Underwater camera
- Wildlife camera
- Drone with video/photograph capacity
- YSI water quality instrument(s)
- Compound light microscopes (5-10)
- Neoprene chest waders (5-10)

NOTES

- Expand membership for our advisory board
- Need to find an 'Official' chairperson
- Advisory board will draft a letter on the importance of internships
- Thank you to Dr. Joe Buttner for providing tilapia (fish) for our recirculating system and providing technical background on culture methods.

