Truck Driving Academy Advisory Board Meeting
March 30, 2017
Dyers Bar-B-Que

Agenda

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Current curriculum and cost
3. Proposed curriculum and cost for Fall 2017
4. Evening class
5. Entry-level Driver Training Final Rule
6. Recent changes in CDL testing
7. American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators testing standards
8. Department of Public Safety changes to the Commercial Learners Permit
9. Third-Party testing
10. Insurance requirements and Internships for entry-level drivers
11. Nomination and election of new committee chairperson

Present from AC:
Jerry Terry, Cindy Miller, Rusty Dillon, Sheri Myers

Present from Trucking Industry:
Aaron King (Dee King Trucking), Dale Hunt (Werner), David Ferril (T-Miller Wrecker), David Sanchez (City of Amarillo), Dudley Baldwin (Baldwin), Joe Green (Kimrad), Jim Smith (City of Amarillo), Johnny Puckett (Bruckner), Sally Noyce (Panhandle Express), Wade Black (Amarillo Truck Center), Steve Lapp (Fairly Group Ins)

Summary of Meeting

I. Meeting called to order at 11:48 am. Jerry Terry welcomed everyone and introduced the participants.

II. Jerry shared a story about a former student and how the Amarillo College trucking program changed their life for the better. The story illustrated the value of education, mentoring and assistance to those seeking to gain a career.

Industry forecasts predict a shortage of Commercial Driver License (CDL) drivers.

III. Fall 2017 curriculum and costs were discussed. Defensive driving will no longer be the first subject taught, It will be moved after CDL Written and CDL Driving Skills. The new order will better facilitate Defensive Driving as the higher level course that it is. Defensive Driving techniques learned in the classroom will be reinforced in the trucks. Course costs will increase due to increased fuel cost and higher fees at the DPS office.

New classroom software, Pre Trip Master, from J.J. Keller will be utilized beginning Fall 2017.

IV. The truck driving department is currently conducting an evening class with a maximum enrollment of eight students. An evening class is allowing students who work during the day a chance to take the course. The course is the same number of total hours spread out over twelve weeks. The class can only be offered during the spring and summer when more daylight is available for driving.

V. Entry-level driver training final rules from the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) have been published and will take effect on February 7, 2020. All driving schools must be registered and in compliance with guidelines by that date. Amarillo College Truck Driving Academy is implementing all guidelines now, well before the deadline.

Thirty chapters of content must be covered with evidence of student mastery (at least 80%) of content. Course content i the form of lesson plans will be moved to Blackboard where students will log on and complete assignments and knowledge tests with results provided to the FMCSA.

VI. The Department of Public Safety (DPS) has undergone many changes this year. One of the most notable changes was the decrease in testing locations from 190 to 25. This created a backlog of people trying to obtain a CDL driving test. Test must be scheduled 6 to 8 weeks out. If a student fails the driving test the first time another driving test must be scheduled. While the student waits for the new test date the school continues to train and re-train them. This additional extended training has increased our costs with additional fuel and instructor hours.

VII. On October 1, 2016 Texas adopted the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators (AAMVA) National testing standards. New requirements include pre-trip vehicle inspection and additional basic vehicle controls testing.

VIII. On January 12, 2017 the Texas DPS implemented new requirements for those obtaining a Commercial Learners Permit (CLP), adding endorsements or modifying a current CDL. A CLP must be held for 14 days prior to taking the skills test. A CLP is valid for 180 days (90 days or 3 attempts to pass the knowledge test(s); 90 days to 3 attempts to pass the skills test(s)). The CLP can be renewed one time before it expires. Some endorsements can only be obtained after the driving test is passed successfully; these include doubles and triples and hazmat.

IX. Jerry Terry served on the Texas state-wide committee since October 2016 to get Third Party testing going in Texas. Third Party testing authorizes Commercial Driver Education Schools that meet requirements set by the DPS to administei the driving skills examination. This program is intended to reduce the time a driver must wait to perform their driving examination. Amarillo College is currently in the process of becoming a Third Party test site. Two Amarillo College employees completed examiner training on March 10, 2017. After five observation rides and five co-score rides they will complete certification and be able to conduct driving tests for our students and employees, as long as they did not participate in the skills training process.

The ability for the third party test site to record the skills test at the end of the day is not currently available. This is something that the DPS is working to provide.

Our ability to be a Third Party test site will save Amarillo College a tremendous amount of money through reducing re-training and re-testing costs.

X. Insurance requirements for entry-level drivers have been reviewed with the college insurance provider, Fairly Group. During this review, opportunities for employers to hire our students were discussed. We would like to pursue internship: to provide on-the-job training and possible continued employment for our students.

XI. Charlie Sanchez retired from the City of Amarillo and has resigned as committee chairperson. Nominations and voting will take place via email.

Meeting Adjourned at 12:35 pm.

Wade Black, Amarillo Truck Center, was nominated for the committee chairperson of the Advisory Board. Voting took place from April 5 to 10 and Wade was unanimously elected.