



**Palomar College
Fire Technology Advisory Board Meeting
May 19, 2016**

Meeting Minutes

Dan Barron called the meeting to order at 12:20 p.m. at the Public Safety Training Center, room 1A. Dan made introductions and thanked the Advisory Board for their attendance and responsiveness to issues that involve the Fire Academy/Fire Technology and our ability to provide qualified recruits to their agencies. Dan also reviewed the purpose of the Advisory Board Meeting for the benefit of first time attendees.

The minutes from the previous meeting on April 15, 2015 were approved.

Fire Academy Update

IFSAC/ProBoard – Our new Assistant Professor Ed Sprague worked with Dan Barron and John Thompson on accreditation with the State Fire Marshal, as well as developing new curriculum for the Fire Academy. The only recommendation from the State Fire Marshal was to make the Fire Technology Supervisor position a full-time position. The 49th Academy is the first academy to graduate under the new curriculum.

John Thompson reviewed the new curriculum as well as some of the challenges we faced this first semester. Certified evaluators are required for the testing process and there were only seven evaluators available for this academy. JT is encouraging agencies to have their people take the training necessary to become a certified evaluator.

Highlights of new curriculum:

- Academy went from 15 weeks to 17 weeks
- Palomar College has 600+ hours of instruction; academies vary from 375 hours to 600 hours of instruction
- Core Certifications: FFI, Auto Ex, Swiftwater, LARRO, Fire Control 3, Haz Mat FRO, S190 Wildland, L180, ICS 100, 200, 700, 800.
- 4 days of manipulative testing
- Recruits must pass with 100% on the manipulative tests and 70% on the written tests

Needs:

- Add CAL Fire 100 Cert so that recruits can work as seasonal employees
- New curriculum requires additional time, supplies and instructors
- Additional applicants and diversity

Palomar is hiring a new Dean, Margie Fritch, and it is important for agencies to encourage her to support the Fire Academy. Chief Van Wey will push out a letter to departments that they can forward to the Dean.

JPA

There were 80 applicants and 40-50 showed up to test. There are 36 on the established list. The next test will be in July.

Carole Musgrove set up a Facebook account and advertised the test. Facebook got more activity than the websites so we will continue to advertise on Facebook

Revenue Sharing

FIRE 98 fees increased from \$2.50 to \$3.50 per student contact hour. New agreements were sent out to all agencies. Valley Center will also participate in FIRE 98.

High School Fire Technology Program

Each student will receive 14 college credits.

Recruitment

Consider attending Career Fairs in Middle School. Use Facebook and create a recruitment video. View Escondido PDs recruitment video with Al Owens. We are still not getting diverse recruits and need to consider alternative ways to reach potential applicants.

Updates in Fire Technology

Wayne Hooper reported the following updates in the Fire Technology Program:

- Ed Sprague has been hired to replace Carl Lofthouse in Fire Technology
- Ethics class will be a program requirement beginning Fall 2017
- Students want credit for attending San Pasqual Fire Academy which is using Foothill College to offer an AS Degree; Palomar will not give credit to graduates from this academy
- Reviewing articulation of FF2 and FF1
- Offering Fire 100 classes at Escondido Center and Fallbrook
- Offering Fire Tech program at Camp Pendleton
- Fire Club has been disbanded
- There may be an issue with retired PERS employees teaching at a PERS agency; will advise on new developments as this could have a major impact on Fire Tech program

The meeting was adjourned at 1:50 p.m.

Attendees:

Dan Barron, Interim Fire Technology Supervisor at Palomar College

John Thompson, Fire Academy Coordinator at Palomar College

Wayne Hooper, Assistant Professor, Fire Technology at Palomar College

Ed Sprague, Assistant Professor, Fire Technology at Palomar College

Glenda Gardner, Academic Department Assistant, Public Safety Programs, Palomar College

Brett Van Wey, Chief San Marcos Fire Department

Jim Colston, Battalion Chief San Marcos Fire Department

Dave McQuead, Battalion Chief Rancho Santa Fe Fire District

Tony Michel, Chief Rancho Santa Fe Fire District

Rick Vogt, Division Chief Escondido Fire Department

Mike Calderwood, Division Chief Carlsbad Fire Department

Mark Sanchez, Chief Poway Fire Department

Darrin Ward, Captain Valley Center Fire Protection District