



## Peaslee Board of Directors Agenda

January 12, 2023, 3:30-5:00 p.m., Peaslee Tech Directors Meeting

In Attendance: Shirley Martin-Smith, Cynthia Yulich, Bobbie Flory, Bonnie Lowe, Brittany Hall, Wayne Ricks, Dr. Bill DeWitt, Rick Hird, Dr. Kevin Kelley, Andrea Chavez, George Crump, and Kiah O'Quinn, as official minute-taker

Shirley began the meeting with asking everyone to do a quick introduction of themselves.

**Shirley called the meeting to order at 3:44pm**

1. Meet & Greet of Peaslee Staff – Luke Lang

**Kevin introducing Luke Lang. Luke is a full-time instructor for USD 497, which he has been with for 16/17 years. Luke owns his own mobile Tire Company, which mainly fixes farm tractor and semi-truck tires. Luke teaches 3 welding classes for Peaslee and on weekends will teach a Hobbyist welding class through Parks & Rec for 3 Saturdays in a row.**

2. Approval of December 8, 2022, Minutes/Agenda – Vote

**Shirley entertained a motion to approve the minutes and agenda. Cindy moved to approve the minutes/agenda. Motion seconded by Wayne. The motion of the minutes/agenda was unanimously approved.**

3. Updates/Discussion:

- Building Updates

**Kevin presented the building updates:**

- **During the holiday, Peaslee was able to do some major projects like repainting, waxing and sealing the floors, putting new cabinets in some of the classrooms, and a deep clean of classrooms and furniture.**
- **The Robotics Lab had some renovations, and the final robot was installed and is up and running.**
- **Avium, the new company that leases space from Peaslee, is now fully staffed and continues to grow.**
- **There was a water line break at the Workforce Center over the holiday, luckily no one was there at the time, and it was a fast repair that we have ensured will not happen again.**

- New Positions

**Peaslee offered Dana Benjamin the CDL Coordinator position. Dana has been teaching part-time for Peaslee as a CDL instructor and will transition to the full-time coordinator position on January 23, 2023. The CDL Coordinator position is funded through the ARPA grant Peaslee received from Douglas County. Bobbie asked how we will sustain a full-time coordinator once the ARPA funds run out. Kevin replied that due to the high demand for truck drivers and the new federal law that people must go through an approved school, our increased tuition will make the program self-sustaining in the future.**

**Peaslee has also budgeted for a new full-time electrician instructor. We are currently looking for someone to fill that role.**

**Elijah, our newest employee, will speak to the board next month.**

- Legislative Update

**Kevin presented an update on the Legislation. Kevin attended a breakfast at Maceli's in January where he was able to speak with the legislators and gain insight on Peaslee's legislative proposal. The first time Peaslee presented the legislature it did not pass the Senate because one Senator, who was on the Board of the Community College of Trustees, did not want Peaslee to take away funding from them. This time around, he met with the Community College of Trustees, and they rewrote the legislation together. We will be co-sponsored by Senator Francisco and Senator Kloos. If this passes, Kevin is hoping to have this on the**



November 2023 ballot. The legislation will create a special district for Peaslee Tech, which would replace Peaslee's request for City and County funds that Peaslee receives. Kevin sees no immediate issues with it being passed. Bonnie brought up that she thinks the County is presenting proposals for funding 2 EMS Fire Stations during the November ballot. If this is the case, we will have to rethink our approach and may create a special ballot election to vote on the proposal. We do not want to have our proposal on the same ballot as the Fire Stations.

- Tenants to Homeowners

Peaslee received funding from Tenants to Homeowners that will allow Peaslee to start a program in February that will build tiny houses. Peaslee will now have two Carpentry classes, one in the Spring, and then one in the Fall, which is hosted by Lawrence Home Builders Association. Peaslee has been sponsored by the Lawrence Home Builders Association for the past 5 years. Charlie Lauts, Peaslee's Enrollment Services Coordinator, designed the concept plans to present to the Tenants to Homeowners. The homes are estimated to be around 375-400 sq ft. The goal is to build 2 tiny houses a year starting February 21<sup>st</sup> with construction starting in March. We are hoping to work with Studio 804 from KU on this project. We anticipate roughly 70 students will be involved in constructing the tiny homes, including the HVAC, Plumbing, Electrician and Welding students. The homes will be built in THE CRUNCH space and then disassembled and moved on-site. The Tenants to Homeowners will fund everything, Peaslee will just build the houses. The tiny homes will be located at 18<sup>th</sup> and Ward. We anticipate this being a long-term partnership.

- Apprenticeship programs

Andrea presented on the apprenticeship programs. We are starting youth and pre apprenticeship programs with local area school districts. A total of 21 high school students have applied so far. The youth apprenticeship programs are hired by an employer and will work 5-18 hours a week. The pre apprenticeships are more of a career exploration to see if they like the trade. A student can be as young as 16 to participate in the youth or pre apprenticeships, but many employers would prefer them to be 18 or turning 18 by May.

- The plumbing and pipefitter and the Electrician pre apprenticeship will start January 17<sup>th</sup>. A representative from each union will come speak to the high school students about either joining their apprenticeship or the students may decide to do an apprenticeship through Peaslee.
- The CDL pre apprenticeship will be overseen by Charlie Lauts and is a 120-hour program. In order to participate in this pre apprenticeship the students must be 18 to get their permit.
- The two auto youth apprenticeship has a total of 7 students. We are working with the new car dealers to hire the students. The students will take the 20-hour class, either Lube and Tire Tech or Auto Detailing at Eudora High School, and then work about 5-18 hours at one of the car dealerships. There is currently no start date for this as we are waiting for the students to get hired on.
- Under the SAEI Grant we have a total of 66 apprentices under 9 different employers. The goal is 108 apprentices, which we should easily attain.
- We are looking to do new cohorts for the in some of the apprenticeship programs that have just completed, like Facilities Maintenance. We have discussed doing a Commercial Facilities Maintenance apprenticeship with AAKC. We plan to reach out to past apprentices who completed the Level 1 Facilities Maintenance apprenticeship.
- A Glazier Apprenticeship has been submitted to the KAC and we are awaiting approval. We have teamed up with Ziegler and Kennedy Glass companies to help complete the labs for the program. We are getting the curriculum from myglass.com, which will be an online program with some hands-on in-person labs. This will be a 3-year apprenticeship program.
- The Electrician Apprenticeship has just started. The students will be meeting online using Google Classroom and will meet a few Saturdays a month for in-person labs. This is a 4-year apprenticeship program.
- We are currently researching apprenticeship programs in Early Childhood Development, Heavy Truck Maintenance, Pharmacy Tech, and Pre-Law Enforcement. None of these programs will overlap with the school district.



- The Early Childhood Development program would be the same curriculum as the College and Career Center as well as the same instructor that teaches over there.
- The Pre-Law Enforcement will be with the County Sheriff's Department and will include pieces with the court, jail, and patrol. We are working with the County Sheriff's Department because you do not have to be 21 to be able to work with them whereas the police department you do.

- New Programs

**These new programs are in the exploration phase currently:**

- Heavy Truck Technician
- Engineering Assistant
- Design Technician

4. Other Business

**The board meetings will the second Thursday of the month at 3:30pm.**

5. Executive Session (If needed)

**No Executive Session was needed.**

6. Adjourn

**Shirley entertained a motion to adjourn. Cindy moved to adjourn. Motion seconded by Bonnie. The meeting was adjourned at 5:03pm.**