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BOARD OF EXAMINERS OF SHEET METAL WORKERS
MEETING MINUTES: January 21, 2026

Roll Call by Chair: 10:00 AM

| MEMBERS | PRESENT | ABSENT |
|-----------------------------|----------------|---------------|
| Mr. Russell Bartash, Chair | X | |
| Mr. Peter Kelly, Vice Chair | X | |
| Mr. Daniel Flynn | X | |
| Mr. Andrew DeAngelo | X | |
| Mr. Tim Hathaway | X | |
| Mr. Scott Demers | X | |
| Mr. Jay Ryan | X | |
| STAFF | PRESENT | ABSENT |
| Mr. Ryan Doherty | X | |
| Mr. Peter M. Kelley | X | |
| Ms. Sharlia Bennett | X | |
| Mr. Charles Wolf | X | |
| Mr. Brian Morris | | X |

Housekeeping / Announcements / Ground Rules

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

- Public Meeting Minutes of 12/17/2025: Peter Kelly made a MOTION to table the approval of the minutes of December 17th until the February meeting and offered some additional language to add. Daniel Flynn SECONDED the MOTION. On a roll call vote the MOTION passed, with all members in favor.

Upcoming Board Meetings

- Wednesday, February 18, 2026, at 9:00 AM
- Wednesday, March 18, 2026, at 9:00 AM



Code Subcommittee Updates

- Member Peter Kelly advised the Board that he has sent the complete draft code package to Board counsel Peter Kelley for review.

Discussion

- Update on PSI Examinations from last month
- Hybrid Education
 - Board members reviewed PSI exam data from before the Board approved hybrid education and after. Member Tim Hathaway commented on how low the passing rates are but is in favor of approving hybrid education on a permanent basis. Member Daniel Flynn stated that the exam data from before hybrid education was approved show a higher pass rate and Vice Chair Peter Kelly stated that he would like to review additional PSI exam data from 2020 to present. Executive Director Ryan Doherty shared that the exam data does not differentiate reinstatement examinations from initial licensure examinations and that there is no prerequisite education requirement for reinstatement examinations, as a possible contributing factor for the lower pass rate data.
 - Vice Chair Peter Kelly shared a draft document he worked on that consisted of the currently approved sheet metal education with a virtual instruction hour allocation, with the goal for it to be as close to 50% virtual 50% in person as possible. Julie DeStefano of the Gould Institute was in attendance and spoke about their approach to hybrid sheet metal education. Additionally, she offered to help the Board, stating that their staff and instructors are could be used as resources, providing feedback for the Board as it considers the proposal. Member Daniel Flynn asked Julie how the Gould Construction Institute keeps students engaged during hybrid training and member Andrew DeAngelo asked if virtual students are required to keep their computer camera on for the duration of the class. Julie responded, stating that the Gould Construction Institute has a lengthy list of requirements which include keeping a camera on, and shared that students are removed from the class if they do not follow all of the requirements.

Review Correspondence

- Letter from Matthew Bedard of Ferguson Enterprises, LLC to Board of Examiners of Sheet Metal Workers. Originally dated August 20, 2025, submitted with Business application 2025-000273-SM-BSA, regarding Designation of Master Sheet Metal Worker for Massachusetts Operations
 - Vice Chair Peter Kelly suggested that Ferguson Enterprises, LLC, may need to create a new legal entity in order to qualify for a sheet metal business license. Board counsel Peter Kelley noted that the Board's statute does not allow for any exception to the member requirement in the case of an LLC. Matthew Bedard was in attendance and was recognized by the Board. He reiterated a statement that he made at a previous Board meeting, stating that the company may be forced to relocate to New Hampshire if a solution is not able to be found.
- Email from Chris Faucher of The Peterson School to the Board of Examiners of Sheet Metal Workers. Originally dated September 16, 2025, regarding issuance of a School license in care of an Administrator instead of a Lead Instructor
 - Collectively the Board is of the opinion that a school license should only be issued to a sheet metal licensee and not to someone who might not have sheet metal knowledge. Therefore, the Board wants to add language to 271 CMR 8.00 that specifies this.

Topics Not Reasonably Anticipated 48 Hours in Advance of Meeting

- Inspector Charles Wolf asked if he could share an update on Michael Aresenault of the Walsh Brothers Commonwealth Inspector Decision Appeal. Inspector Charles Wolf shared that the dampers in question were functional and that they had a 1-hour fire rating.

Public Comment

- None

At approximately 10:59 AM Tim Hathaway made a MOTION to exit public session and enter closed session, for the purpose of conducting investigative conferences, pursuant to G. L. c. 112, § 65C. Dan Flynn seconded the MOTION. On a roll call vote the MOTION passed, all members in favor.

Closed Session, Investigative Conferences, pursuant to G. L. c. 112, § 65C

During closed session, the Board took the following actions:

| | |
|--------------------|---------------------------------|
| 2025-000980-IT-ENF | Referred back to Investigations |
| 2025-001061-IT-ENF | Referred back to Investigations |

At approximately 10:42 AM Scott Demers made a MOTION to exit closed session, enter open session and thereupon to adjourn the meeting. Tim Hathaway SECONDED the MOTION and the MOTION passed by unanimous consent.

Items Relied Upon

- Agenda
- Draft Minutes December 2025
- PSI Examinations results
- Draft Hybrid Education Curriculum
- Correspondence from Ferguson Enterprises
- Enforcement Documents