

LINCOLN PARK MIDDLE SCHOOL



HIGHLIGHTS:

FACILITY TYPE: K-12 SCHOOL DISTRICT



BOC TRAINING: CLOQUET, APRIL 2014

BOC ATTENDEES: SIX

OPERATIONAL IMPROVEMENTS: REDUCE RUNTIME ON 37 AIR HANDLER UNITS AND 50 EXTERIOR BUILDING LIGHTS

ENERGY SAVED: 130,000 KWH/ \$4,800

COST FOR IMPROVEMENTS: \$0

DISCUSSION WITH DAVE SPOONER

Dave Spooner, Supervisor of Maintenance & Construction at Duluth Public Schools (ISD 709), enrolled six building operators in the Building Operator Certification Level I class in Cloquet, MN, in April, 2014. Dave discussed his experience and early successes from the BOC program - our conversation is highlighted in the article below.

BOC MOTIVATION

When asked what motivated Dave to train his employees in BOC, he said, "We realize with the new construction and new technology [ISD 709 has renovated or constructed 13 schools over the past six years] that we need to increase the level of training for our personnel. We need to provide them training that both helps them understand how this technology works, as well as understand the equipment to allow for proper and efficient operation to facilitate occupant comfort, as well as energy conservation."



DAVE SPOONER

SUPERVISOR OF MAINTENANCE AND
CONSTRUCTION
ISD 709 - DULUTH PUBLIC SCHOOLS

EAST HIGH SCHOOL



BOC SUCCESS – DULUTH PUBLIC SCHOOLS

IMPACT ON EMPLOYEES

Dave was impressed with the breadth of knowledge the BOC curriculum covered, saying, “The BOC program provided our employees some good knowledge and perspective on how they can utilize the new technology we have to provide a better service to our users and yet save energy. He goes on to say, “The BOC helps teach our employees to think in a new manner – more of how can I improve this service but yet save energy with how I operate this piece of equipment. It also gets them thinking about the potential of the technology and how they impact energy use by just their actions, such as scheduling stop / start / temp / etc.”

Aside from the knowledge gained from the BOC program, Dave indicated the program provided intangible benefits that are not easily gained in the workforce. Dave said – when asked how the BOC training impacted the way facilities personnel approach their day-to-day work – “Any training such as BOC greatly helps and empowers the employee. For example, once the employee understands the EMS is more than a simple time clock, and can do much more with it to conserve, they get more enthused, ask questions, and want to discuss with us to make changes.”

“OUR GOAL WITH BOC WAS TO PROVIDE HELP AND TRAINING TO OUR EMPLOYEES TO GIVE THEM MORE KNOWLEDGE AND BE MORE AWARE OF CONSERVATION EFFORTS THAT CAN BE ACCOMPLISHED.”

–DAVE SPOONER

ENERGY SAVED

A year has gone by since the first class these students took, and ISD 709 has already reported impressive energy savings.

Upon graduating from the BOC training, these professionals recommended reducing the unnecessary runtime of 37 air handling units and 50 exterior building lights. Dave said, “The graduates came up with ideas, and implemented some of the projects, but some needed to be accomplished by our licensed trades personnel. We accomplished all projects as soon as time and budget allowed.”

THESE FREE, AND RELATIVELY MINOR, CHANGES RESULT IN ANNUAL ENERGY SAVINGS OF \$4,800 OR 130,000 KWH.

FUTURE PLANS

After achieving impressive energy savings with the work done in one year, I asked Dave what ISD 709 will focus on in the future to reduce energy use. Dave said, “Our focus at the moment is recommissioning. We are also looking at LED’s and the potential for retrofit in certain area’s where payback makes sense.”

BOC RECOMMENDATION

At the end of the interview, I asked if Dave would recommend BOC to a colleague – his response says it all. “Yes. All the employees came back from training and all said it was well worth it and they all learned. That is not always true with training. You have a good program. Thanks!”



To find out more visit www.BOCcentral.org or call 855.420.1785