

**Benson Polytechnic High School Alumni Association
Board of Directors Meeting – Official Minutes - Final**



Date: July 11, 2016
Starting Time: approximately 5:30 pm
Ending Time: approximately 7:30pm
Mackenzie Group (M Group)

ATTENDEES:

Gerry Ochs (GO), Roger Edwards (RE), Rob Johns (RJ), Josh Piper (JP), Dale Bajema (DB), Ken Bakke (KB), Mike Landstrom (ML), Annika Johnson (AJ), Dick Spies (DS),
Guests: Kevin Clark (master planning group), Bob Trimble (class of 1977, long range planning), Rachael Kuryunny (graduate), Larry Burgett (Alumni class of 1975).

MINUTES:

- [Note: The June board meeting was cancelled via email when it was discovered too many members would miss.]
- BPHSAA resolution re political involvement: RJ
 - The bond measure is changing constantly.
 - DB: Could and should we support bond measures? We have avoided politics in the past. This resolution says avoid partisan politics, but we could support educational measures. As worded we can support measures, not candidates.
 - RB: We are a fraternal organization, not a non-profit.
 - The resolution:
 - In light of the increasing public focus on funding CTE and STEM/STEAM education, the BPHSAA believes that it needs to clarify for its members, and the public, its advocacy for Benson Polytechnic High School in the current and future public discussions:
 - Be it resolved, consistent with its By-laws and stated mission to support Benson Polytechnic High School, the BPHSAA and its officers may publically support local, state and Federal measures, rules, and/or legislation concerning education, school levies, school bonds and grants and may otherwise seek money, other resources, policies and rules on behalf of Benson from Portland Public School District and its elected and non-elected officials, however, it may not spend Association money to do so (beyond limited administrative supplies) nor endorse or support partisan efforts or individuals running for public office or seeking a non-political appointment.
 - It was moved and seconded to pass the resolution as a guideline for the group's political involvement.
 - The motion passed.
- Treasurer's Report: ML

- No expenses, no income. Everything is paid up from tech show. Getting ready for the picnic.
- Membership: JP
 - We have 2 new members this month.
- Proposed change to by-laws re appointing vacancies – DB
 - Proposed a page of changes to by-laws. Changes sections to give board ability to fill vacant positions. The board votes to approve new directors.
 - RJ: Let's post this out for 30 days for people to review.
 - It was moved and seconded to post the change. Motion passed. If there is no comment during the 30 day period, the by-laws will be amended.
- Open Board Positions:
 - RJ: Bob and Rachel, do you want to join the board?
 - JP: We have two open positions on the board. Wes expires in Feb 2018, if he is not removed for missing meetings.
 - Tabled to next meeting, with proposed bylaws changes.
- Website:
 - Rachel: The date of the Benson Tech Show is a week early on the website.
- Centennial celebration – DB:
 - June 2017 reunion. Meet and greet at the Norse Hall, maybe. June 16/17, picnic at Benson and tours on Saturday. Dinner that evening. Sunday morning golf tournament, noon- maybe brunch cruise on a Spirit ship. It would be at a discount but not exclusive. Might have a cruise-in with cars. The Oregon Historical Society is possibly prohibitively expensive. Capacity of 150 people.
 - Rachel: A networking even would be good, inter-generational. People my age and younger are looking for networking opportunities.
 - There was much discussion about golf courses.
 - RJ: If you have the same venue with 9 holes and also have other games, maybe do the cruise-in there too, if keeps people together. Younger people have kids.
 - JP: There are a few places near Benson that are good for dropping off kids. The NE Community Center, the Playground Gym.
 - RJ: Friday Norse Hall seems like a good start. We could set up thing with gym for dropping off kids. Is a formal dinner worthwhile for Saturday night?
 - DB: There was strong interest in a dinner in the surveys.
 - RJ: We just need to find the right venue, one that is cost effective.
 - KB: Broadmoor has great prime rib and halibut at reasonable rates.
 - Bob: Look at alumni. AC Green is a motivational speaker. Find a Benson alum who would be willing to speak.
 - DB: 16-18th is the event. In September we want to send out information to generate interest.
 - JP: If we commit and lock people in, selling tickets ahead of time with a discounted price to start with and keep ratcheting it up the closer to event time we get, we will have some money ahead. We can maybe use Eventbrite.

- RJ: Can you put something together?
- Rachel: I can see people in my age range either networking or sitting down with people they know and catching up. The Kennedy School does rooms by how much people eat and drink. It may not cost anything. Washington High is a venue. It's expensive though.
- RJ: Let's contact all the classes having reunions on their 10 year, maybe their 5 year also. Reach out especially to the classes of '57 and '67. They won't be online as much.
- Master Planning Committee and Board – RJ:
 - The decision put forth for their votes: to finance in \$750 million bond to finance Lincoln and Madison and a swing plan for Benson.
 - Four people represented Benson. A parent, a teacher, and two alumni. Why are we rebuilding two schools rated fair and not rebuilding the seismically unstable building made of brick? This was not answered.
 - The school board said we are not reducing Benson's enrollment. Why is information not going public? There is a survey whose results were kept quiet. Lisa White has a petition going up online.
 - Dollar amounts haven't been set for Benson. City engineer and emergency management were only interested in seismic issues. Lead and radon haven't been tested yet. The concern is that the money will get sucked out to other schools that need fixes for urgent issues.
 - Rachel: The fear is that the bond measure won't pass because people don't trust PPS.
 - Petition to keep Benson Tech on the bond:
 - JP: Should we vote on formally supporting Lisa's petition?
 - RJ: Will discuss with Lisa after our vote and have her send Josh information.
 - AJ: I would like to read the petition before endorsing it.
 - JP: I can put it on the website as endorsed by the parents and some alumni.
 - <http://www.thepetitionsite.com/682/406/605/keep-benson-polytechnic-high-school-on-2016-purposed-pps-bond-measure/>
 - RJ: The Benson picnic is on August 20th, not the 13th. Having tents for shade is nice. I can borrow two tents. We should be able to use the grill we used for the Freshmen picnic. I will follow up with Curtis. He can maybe do one tour of Benson after 2:30.
 - JP: Last year we had more community and less alumni.
 - Rachel: The class of 2006 is attending as their Saturday family event. Contact Heather Taylor.
 - Bob: We may need more games. Can we borrow Tech Show games?
 - RJ: Another question for Curtis. Moving on to banners, I have three of them.
 - DB: I'm working on a Centennial banner.
 - RJ: Decorations?
 - JP: We don't want to use table cloths. They are more trouble than they are worth.

- ML: How soon do we need to organize janitors?
- KB: Neal should be in town and will likely bring the truck.
- RJ: Are we doing hotdogs and hamburgers?
- ML: Can we have a list of incoming Freshman so that random kids and upperclassmen don't say they are Freshmen?
- ?: Can we have a vegetarian option? Some parents were really annoyed at the Freshman picnic. [we have veggie burgers]
- RJ: The leftover food is used up at a party with teachers. Merchandise?
- JP: We have twelve shirts.
- Newsletter:
 - RJ: Is it time for a newsletter again? A lot of things have happened.
 - JP: Get articles in by the first week in August.
 - DB: We need something on the bond measure, the Centennial, the five-year plan, enrollment.
 - RJ: I'll write on the bond. Dale, do you want to write on enrollment and the Centennial?
 - Rachel: Do we want a reach-out to classes ending in 7?
 - DB: Ask Curtis if anything happened he wants in the newsletter.
 - RJ: Tell Curtis it's open for any sports coach if they submit something by the first week of August.
 - JP: Is the current Benson house done? Are they planning the next one?
 - RJ: 8/5 for the next board meeting. I reached out to the Latino network. Benson has a substantial Latino population.
 - Rachel: Is the community picnic happening next year? What weekend is the 2017 picnic?
 - RJ: Curtis should be able to tell us what date the school is opening. I will check with him.

OLD BUSINESS – things to keep in mind

- Plan for merchandise?
- Archiving location and cataloguing

Respectfully Submitted,

Annika Johnson
Secretary Pro Tem
BPHS Alumni Association