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

Date: Feb 8, 2016

Starting Time: 5:40 pm Ending Time: 7:22pm

Benson Library

## ATTENDEES:

Josh Piper (JP), Neal Galash (NG), Ken Bakke (KB), Roger Edwards (RE), Max Baker (MB), Rob Johns (RJ), Dale Bajema (DB), Dick Spies (DS) Guests: Tammy Hite (Architect teacher and alum), Don Wear (alum)

## MINUTES:

- Tammy talked before the meeting officially started.
  - She is busy preparing for tech show
  - o JP will talk to ML about getting her a check for money owed
  - o She will print some posters for the alumni room.
- RJ: welcome
- Treasurer's report: RJ on behalf of ML:
  - o 10 or 11 memberships over PayPal since last meeting
  - o Approximately \$2800 in the bank, + PayPal
  - We Tammy \$400 for yearbooks.
- Membership:
  - o 18 paid members: Max, Neal, Rob in this room are paid.
  - o Membership is down. RJ suggested an online message/emailing.
  - o JP and MB talked about the Alumni Association to get their own square.
  - o For tech show, Josh will bring his own square and use his own phone. We'll then see if it is helpful and consider getting our own.
  - o DB suggested we discuss at the next meeting what the people that sign up will get for their money.
  - O RJ: we've approached Curtis about asking the clubs to contact alumni in the orange book, like a phone bank. But we can't get approval for kids to call adults. Plan B is to get the kids to do data entry, then we donate to the club. This would be a way to make contact with the kids, they remember that alumni gave to their club, and they might be more likely to join the alumni association when they are done.
  - o RJ and DB will talk to Curtis about the framework for approaching the clubs about this idea.
  - We'll then need to decide how many names we expect the club to enter for a certain amount of money.
- Site Council DB
  - o In March we'll review the 5 year plan and see how we're doing
  - o We will discuss new classes, new majors.
  - The school board endorsed the idea of next year's enrollment going up to 365.



- This year's rotations are a little stretched with 300 students. We may be able to add another elective, so they are thinking electrical engineering, which would lead over time to restoring the major.
- Brian Gerber in machinery taught engineering before and is interested in teaching it here.

## • Design Committee: RJ

- o DB, DS, RJ, Tammy Hite, and others are on the master planning committee.
- They've had 2 meetings. Jim Piro is on the committee. There are some parents, teachers, alumni, and students on there. Four architects, and PPS people. RJ was very impressed with the students. Some small groups work. It's a testament to the fact that if you go to Benson you have to get yourself to the school, it's not just down the street.
- There is a sense of concern that PPS has its agenda, and we go through all these meetings but then the agenda is rubber stamped that they wanted all along. 1750 kids planned here. They have not stated where DART and other programs are going.
- o There are concerns about how much money can be spent.
- O When you get done with all that, you are talking about what can be done with the back of the school, but if you are looking at 100 million, you may not get any of your dream building realized.
- The good thing is that we get to participate. We need to determine just
  what that means, since they spend so much time talking to us and not with
  us.
- o Meeting: 9 to noon, breakfast included. March 5<sup>th</sup>, at Benson.
- There was discussion about getting alums and their opinions to this meeting.
- o MB: we could solicit ideas at Tech Show using the postcard idea where we provide some context about soliciting ideas for the new Benson.
- o RJ will create content and see if Mike L's contact can print some up.
- NB: we need to be careful that we don't get tons of ideas so that the final plan becomes diluted.
- MB: I think it would be helpful to identify things we need to build up or things nobody cares about, then when a plan comes out we look at it again to make sure it makes sense.
- o RJ: It does seem that sometimes they want to take giant spaces and break them up into smaller ones. That doesn't work well for CTE.
- DS arrived.
- Tech Show
  - There was discussion about how to get people to sign in, instead of just walking in. Various ideas were discussed, including:
    - Erecting ropes and creating a line. There was concern however, that alumni would see a line to get in and decide not to wait, but to go somewhere else in the building.
    - Having someone with a clipboard walking around getting people to sign in. There was concern that those names then don't get on the

- master sheets, which people check to see if their friends have come
- We will try table signs reminding people at the yearbook tables to sign in, and if we have an extra volunteer, having them standing near the entrance to catch people trying to walk around the sign in area. We will also have all the alumni check with people they talk to about signing in.
- o The board went over the Tech Show Prep List.
  - RE will also do obituaries. (This wasn't mentioned specifically on the list.)
  - MB will create tents for the yearbook tables reminding folks to sign in.
  - RJ will find a volunteer to walk around and remind people to register.
  - JP will get applications for BPHSAA to Tammy to have where the yearbooks are.
  - MB to bring extra copies of sign in sheets.
  - RJ to request a sign from Tammy for the Scholarship donation jar.
  - DB will bring the Scholarship donation jar.
  - JP to send MB the latest content from Curtis' blog to include in the newsletter.
- Annual meeting will be held on Thursday at 8:30PM in the media space in the old gym
  - There will be 4 open positions, as well as MB, ML, and WS who would need to be re-elected.
  - Don Wear to bring his bullhorn for the annual meeting.
  - Note: Max contacted JoAnne and she is too busy to be on the board at present. She might be available for one-off projects.

#### • Previous Minutes:

- MB handed out the revised minutes. There were two people that sent in small changes. MB moved that the minutes be accepted as amended, KB seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- Discussion about communications:
  - MB, DB, and JR have been discussing communications, including the Newsletter and social media.
  - O DB: it would be valuable to pull together the news and edit it with our alumni interests in mind. There's the news about the alumni and their activities, and there's news about the school and what's going on.
  - Paper copies only get sent to paid members. All the content is put on the website.
  - Discussion about contacting Kathy Skatch about someone in her class needing a project or community service, or a recent graduate that would want to be involved.
  - o RJ will contact Kathy Skatch about this topic.
  - o RJ discussed the program Lincoln put together for their 125<sup>th</sup> mega reunion.

- Picnic will be August 20<sup>th</sup>. They start school Aug 29<sup>th</sup>.
  August 27<sup>th</sup> is the school cleanup.
- Next meeting March 14th at the Benson Tech library.

## OLD BUSINESS - things to keep in mind

- Plan for merchandise?
- Archiving location and cataloguing

Respectfully Submitted,

Maj Britt (Max) Baker Secretary BPHS Alumni Association