

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



Date: Nov 17, 2014
Starting Time: 5:30 pm Ending Time: 7:30 pm
Benson Tech Library

ATTENDEES:

Josh Piper (JP), Ken Bakke (KB), Dale Bajema (DB), Roger Edwards (RE), Neal Galash (NG), Joanne Stainbrook (JS), Annika Johnson (AJ), Max Baker (MB), Rob Johns (RJ), Dick Spies (DS)

Guests: Don Wear, Larry Burkett, 1974 grad, Real Estate Broker (larry@eleetere.com 503-680-3018); Kathleen Reid, School Counseling Intern, helped Amy rebuild the career center, training mentors to work with scholarship apps. (kreid@pps.net 503-313-3437); Beth Burczak "Beyond Benson" volunteer coordinator (beth@burczak.com 503-706-6423); LaQuita Corbett Martin, 1977 grad, Customer Service Advisor, works for Portland Community College at the CLIMB Center Small Business Development Center, part of CEIC (laquita.martin@gmail.com 503-477-2803); Jon Ylvisaker, 1978 grad, Application Engineer (jonnyy@q.com)

MINUTES:

- The board introduced themselves for the guests. The guests introduced themselves.
- Minutes were sent out two weeks ago. Joanne submitted corrections. They'll be considered final after any further corrections by Friday.
- Treasurer's report:
 - \$2515.58 is the balance, with a few outstanding receipts:
 - \$425.52 to Max for printing of newsletter and decorations for the picnic.
 - \$145.65 to Neal for food.
 - \$38.24 in PayPal will be deposited next Friday.
- Membership – JP:
 - 176 - 2 new in the past month.
- DW: Teacher Planning day lunch was a great success. Bought way more food than we needed. Teachers talked together, sharing things they didn't know about each other. It changed attitudes, brought the teachers closer. Don talked with Jessica, in charge of chef's club and leadership. In Jan there are two things to do: teacher planning day, student body happy hour for legislators about CTE education. One of the social studies teachers here has the history of CTE and Simon Benson. We have an opportunity to train the Benson students about what is important, so they can talk to legislators about it. Haven't gotten a commitment from Curtis about dates yet, but he has indicated his support. Don has paperwork to apply to Safeway and Fred Meyers for the food for the next planning day. Happy Hour would be at 4ish. Students could sit down with legislators and talk. Don is willing to coordinate two things:
 - Discussion about history of CTE and student training

- Happy hour meeting with legislators
- Rob entered.
- DW: Jeff Reardon came for the tour where they talked about the bills that resulted in money that we won.
- Larry Burkett - grad of 74 entered as guest.
- RJ and DW discussed the idea of the happy hour further, how it fits into current planning.
- Dale Bejama: Jan/Feb seems like a busy school time to try and get the students to legislators to pitch CTE.
- Rob Johns: 3 weeks ago, PPS gave a speech on CTE. Mr. Lopez went before the school board and talked about the stats on how graduation rate was higher with CTE. There is good support in the legislature. We need to really think about where to put our efforts - how can we support the staff and local people.
- Thank you card sent around from Summer Sound students to the board.
- Dick Spies entered.
- RJ: You'd need to get a person with negative CTE attitudes to come to the happy hour. I don't think you are going to get those people to come - you are going to get the people that already support CTE.
- LaQuita - need people with soft skills out there
- DW: apprenticeship readiness training.
- MB, DB, RJ: Tech Show would be a better place to concentrate efforts to get legislators here and doing a VIP tour.
- MB: This is a good time to have those students ready, armed with Benson history training, practice talking with legislators.
- DW will talk with Jessica about this.
- Tech show is Feb 12th and 13th this year.
- Membership renewal and scholarship mailing. About 120 people. Printing and postage means authorization of about \$75. Max moved, DS seconded. Motion passed.
- DS: Architecture/Design Program:
 - Serving on advisory group that advises Benson and other entities. Support the emerging architecture program here. For a number of years it was whittled down, until it was gone. Now it's in infancy again. We are helping it grow.
 - In addition, we are trying to build the idea similar to other schools like the Baltimore Design Center - a comprehensive design center that includes sustainability, art, fashion design, construction design, etc. We are trying to design this as a 6-12 program. From personal experience, 6th grade is when I became interested in going to Benson. The ability to go deeper into your interest earlier is ideal. We try and include as many staff members as possible. ZIBA design Wed at 4:30PM so we can get more teachers to come. It's a transition that will not happen overnight. It seems overwhelming to some staff. It would come to fruition when Benson is modernized. It will be on the next bond.
 - At the beginning of the next year, we'll get funding for planning, if the board accepts the recommendation of the bond committee. I've been impressed with

the broad base of support from architects, contractors and engineers. ZIBA sent two individuals on a Benson tour and they were so excited. They think it's a great fit for a design program.

- RJ: They had a design week fundraiser and wrote a big check to the Foundation. We need to repeat this. The funds will help us meet teacher needs. There's been a lot of movement in the last 15 months, and we're just at the beginning. Our work to get industry to sign letters to the board had great impact. We should go back to industry and share successes so that we can get more letters for the next bond, since private sector people may be less enthusiastic after seeing property tax bills.
- DS: Other occupational careers are trying to follow this same networking path. This is what we need to tell the voters. Your money is helping to support local businesses, as well as the schools.
- DS: Benson house. Historically students designed and built the house. When they lost architecture program, I designed the last house. We're trying to get more lots from the district. There's a good possibility that the city will help. We will discuss this next Monday at the Benson house on Mallory and Skidmore. Group that Luke Hotchkiss put together to support the construction program. 4:30PM.
- DS: One of the things that happened with the planning effort for Benson is that we've joined with Lincoln. I also serve on a planning committee with Lincoln and we've had many joint meetings. Their efforts have moved faster than ours. I'm passing out a flier for a meeting they are having next Monday. Gives you an idea of how they are trying to get consensus. They are also focused on 6-12 grad co-located programmatic partnerships. Redefining Education in Oregon. Nov 24th 7PM at LHS cafeteria. We should go and learn what we can. Curtis doesn't have an organized committee yet. I've told him he can call on us, and the health occupation groups to be advisers. There are some really exciting things that are happening. I've been encouraging people to try and think big. We need to make strong moves.
- DS: The plan we came up with for the Benson redesign a few years ago is all still on the table. The district will create committees, and they will ask stakeholders what is most important to them. We have the opportunity to reach out to business and find out what they would like Benson to provide, in the way of skills for students that are future workers.
- DW: Anderson's building the diesel program, partnership with Dymler. This is a showcase, never been done before.
- DS: It's important that each one of the focus group areas gathers their own group of stakeholders and let them be part of the info gathering process.
- DW: Maybe Curtis could talk to Anderson about that.
- DS: We think this will work out as we enter the formal design process. We need to take the energy and move it forward to tell the voters.
- RJ: We want to get the planning pretty set before the voting comes up so we can show them it's ready.
- DS: It will be difficult because none of the schools from the first bond will be done when the second one comes up. They can't point to completed work. So

they need to have the stories ready to tell to help the voters vote yes. There are so many partners ready to help us. We'd love for these industries to participate in these committees. I'm meeting with Curtis every month to keep him informed about what is going on in the design committee. I think if we can be aligned with Lincoln, and we can learn a lot from them about their organization strategies. They have a different story to tell because of the nature of their site - it's about 10 times the size of what they've built. But we have the jobs angle - that will really resonate with voters. They are going to do schools one at a time and use Marshall as the housing school. Depending on where Benson falls in the sequence, it could be another 8 years before construction begins.

- Roosevelt is the furthest along from the first bond. They've started on Fabian. Then Franklin, then Grant.
- KB: By the time they vote on the 2016 bond measure, will anything be done?
- DS: They will be far enough along they can tell some stories about what the money has accomplished. But the problem is, they hadn't done pre-planning on the schools. The second bond will already have planning done on the schools. The intention conveyed to the voters will help sell the bond.
- DS: There was unanimous decision to have Benson on the ballot. There were 8 different criteria, and Benson was high on all 8. Lincoln was the next because they wanted East and West side. There was a lot of sentiment to do Jeff, but they went with Madison because it's NE. You'd get a lot of consensus from the community. Then Wilson, Cleveland and Jeff in the final round which is a good mix. It would give Jeff another 4 years to figure out where the middle college school will become neighborhood school or not.
- DB: Site Council:
 - Has anyone been to booster club meetings? Nobody heard anything.
- DW left.
- DS left.
 - September site council meeting. Site council is state mandated committee. Teachers, parents, community. Council adopted the idea of two requests to the district. It was put into letter form and delivered to the district.
 - Requested a moratorium on changes in athletics while we did a rebuilding program. Six months was not enough time. We did not hear back on this request, but in discussions with Charlene Williams ("Senior Director" at PPS and Curtis' "boss"), we might hear something at the end of the football season. Hopefully we will hear soon. It's a reasonable request.
 - The other request was that Benson be more involved in the student application process. Jon Issacs and Judy Brennan came and met with the council in October and are talking about changes. As of Nov 15th, Benson had 895 students. We had 275 for Freshman and 20 slots for Sophomore. 13 slots were filled. We had around 400 applicants. 275 slots were filled by 'lottery' selection. 65 applicants did not show up for registration, so the district contacted 100 on the wait list to fill slots, but it was so close to start of school they had already committed to other schools. This was distressing to everyone.

- Suggestions: find ways to get a sense if they are committed. If middle schoolers are already involved in Benson pathway - shown interest in technical things. That would carry weight. There are two forecasting nights after the lottery. If students don't come to one of them, they would be dropped, and the wait list would be activated. You have until Sept 15th to show up and register, so this would be a big help. In Sept it's too late for the wait list, because people committed to other schools.
- Benson has information night in the fall to provide 8th graders with info. Nov 18th is ours this year (tomorrow). During Feb, there are two shadow days where 8th graders get tours through the school. This is a great opportunity.
- On the application there would be an opportunity to check boxes on what you attended. It would lend weight.
- MB: teacher recommendations or essay?
- DB: it wasn't discussed.
- RJ: Any consideration for giving preference to legacy?
- DB: not discussed
- RJ: To me that is very important.
- DB: I will take that back to the council.
- RJ: It's not a lottery, it's a managed selection process.
- DB: Very happy that the district is working with us on this. Last year a balancer they introduced was that more slots would go to under-represented neighborhoods, to try and keep too many coming out of the same neighborhood school.
- RJ: The district may want to offer the opportunity to kids in other areas, but that doesn't mean they will take it.
- DB: that was evident in what happened this year. we recommended to Curtis that he follow the 5 year plan. He has come to endorse it in the last two years. That's important to recognize as we get these things we are interested in woven into the plan. It was recommended that a Junior class for computer science be established this Fall, in pursuit of creating a major for computer science. This would round out the design program. We are also looking toward creating engineering major. We're looking for advisers and business partners. The downside is that as you create a new class and majors, you have to find a teacher, and it has to be from the existing pool. Teachers are allocated based on number of students.
- RJ: What does the 5 year plan say about number of students?
- DB: No specific numbers. The catch is that CTE classes are 15 students per teacher. But teachers are allocated based on academic ratios. So we need more teachers and money at a CTE school. This is a difficult position to be in. We can't grow our way out of the teacher crunch. We need to advocate this understanding.
- RJ: There's a movement afoot to measure graduation rates in 5 years. Schools that graduate kids on time, you've saved money. This could be how we get extra funding.
- RJ: Hoping for 100 more students (enrollment).
- DB: We should know by Christmas.

- Foundation:
 - KB: Did we get approval on Foundation?
 - RJ: Need to file form, Financial Year over in October.
 - MB reminded RJ that people interested in the Foundation still need to meet about Marketing materials.
- MB left the meeting.
- Guest Kathleen, School Counselor Intern, spoke:
 - Pre and post surveys showed that students understood the college application process better after the workshop. (They took demographic info. She had charts she was looking at. Gave some data). 86% of Benson students want to go to college. Benson has a high college enrollment rate. Most of the kids had neither parent who graduated from college.
 - She is getting her Masters in school counseling and is at Benson for the entire year. Most of the time she works with Juniors at risk to not graduate. This is her big project. Counselors use a district supported program called Naviance (spelling?). It gives information back to the school regarding grads, what schools and scholarships they apply for and receive. The students have to use it as well for it to work. Some schools require use of this program in order for students to receive the letters of recommendation and transcripts. It gives stats for schools and students to see what grades and test scores are accepted by which colleges.
 - College Application Week is a national initiative. There are not a lot of guidelines for implementation. At Benson, the counselors went to English classes and talked about it. The English teachers then assigned an application essay to the students. Then the counselors pulled entire classes to go through the process. They had at least 4 volunteers per class. Student participation was voluntary. About 90% of the seniors participated. The counselors met with the kids as Juniors and then as Seniors. The process is similar to job applications. It gives kids experience with filling out those types of forms.
 - RJ: We're hoping for summer school at Benson, like the Saturday Academy, but offering week-long classes. The older staff are resistant, the younger ones are more open. He would like someone to do a week-long class in Aviation. He's meeting with Curtis to see if that could happen.
RJ: Construction. Charlie Hales wants smaller houses. Use those three lots and maybe also work with Wilson, who also has a building program. Let's use summer to engage more kids throughout the city. Benson is open during the summer, so we shouldn't see extra janitor costs.
- Archive project:
 - RE: We need to find out if our stuff has been moved and if so, where it is.
- DB: Would like to have Curtis come to a meeting and share his vision. He could let us know how we can support him. Also see if he could share what he learned from the conference he went to.
- RJ: Thinking about hosting a meet and greet at wine place in Vancouver on a Saturday in December.
- RJ: Our next meeting is December 8th.

OLD BUSINESS – things to keep in mind

- Benson 5 year plan.
- Who do we talk to at the awards ceremony about getting time to address students about the alumni association?
- Plan for merchandise?
- ‘Pathways to Manufacturing’ that is managed by Impact NW. Currently Vigors and Daimler participate in the program with Franklin and Centennial students.
- Points West does financial seminars in the community and would be willing to come to Benson and talk to students. This idea needs to be followed up with Principal Wilson.

Respectfully Submitted,

Maj Britt (Max) Baker
Secretary
BPHS Alumni Association