

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



Date: October 15, 2013
Starting Time: 5:30 pm Ending Time: 7:30 pm
Benson Library

ATTENDEES:

Guests Roger Edwards, class of 1963; Curtis Wilson, Benson Principal; Franklin Johnson class of 64, Engineering Major; Chuck's wife Patricia.

Max Baker (MB), Neal Galash (NG), Chuck Heil (CH), Don Wear (DW), Dick Spies (DS), Dale Bajema (DB)

MINUTES:

- Curtis Wilson spoke:
 - Three main areas of focus:
 - CTE
 - Enrollment Cap
 - Sports
 - getting parents together who's focus is sports in order to get all the information needed to fight the three teams proposal.
 - Grant, Lincoln, Franklin are the 6A schools.
 - PPS Athletic Director Marshall Haskins believes it will be a scheduling nightmare to schedule more games for the freshman teams.
 - Franklin: This is a credibility issue, with only a few teams being able to compete.
 - Don: Why are we trying to keep sports at all the small schools? Shouldn't they be focusing on closing a school?
 - Curtis: numbers are going to be exploding in 5 or 6 years. This is why they are redesigning Grant - more kids than expected.
 - When they start scheduling in the spring this will come to a head.
 - Discussion of getting a booster club started: Don explained the recent attempt to start a Booster club failed because there were too few parents with too little experience trying to get it going. Curtis said he can bring some Grant Boosters in to help train new people. He will schedule something.
 - Curtis is also concerned about not having games at Buckman field. All agreed that would be great.
 - Site council and PTSA 3rd Tuesday.
- Minutes: Previous minutes were discussed. NG moved we accept the minutes as amended and the motion passed.
- Treasurer's report and membership report deferred to next meeting.
 - CH: have we ever thought about a life membership?

- DB: we might like to have a small group think about membership drive ideas. Membership committee.
- NG: some of the Kenton Station people are pretty regular and might be interested in being on a committee. He will bounce the idea to them. Another thought about Athletics - at the homecoming game or whatever, can we get some past players out to be recognized? Good Booster club activity. Some of the guys that go to Kenton Station are former sports players.
- Franklin: Bill Ranta would be great to get to work on that. He's got great connections with past athletes and coaches. Might head up that effort.
- CH: Can we make the hall of fame honorary members of the alumni association?
- Franklin and Dick though a small fee for lifetime member.
- Max: I think it's a good idea, we should bring this up again.
- PTSA: CH:
 - Met on September 24th. Haven't heard they are meeting tonight. There were about 12 parents there in addition to Curtis Wilson who talked. David Champion, Sons of Norway was there as well as some Benson staff. Election of officers took place. Kristin Knight-Chamblis is the President. She's a go-getter. Needs support. VP is still vacant, mostly new people. Treasurer still vacant. Doug Wells' wife was there. He might be secretary. Web page manager and volunteer coordinator Kristi Schutster. No next meeting date. We need some energy.
- Grant application update: RJ's been working on it, shared info with Dick and Dale about committees that would need to be set up if the district gets it. Deadline is next week. Dick sent out requests to people about what they are willing to commit. Letters of support should be addressed to Carole Smith.
- Max retired at 6:30PM.
- There was a discussion of the SB498 Grant.
- DS reported long term planning activities:
 - He will be attending a meeting with Lincoln HS on October 21.
 - He has met with PSU Dean of Architecture to discuss relationship with Benson.
 - He has talked with Kyle Anderson about involving Benson students in Lloyd District project.
- DB reported that the 5 year plan work group will meet to revise plan and hopes final version will be completed by end of November.
- It was reported that 238 out of 250 applicants enrolled at beginning of school and 5 or 6 more have enrolled since for a total enrollment of 840. Benson has asked for 140 more for next year, but expects a possibility of 40.
- Discussion of picnic.
 - Have it at Benson, some other Portland location, separate the community picnic from the alumni picnic.
 - RJ appointed CH to lead a committee to deal with this issue in more depth. NG, MB (assuming she is willing) and DW to assist.
- Next meeting will be November 4th.

OLD BUSINESS

- Bylaws amended from Aug 2013 meeting re moving annual meeting?
- What to do with postcards from Tech Show?
- Did we get the letter from Dale Lawrence Jensen (1945 graduate) up on the website?
- How can we support Curtis Wilson's goals:
 - Five year plan for Benson. With limiting funding, how can we continue to build the school?
 - Instruction, community, growth.
 - partnerships, community, students and family
 - growth: growing numbers, growing programs.
 - Making the connection between career and college.
 - Growing in the relevancy, changing instruction to fit industry.
- Committee for lawn mowing? Schedule and duties.
- Can we get a video for PR for the new construction design class?
- Formalize Benson tours for industry and others. Each room to have a student ambassador? RJ to talk to Curtis. Kathy Skatch is the communications teacher.
- RJ to follow up with Curtis about \$250 matching travel funds for kids to take the train to Kfalls for OIT open house.
- RJ to set up a meeting with the Labor Commissioner and DW about rules that would apply to Benson students trying to get internships.
- Interview Miranda Ryan, jobs coordinator, and put it up on the website? Video? Student project? CH will talk to Kathy Skatch about having students do that kind of thing, getting us the video to post on the website.
- Connie is working on marketing materials for the Foundation.
 - Who are we and what are our intentions? Trifold.
 - Curtis Wilson can have it on his desk - we can all have it to carry it around and hand out.
 - We need to put some things on the website also.
- We need two "Stay tuned for opportunities to participate." letters:
 - Portland Business community - businesses that have indicated interest in Benson.
 - Alumni.
 - We might be able to use some senior students in English or Communications to try and create the documents. A senior project?
- Can we pursue more one on one meetings with school board members?
 - CTE programs require more staffing - if you want us to be 850 kids, that's fine but we need more staff - not staffing at a conventional high school level. 5-18 students in a class for CTE is what is needed. Now it's 25-30.
 - Is Curtis going to push for nationwide searches for CTE staff?
 - We need to write the basic requirements for getting TSPC licensure. Basically about 18 hours schooling, and probably some hours of on the job training. You have 3 years to do it, and get funds to cover 6 hours per year.

- CTE enhances and promotes academic the core: student see algebra, pre-calculus, writing and reading being used in CTE classes.
- 100 year celebration: September 2017:
 - What is the district doing? What is the school doing? What are we doing?
 - Good opportunity for publicity - community, Simon Benson etc. CH: There aren't many other HS that have the community connection.
 - Get the grandkids involved: Chet and Darcy.
 - JS: Can we cast a new bubbler? Original molds somewhere? RJ will send a note to Carol.
 - CH: The College I went to just celebrated the 100 year anniversary. DVD narrative. (Reed) He will try and get ahold of it - very interesting and informative.
 - Oregonian retrospective?
- Plans to communicate with students:
 - Utilize KBPS.
 - Can we get info into PTSA newsletters to parents? - end of year one would be great: don't lose contact, sign up now.
 - Could we even enter the classrooms in the last month of school? or pep rally to promote it, even maybe collecting email addresses.
 - Can we get senior class president to come to our meetings?
 - How do we talk to the lower classes?
 - Helping with student registration is a good start.
 - Can we get a few minutes in front of a pep rally?
 - Older generation had more insecurity about our personal information. This generation is more open - Facebook, etc. They will be more likely to provide us their email addresses etc.
 - Make sure the email address and website is at the bottom of the newspaper, principal's letter. etc.
- Band ideas:
 - Is Curtis interested in getting a music program going? Who will meet with her to talk about what they can do to get more student involvement?
 - Band information needs to be in the welcome packet for next year:
 - Should we be a band club? Spanish teacher adviser. This may solve contacting the kids issue for reminders about practices, etc,
 - What information: meeting times and place, possible events
 - JP: also could record practice tapes.
 - JP: would the club status give us access to district instruments or music stands? Should check.
 - Give cheerleaders a tape and words for Benson Fight song, so they can learn a routine.
 - Need a base drum.
- We need a plan for collecting info about alumni job skills/employers, as a way to find new business partners for Benson:
 - DB and JP to meet on ideas to build out the alumni DB on skills and employers. DS: try and hook up with advisory boards for the CTE programs, which exist but are ad hoc. Graphics instructor said she had the advisory board

but she was possessive about it. DS: If we go through Carol, then we could act as intermediaries.

- Langley associates is property management group for properties in the Lloyd district. Dick has convinced them there is a strong relationship between what happens at Benson and their properties. They are excited about being involved, and can be a link to their tenants - other partners.
 - PGE is already helping with the technical drawing class curriculum.
- We need a plan for communication to talk with political figures at all levels: mayor, county, state. Lay out our vision of mixed use development and business partnerships.
 - Can we get the new Mayor interested in Benson?
 - Can we get industry to write a letter to the school board campaign?
- How can we make our board more diverse?
- How can we get Benson staff that are alumni involved with the board?
- Memorabilia: If the bond measure passes, a room or plan for what to do with this stuff should be part of that planning.
 - RJ: Senior projects - building display cases now to peak people's interest for long term plan.
- Need help coordinating PR releases to the Portland Tribune, Willamette Week and the Oregonian about what is currently going on at Benson.
 - JS met with a class of 2012 transfer student, who said he transferred out because they lost the architecture program. Said he would be interested in telling his story of missed opportunities. He was doing an office tour.
- Opportunities for alums to help:
 - Counselling center: volunteer to help kids with scholarship applications and essays, etc.
 - JS – There is a health Corps program funded by Dr. Oz. This is the 2nd year. Coordinator on campus is doing things to keep kids healthy, does classroom stretching, yoga during study hall, etc. She could use more support. Materials, time, garden.
 - JP – does internship framework exist? Dale: PWA does the internships. They present a framework with commitments to businesses, so they can evaluate it annually.
- Ideas of alumni support:
 - Ben Fleske OMSI – Josh to contact
 - OSU Extension – 4H support – Rob to contact
 - NASA space camp scholarship for two students? Max to investigate
- Benson and the State of Oregon received the sustainable program grant and they've been working on the study for two years but haven't finalized it. Dale to contact Tom Thompson with the Oregon State Department of Education and Reese Lord, who was working for the Mayor but is now at Systems, a private group of Educational Consultants.
 - 7/2012: Sustainable program grant: DS says Tom Thompson still working on it. Still needs to be finished.
- We need to formalize the role of PTSA liaison.

- Once the Foundation has 501C3 status:
 - we could ask that it be listed as a flight miles donation option at various airline websites.
 - instrument and cash donations to the band will be tax deductible
 - we can consider going for the Bill and Melinda Gates grants
 - we could consider moving from the district funding the Benson house construction to the Foundation, that way profits from sale would be reinvested in the school itself.
- RJ: thoughts to recruit Alumni association members:
 - Dig deeper into matches of people with majors. Mission based approach to recruiting.
 - Engage with KBPS about getting alumni association information out there.
- Outreach and Partnerships - RJ
 - OSU not reaching back yet.
 - U of O is waiting on the results of their program with Jefferson.

Next meetings at Benson Library:

Because the next two 2nd Mondays are Federal holidays, proposed is:

Mon Oct 7th, Mon Nov 4th.

Respectfully Submitted,

Maj Britt (Max) Baker
Secretary
BPHS Alumni Association