

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



Date: Aug 12, 2013  
Starting Time: 5:29 pm Ending Time: 7:13 pm  
McKenzie

**ATTENDEES:**

Mike Landstrom (ML), Rob Johns (RJ), Ken Bakke (KB), Josh Piper (JP), Joanne Stainbrook (JS), Chuck Heil (CH), Don Wear (DW), Wayne De Vore (WD), Dick Spies (DS), Max Baker (MB), guest: Roger Edwards class of 1963. Bill Kelley, class of 82.

**MINUTES:**

- Membership: JP: nothing has changed in terms of numbers, so total is 90.
- Nothing new on website or scholarship.
- Finance: KB: Balance is still 3185.95. We received two checks for \$24 from the same lady. He will check back with her.
- PTSA update:
  - Chuck: There were no meetings over the summer. There was a letter forwarded by Bob Brown from Roi San about volunteers for registration on the 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>. Chuck asked about special plans for the Freshmen (centennial class) and Roi San didn't know of any. Chuck is determined to make something happen.
  - Rob: I connected to two parents of Freshmen. Doug Wells and \_\_\_\_\_. Paul Arnold is on the city club educational committee. I told them we need advocates and people active on the PTSA and introduced them to Sue Hargraves.
  - Chuck: She is out of town often. Bob Brown may end up being the one to talk to.
  - Rob: We are trying to get a fall cleanup going.
  - Chuck: Carol was the one calling the maintenance guy and thanking him for all his work and that was getting him out to Benson. Chuck and Ken will level the grass before registration. We need alums to help with Freshman registration particularly. Just having people walk around and talk to parents is good – making connections, promote PTSA and Alumni Assoc.
  - Rob: what can we do as alumni to recognize the class?
  - Chuck will let everyone know what he finds online.
  - Rob – can we promote the fall cleanup at registration? We just need a flyer pushing when and where. I'll talk with one of the parents I know and have them connect with you, Chuck.
- Guest Bill Kelley arrived.
  - Dick: I suggested Bill come today. Class of 82, major: Architectural drawing. Bill and Dick served on a committee for PPS 4 or 5 years ago that was focused on CTE and Benson in many respects. Lots of discussion about where we wanted Benson to go. None of that work went anywhere.

- Bill: That's where they tried to socialize the idea of turning Benson into a 2 year skills center.
- The board members introduced themselves and welcomed Bill.
- Interim principal:
  - Dick: How much can we rely on Trip to help with interim activities?
  - Rob: Don't know. I will ask him who the point person is.
- Picnic preparation:
  - CH moved we purchase a \$50 gift cert restaurant for Carol. Max seconded the motion and the motion passed. Max will get a gift card and card and have them at the picnic.
  - Max went over the picnic sheet with responsibilities.
- Career counseling center – DW:
  - Painting is on hold for electrician and flooring. The cabinets are done. Need to finish the painting in the two back rooms. There are about two more days of painting. Looking at Friday of this week. DW will let everyone know the status. The second day is sometime next week. Right now media event will be focused on when the counseling center is open and running.
- Apprenticeships – DW:
  - There are two people doing apprenticeship outreach with unions over the past two years. Miranda, at Benson and Kevin at PWA. 701 is doing outreach - have a new bulletin and want to connect with high schools. DW is working with Donna and Charlie, Brad Avakian's people. Would like to get business people together. Would like to do a media event covering the meeting where the unions and business and government leaders talk about what they need. Tentatively in the last two weeks in September.
  - RJ: Let's concentrate on that after school starts; contact the PR person at PPS. Let's make sure we all have the same contact list.
  - WD: Rich Webber is in contact with many of the unions also, so make sure to connect with him. Send any union contacts to Rich.
  - Rob: when you contact Rich, CC Miranda. That's her job.
- Painting the band room – DW
  - It's a big project. Think it would be a great opportunity during the school year: alumni and students. Will start thinking of that after school starts.
- Change of principal:
  - DS: Along with long term development committee: some efforts on hold because of the principal change. We need to gather names now. Meet Monday August 19th at 5PM to pool resources.
  - RJ: that's the idea of the joint database/spreadsheet. We tentatively had a meeting for joint Benson/Lincoln long term development committee the 22nd, but not sure that's going to happen now - will try and get Trip to participate.
  - DS: Principal selection process - confidentiality agreement was signed, so can't say anything specific. Can say that at the input meeting, we talked about whether we would get an interim or long term superstar. It was a recommendation to search for someone that would be a powerful leader that would move Benson into the future. I made the comment at that meeting that it was unlikely we would be able to find someone of that caliber in the short

term - I still feel that way. I encouraged the district to think about it and take an aggressive role in finding the right person. In our business, if we're looking for someone to take on a key position, we go searching for that person. My feeling is that the district is going to make a decision quickly. Chuck agrees. The principal selection is crucial to maintaining the momentum. I continue to be serious about the fact that in the next few months we're starting the master planning for the school, and we need someone to spearhead that 5 year process.

- DW - The technical side of the school was where I excelled. I struggled with the academics. Carol was successful in bringing the academics into the Technical side. We need a principal that understands those two types of thinkers. This is why Benson slipped so much before 2010.
- DS: What you described is a skill set we need to have success. Those are things that are being considered. The questions asked during interviews were very good. They did say they opened the job to external candidates, but they did no research or search for people. Candidates were self-identified from within the system. There were 10 people on the committee including three Benson staffers.
- SB498 grant process:
  - RJ: I met with people. There is a lot of pressure on PPS to participate. I proposed my ideas to Jeanie. If there's not a district-wide approach, we won't get anywhere. It can't be just Benson. There is much more discussion about CTE, but there is no comprehensive plan. We have industry partners that will step up. There is positive stuff happening, but how do we get the district to figure out what they want to do?
  - DS: This is where the long term planning committee should come in. If we have the meeting on the 22nd, it would be good for you to participate.
  - RJ: Susan Jordan is the grant writer that will be assigned to do this. We need an academic head also. There are certain protocols within PPS that I am trying to understand. We had a walkthrough at PCC; we have Concordia, and OIT. The PTU President, Jeanie, thinks we should take CTE out of public schools. Many people spend hours on thinking about certifications and talking about it, but there is not a lot done. The grant is more organized, there's more information, there's more time to respond. We just have to get all the parties to talk. It has to go down into middle school also. And how do we structure it so Benson does not become a skill center?
  - CH: And someone has to take responsibility for making the decisions.
  - RJ: Everyone is asking if PPS is going to apply for the grant. Trip is convinced if we don't we're screwing up. I am pushing.
  - DW: Still want to get instructor training into the grant. CTE instructor apprenticeship program.
  - RJ: That is definitely part of it.
- Previous minutes:
  - Max passed a few around. Small revisions supplied by JS. Chuck moved to accept, Ken seconded. Motion passed. Max will email the revised minutes.
- Other business:

- CH: Has anyone caught Mike Row? He has some interesting things to say about work. Propose looking at his website. The practicality and importance of work vs. education. People need to be trained to work. He's the one that does 'dirty jobs'.
  - DS: Benson is not just a skill center - a skill center teaches kids how to work. But it's deeper - gives a student more of an ability to do critical thinking.
- Who knows what will happen this coming year?
  - CH: Carol had been given permission to restart the music program this coming year. My feeling is that Benson has been short in the academics. We can't short the kids that are going on to college. Benson did not prepare me for college. We need to also look at that aspect.
  - DS: We need music and art. The art program was a game changer for me. I use those techniques all the time. Now we have no excuse for not having a program that is integrated into CTE.
  - CH: I wonder how much we are going to be able to help with that. The new principal will have to take a leadership role.
  - RJ: We know that the upper 40% find their way. What are you doing for the middle? If you involve more post-secondary education in high school it will benefit everyone. Where are you going to put your resources? Can Benson do it or can you do it with a connection to PCC etc.
  - CH: Just need some attention to arts and academics.
  - WD: Carol had talked about trying to resurrect the band program, but we heard nothing more about it.
  - CH: Carol said Benson got 8 or 9 FTE. 1 to do building construction. One was a part FTE for 'music'. That's all I heard.
  - KB: She told me 1 for art too.
  - CH: So the question is, where is it now that the principal crack is open? Carol will do what she can, the question is how much can she do? DB did a fine assessment of the situation in an email. DB had met with Carol and forwarded some information to CH. CH thinks Carol is working within a box. She has to finish Benson and start Grant. We don't know where anything is - it is all unresolved. Roi San doesn't seem to know or isn't communicating.
  - DS - my sense is that Carol will be limited in the amount of time she can spend, but there is an opportunity for dialog with whomever takes over. I think our group will be called upon to offer insight in the direction Benson will take. It's important for us to stay active.
  - RJ: As Carol said at OIT - we're on our own, people. We have to plug in where we can.
  - CH: we have to be flexible and articulate in what we can offer. We are in place and fairly well known.
  - DS: the work with gathering of partners is real. We have money to fund planning. I've brought it up several times to Trip and at no time did I get language that it ISN'T going to happen.

- RJ: he's conceded that kids are losing opportunities because of the cap. He's aware.
- CH: how can we translate that awareness into commitment and action?
- RJ: whatever we can do to reach out to the school board members is good. Let's keep that in mind. We've made a lot of noise through the process. If you are quiet, nothing will happen.
- DS: this fall is critical. The career counseling center, the long term development committee, the bond. We're setting the stage for next year's planning money, building partnerships.
- DW: Thursday Channel 2 had local heros segment on Amy Henry. I'll send it to Josh.
- RJ: I also sent an email to the PPS PR people about including Polytechnic when referring to Benson Polytechnic High School.
- CH: I think how we approach the new principal as friends and facilitators is key. Dale has worked hard to stay engaged in Site council. We need to plan now how we are doing our approach. The new principal will have no idea what they are in for and may not be willing or able to have open dialog with us.
- KB: we took Carol to dinner, and that was a good experience.
- RJ: we'll set that up.
- DW - Should I contact Trip? Rob - you are welcome to contact him. Just CC us.
- Online contacts: RJ
  - Asked Lisa Wilke to do this. She loaded up the business cards that Carol had. This is a google spreadsheet that everyone can update.
  - JP: it's like an excel spreadsheet you load through your web browser. Once we have is consolidated, we'll send out the link. It will load the spreadsheet on your screen and you can edit. We can always revert it, so there should be no fear about editing.
  - DS: Can it be ready for the 19th? Josh - yes. It's in the cloud. Two people can be editing it at the same time.
  - Rob: we need notes on the side about who contacted who when, what talked about etc. Can identify who to contact for what purpose.
- Foundation Status – RJ:
  - KB: What is the status on 501C3?
  - RJ: I talked to some accountants. They said it is not unusual to take over a year.
- Final comments:
  - RJ: There is a lot of discussion about Benson. Still talking about alleviating the cap, transfers, etc. If we make it an important enough school for the city, then the cap becomes moot.
  - CH: can you eliminate the cap and avoid the idea of a skill center?
  - RJ: it's a fine line. As long as it doesn't dominate, can we do some sharing with other schools?
  - CH: I'm fine with that but Benson needs to be a comprehensive high school.

- RJ: right now there is good open dialog. Look for online contacts piece from Josh. We're using them for the business meeting planning, counselor center partner planning, who our advocates are etc.
- Meeting adjourned at 7:13PM.

## 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 Carol'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 Carol. Kathy Skatch is the communications teacher.
- RJ to follow up with Carol 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.
  - Carol can have it on her 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.
  - Carol is also 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.
  - Video reader board around the school, where kids could see announcements and information. Carol seems very supportive of that idea. We might be helpful in that area and get some promotion.
- Band ideas:
  - Carol is 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 meeting at Benson Library:  
September 9th, 5:30PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Maj Britt (Max) Baker  
Secretary  
BPHS Alumni Association