

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



Date: Feb 9th, 2012

Starting Time: 5:30 pm Ending Time: 7:30 pm

ATTENDEES:

Josh Piper (JP), Joanne Stainbrook (JS), Wayne Devore (WD), Max Baker (MB), Neal Galash (NG), Chuck Heil (CH), Ken Bakke (KB), Dick Spies (DS) Dale Bajema (DB), Susan Hargrave of the PTSA

MI NUTES:

- Dale reported on the Long Term Development and Planning (LTDP) meeting with Carol Campbell:
 1. Carol committed to CTE and public education. She is open to Grants and ideas about a future public charter school. She talked about “The New Benson”.
 2. Quiet, positive changes are already occurring. Brett Anderson is clearing a bay for alternative fuels, for instance.
 3. They are talking about bringing back a basic drafting class next year. They also want computer science. It has the potential to be tricky with naming and curriculum.
 4. Carol is very excited about the Benson House and the need for more publicity.
 5. Doctoral students are visiting CTE schools. Nationally CTE is way behind where Benson is. One school is charging \$35 a person for tours once a week, This may be an idea we can adopt.
 6. Portland Workforce Alliance (PWA) is a non-profit with their office in the space KBPS used to be. They develop opportunities for high school students around the state to make connections with industry, focusing on youth apprenticeship programs. They host career and shadow days. We are going to try and highlight their events and programs that affect Benson students. Kevin, Dale and Josh to meet.
- Rob, Dale, and Carol met:
 1. Discussed opportunities to develop connections between Benson and OSU and the Alumni Association sponsoring a Development Foundation.
 2. The communication department made a video for 8th graders that said – if you like what you see in this video, apply! As of this morning there have been 107 applications turned in. We would like about 500.
 3. There were 240 slots for Freshmen last year, this year Carol has already talked the district into 260. She would like a 1100 student body.
 4. Right now there is a shortage of CTE money. Three years ago, \$160,000. This year about \$52,000 is available.
 5. Roosevelt goes hard after grants, which go directly to the schools that win them. If money is donated, 30% goes to the district. Carol's official five year plan is on the back burner, but the principals and guidelines she is focusing on are clear and she is looking for opportunities to advance to those goals. Ask

the PTSA – do they donate to the school? Does some of their money go to the district?

- Note on our Alumni organization – We are more focused on supporting the schools and less focused on the social aspect of keeping alumni in touch with each other, though we do have some social events. This is one of our strengths and a way we support the community. We need to pick some opportunities to help the school – just a few – and involve the teachers. However, we can't be too pushy. We need to follow through and complete projects, so we have a track record of really helping the school.
- Meeting Minutes from January 11th, 2012 meeting were approved as corrected. MB will email out the final corrected minutes.
- Treasurer (KB) reported \$3254.44 and \$192.95 in the PayPal account. Total= \$3447.39
- Membership
 1. Membership is up from 29 to 41.
 2. The main mailing is going out tomorrow. 230 membership renewal letters to anyone who has been a member in the past. 2189 postcards should arrive about 2 days before Tech Show. The amount of cards was paired down by location to a 15 mile core from the school. About 3500 out of the 6000 addresses. These are people that have never been contacted.
- PTSA report - Susan
 1. They are building the group and community. They positively promote Benson.
 2. They are selling the blue and orange knit Benson scarves.
 3. They are building bridges with the David Champion from the Norse Hall. Norse Hall fundraiser is selling tickets to the March 18th Winterhawks game at \$25 a piece. The proceeds are split between Benson, Buckman and DiVinci.
 4. Principal Campbell has been attending their meetings. The 5 year plan isn't quite ready to go to the District yet. She has five groups of teachers on committees.
 5. They are trying to hook into the Kerns neighborhood cleanup April 21st to build on community.
 6. They stressed this is their learning year.
 7. They are working on their website and promoting the Alumni pep band.
- Band report - Wayne
 1. Practice is Tuesdays 6 – 7:30ish.
 2. The band has played about 4 games with 3 or 4 band members at each. At the last one they played the national anthem, which went fairly well.
 3. Students have stopped attending practices.
 4. Wayne will ask Carol if she can include the band info with the incoming student packets.
 5. The band will play at 8PM both nights in the alumni room at Tech Show.
 6. Oregonsports.com, and online sports magazine, had a reported at the last game. He did an interview with some video and took pictures. Josh will get the link on the website.
 7. May change practice day/time after the men's basketball finals.

8. The band will discuss how to better welcome and tutor those less experienced players.
 9. Next rehearsals are at 7PM except Feb 14th.
- Rock Solid church – Dale contacted Jesse Richard, a former substitute teacher at Benson. They are playing phone tag. Jesse left a message that they will have approximately 100 people available for a cleanup day. Dale left a message saying the alumni association would be happy to join them.
 - Scholarship
 1. There is no new money. We received \$1225.00 via mail and \$335.00 via Paypal from the December mailing. Letters only went out to past donors.
 - Benson House
 1. Kids are hoping to wrap up the 1st house after Tech Show. If we can help coordinate the publicity etc. we could use it for a showcase to highlight the Development Foundation at the end of the spring. School board, media, etc.
 2. They are going after Energy Star ratings to pitch the sustainability program at Benson.
 3. Dale contacted Tom Thompson with the Oregon State Department of Education: 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. It can't just end up a doc on a shelf! We need to put it into effect, eventually as part of the Benson curriculum. He will put in another call to Reese Lord, who was working for the Mayor but is now at Systems, a private group of Educational Consultants.
 4. Dick is on the long term maintenance committee for the school district also. They have been putting together recommendations for the city about the facilities. The last three sessions they have been talking about Benson and making community industry connections.
 - Creation of the Benson Development Fund – Rob
 1. OSU wants a larger footprint in Portland and the Engineering connection matches well. There are 2 science scholarships. Rob needs to connect with the Benson science teachers.
 2. Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation has a grand we could go after. Kyle Cold at OSU Extension could help us write the grant and submit it.
 3. Science Connections – having Benson students visit some nights and days at OSU for programs. Pam Doles on the board – program for steps into college for targeted individuals.
 4. We need to come up with a solution and then say to the district – this is what we are going for. We can't wait for the district to come up with solutions or it will never happen.
 5. Rob knows an attorney that works with a similar group and would like to investigate what it would take. The CTE would be the focus of the foundation. Rob will pursue this.
 - Events:
 1. Tech Show - Max
 - ▲ Ken to handle punch.
 - ▲ Neal to handle the coffee and cookies.

- ▲ Max to handle the balloons, helium, shift schedules and general setup/takedown, and trivia prize coordination.
 - ▲ Tammy said the yearbooks should arrive about 5PM.
 - ▲ Josh will handle the electronics.
 - ▲ Joanne to handle the decade pictures for the yearbook tables.
 - ▲ Wayne to handle the materials for the band table.
 - ▲ Nhi to handle the trivia quiz. Max hasn't heard from her, and will handle it if necessary.
 - ▲ Dale to create a newsletter to have at the Tech Show.
 - ▲ Josh moved to approve \$400 to spend for tech show if necessary. Rob seconded. Motion passed. Each person will submit their own receipts as necessary.
 - ▲ Tammy provided templates for board member name tags, but there isn't time to get them made up and laminated before Tech Show. Max will get these done for the picnic.
 - ▲ Tammy will not make it to Tech Show this year.
2. Picnic:
1. Neal had provided information on other venues for the picnic.
 2. Dale had provided information about how much it would cost to hold it at the school.
 3. It was decided to have it this year again at Blue Lake Park. Max will check if August 4th is available (sites 18A and B) and will let the board know in time to have materials printed for the tech show.
- Picking projects to help the school:
 1. Ray is interested in helping the communications department with PR video projects.
 2. Rob will be working on the Foundation and OSU connections.
 3. The rest of us will help with those efforts and Benson House publicity.
 - Shadow Days
 1. Potential 8th graders came to Benson 8AM – 11AM on Feb 7th and 8th to shadow students and learn more about Benson. Max was there to help both days. It seemed like a good turnout of students and that there was real interest. However, the touring groups were huge, so there was little individualized attention given. All the school staff involved were new to the process this year. They were eager to learn and try different things next year.
 - It was agreed to have board meetings on 2nd Thursdays.
 - There will be an Executive Board meeting at the Benson library room on Feb 29th from 5:30-6:30PM.
 - The next meeting will be March 15th from 5:30-7:30PM.

OLD BUSINESS

- Ray to help coordinate PR releases to the Portland Tribune, Willamette Week and the Oregonian about what is currently going on at Benson?
- The scholarship fund is currently called the “Reunion Scholarship Fund”. Josh will find out what is involved in changing the name of the fund.

- Joanne will check into donating miles for kids that need to travel to Skills USA competitions.
- Max will provide PDFs of the minutes she has done to Josh.
- Reminder: Band will be marching in the May 17th Norse hall parade.

Respectfully Submitted,

Maj Britt (Max) Baker
Secretary
BPHS Alumni Association