

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

Date: Thursday, February 10, 2011
Starting Time: 5:35pm Ending Time: 7:30pm
Location: Benson Library Classroom

ATTENDEES:

Dale Bajema (DB), Ken Bakke (KB), Neil Galash (NG), Maj Britt Johnson (MJ), Tammy Hite (TH), and Joanne Stainbrook (JS)

Guest: Ben Unger from Portlanders for Schools

MINUTES:

Note: Items may not be in the exact order in which they were discussed. If any corrections or additions need to be made, please forward them to Tammy Hite.

- Ben Unger from Portlanders for Schools spoke to the BOD regarding the upcoming bond measure and levy increase to support Portland Public Schools.
 - \$540 Million to replace or repair current school buildings
 - ♦ The average age of the PPS school buildings is 65-years.
 - ♦ Portland is one of the only districts in Oregon that does NOT have a current bond for school building improvements and maintenance. Nor does the district receive assistance from the city.
 - ♦ This bond would be renewed every 6-years to fund upcoming phases of the improvements over the next 30-years.
 - ♦ The average age of the PPS school buildings is 65-years.
 - Most schools are still being heated with inefficient boiler systems that are potential fire hazards.
 - ♦ Jefferson, Roosevelt and Cleveland will be rebuilt/remodeled and design work for Lincoln will occur in the first phase of the bond.
 - Some discussion about why Jefferson is to be rebuilt since it will no longer be a community high school and whether or not some of the property could be sold to PCC for future expansion.
 - ♦ Improvements to all schools to occur in first phase.
 - Benson would see improvements to updates to classroom technologies, equipment and spaces, signage, walkways, lighting, upgrades to fire alarm systems, address safety to stage rigging and lighting, add mobile teaching technologies school wide, increase ADA accessibility and install managed access systems as school entrances. (Handout from PPS on *Central Eastside Portland* school improvements. See PPS website.)
 - Levy increase to fund 450-500 teaching positions in the district that are likely to be cut due to less support from the state.
 - www.portlandersforschools.org for more information on the campaign and volunteer opportunities.

- NG reminded the group that our non-profit status may not allow us as a group to be involved in political campaigns.
- Current balance: \$2446.76 no including Paypal.
 - **Action Item:** BOD members need to pay for current year membership fees.
- Events Committee
 - Kenton Stations meetings—NG
 - ♦ 10 people attended the meeting at the end of January.
 - ♦ Next event to occur on February 22nd.
 - Tech Show—TH
 - ♦ Date of show is April 28th and 29th.
 - ♦ Car Show. TH needs someone to volunteer to handle the car show portion on Friday Night including contact with the car clubs, previous participants and sign-in on the night of the show.
 - ♦ TH is looking for suggestions on what we could have in the alumni room to attract people.
 - ♦ TH is putting together a slide show of pictures from yearbooks spanning the past several decades at Benson focusing on special events and CTE education.
 - ♦ TH has ordered the tables, chairs and projector for Tech Show
 - ♦ TH suggested that we charge a fee or donations for cake to help cover the cost.
 - ♦ The school's funding for Tech Show expenses has been cut this year. They do not have the funds for the lawn painting or the bus signs.
 - ♦ We will be selling T-shirts again. Approval for funding to be at March meeting. Chuck will be handling the orders again.
 - ♦ Needing suggestions and volunteers to write articles for the newsletter.
 - August Community Picnic
 - ♦ Date: Saturday, August 13th
 - Since it is the same day as TH class reunion, she will need people to organize the take down.
 - ♦ Location will be at Blue Lake Park unless booked. A smaller site will be reserved to keep people more condensed.
 - Attendance has never been over 100 people.
- **Action Item:** MJ to speak to Josh about the membership postcards/reminders.
- Reunions—How do we get the information from the reunions.
 - Most reunions are now being organized electronically through Facebook and websites so contact info is not necessarily collected.
- Benson Freshman Recruitment
 - The Magnet Night on February 9th, went well. TH estimates that a max of 500 people attended which included parents and prospective students.
 - There seems to be a shift in teacher attitudes since it was learned that Benson would remain open.
 - There is a Benson application this year, but it carries no weight. However, it is an extra step students must complete to be placed into the lottery for one of the 250 open spots.

- Mentorships—Is there a district program that Benson can tap into?
- Blue Ribbon Task Force—The draft report is still needing approval from the school district and the mayor's office.
 - Rumor has it that it will focus primarily on soft skills (being on-time, listening and following instructions, etc.) rather than the hard skills Benson focuses on.
 - ♦ This could translate to less support from the district for the programs.
- LTDC—Statement read by TH from Dick Spies
 - The district remains reluctant to push partnerships and wants to be very much aware of and in control of any conversations with potential partners.
 - ♦ They do realize the potential value.
- Next meeting, Thursday, March 10, 2011, 5:30pm, Benson Library