

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

Date: Thursday, October 14, 2010
Starting Time: 5:30pm Ending Time: 7:30pm
Location: Benson Library Classroom

ATTENDEES:

Dale Bajema (DB), Ken Bakke (KB), Josh Piper (JP), Joanne Stainbrook (JS), Dick Spies (DS), Neal Galash (NG), Nhi Le (NL), Cristopher Locatell (CL) and Tammy Hite (TH).

Guest: Don LaBarre (DL)

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.

- Introductory comments (DB)
 - Benson Site Council recently went through a training course to help define the purpose of the council
 - ♦ The council must consist of administrators, teachers, parents, and outside representation associated with the school.
 - ♦ Cannot be more than 50% teachers
 - ♦ Cannot counter or ignore district policies and mandates, but they do not need to be the primary objectives of the council.
 - ♦ This year's PPS mandate is "Writing is Learning".
 - The current proposal for Benson by PPS is to have a target enrollment of 425 to 850 students, 2 to 3 Career pathways and offer athletics and extra-curricular activities.
- Minutes from July and August meetings were approved. Tammy to add Neal and Don to the attendees for the annual meeting.
- Membership
 - 49 paid members which expire at the end of 2010. 10 members paid through 2011.
 - Currently we have the contact information for approximately 2700 alumni. JP is working on a database that will make it easier to contact people.
 - Need to share with alumni what is at Benson today and what is the future "dream" for the school.
 - **Action Item:** CL to contact the reunion organizers from this year's past events so the contact information can be added to the database.
 - **Action Item:** JP to send CL list of reunion organizers.
- Finance
 - Balance to date: \$1964.90. Pay-pal account: \$431.30
 - DL still hasn't had any success with the IRS.
 - ♦ Out 3-year grace period for filing paperwork for the scholarship program expires this year.
 - ♦ **Action Item:** JS and DL will work on paperwork so it will be ready when we get the information from IRS.

- ♦ **Action Item:** DL to speak to his personal tax person to see what else can be done.
 - JS working to verify that we are listed as a non-profit.
 - **Action Item:** JP to transfer PayPal funds to On-Point account.
 -
- Scholarship
 - The annual fund raising drive is scheduled for November.
 - Last year 200 letters were mailed to people who previously donated funds along with emailing everyone in database and \$2952 was raised.
 - ♦ Previous year letters were sent to everyone we had mailing addresses for and the amount of money raised was about the same.
 - Discussion about method for contacting people this year.
 - ♦ Postcard mailing is cheaper and cards could be designed so they could be used in coming years.
 - ♦ Could include information about upcoming events and the alumni association.
 - ♦ **Action Item:** JP will design the postcard. TH and JS will help out. Will post design when complete.
 - ♦ **Action Item:** TH to contact past winners to get a quote about how the funds helped them.
 - ♦ Might want to consider still sending a letter to the previous donators. It is more personal.
 - Include the new tri-fold.
- Communications
 - JP is about 80% complete on the new website. This will make upkeep easier and minimize confusion between users and actual paid members.
 - ♦ Estimated completion is end of year.
 - ♦ Users will be able to submit content.
- Events
 - Homecoming: KB and NG attended the game. Turnout was light.
 - **Action Item:** NG to organize a social event at Kenton Station to happen before the end of the month.
 - **Action Item:** DB to find out if Tech Show is happening this year and when
 - Things to keep in mind for the future is the car club meetings at Delta Park in the spring and summer.
- Benson Future
 - DS, TH and DB attend the work session on 10/06 at Marshall High School
 - Jefferson is capped at 400 students and will become a focus school. Students will need to apply. Neighborhood students will now attend Roosevelt and Grant.
 - The Blue Ribbon Task Force (BRTF) will be meeting soon.
 - The plan is to have a CTE program in each of the high schools. BRTF will determine what programs the district should support, but not necessarily where they will be. PPS to determine location and will be based on school's current strengths.
 - ♦ David Woods (PPS) stated that "CTE compliments academics...leading to college."
 - ♦ This paradigm could be bad and good for Benson.
 - **Action Item:** TH to send CL the handouts from previous vision meetings held by the LTDC.
 - A Benson Design Team will be created to decide how to implement the future proposed changes from the district. It will consist primarily of the school's site council.

- ♦ PPS program decisions to be made in the spring.
 - Clarification about what the district determines to be a “career cluster” needs to be made.
 - ♦ TH assumes that a “career cluster” or “strand” is what the state has determined to be a group of career related programs. I.E. Industrial Technology includes: Building Construction, Automotive, Electrical, Architecture, Manufacturing, etc.
 - ♦ Communication and Health Occupations fall under different clusters, therefore, depending on the district’s decisions, could be moved to other schools.
 - DS will be attending a Perkins/CTE meeting at PPS next week.
 - Current enrollment at Benson is 985 students with 250 freshman.
 - ♦ Future freshman classes will be around 250 if the enrollment is capped at 850.
 - ♦ Current faculty allotment is based on 1000 students, so future shifting in staff may occur.
 - Entry requirements into Benson are yet to be determined.
 - The Benson Site Council will need to determine what they want Benson to be; tech prep into college or low income to work programs, and how much advanced placement will be offered.
 - DB and TH plan to meet with the current CTE teachers to learn more about their programs and see where the alumni can make contributions.
 - Parents are beginning to put pressure on current administration to be kept better informed about what is happening at the school.
- Future Considerations
 - Continue research into charter schools.
 - ♦ Clackamas Academy of Industrial Sciences recently created inside of Oregon City High School. It is 100% union.
 - Strong partnerships for Benson
 - PPS is basing their decisions on numbers, therefore it is suggested we continue to build the foundation beyond district funds.
 - Need to be on the look-out for new administration that supports the programs and can connect with the industry partners.
 - Will the school continue to have a Tech Pep?
- Next meeting to be Thursday, November 4th in the Benson Library Classroom beginning at 5:30pm.