

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

Date: Thursday, September 9, 2010
Starting Time: 5:40pm 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), Maj Britt Baker (MB), Christopher 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)
 - Suggested Goal for upcoming year: Get committees up and running. This will allow the BOD to meet on a quarterly basis rather than monthly. However, it was suggested to keep meeting monthly through the fall and Benson's future has a direction.
 - DB met with Steve Olzcak (SO)
 - ♦ SO states he is no longer in the loop at the district.
 - ♦ Goals of the Blue Ribbon Committee (BRC) will be to determine what CTE is needed in the district, what CTE programs should be at Benson and Benson's enrollment (which is rumored to be a low number).
 - Nothing established over the summer, but with the new school year started, we should begin to see something.
 - It has not been determined who will be sitting on the BRC. Some phone calls have been made by the district to some industry leaders and college/university representatives.
 - If enrollment number is low, some of the CTE programs will either be cut or moved to other schools.
 - ♦ This year's incoming Freshman was 261 on the first day of school. For the 2009-2010 school year, it was just over 320.
 - ♦ Benson's current total enrollment is 1017 students.
 - ♦ Jefferson is trying to encourage students to stay or come back with help from SEI.
 - ♦ Benson lost 7.5 teachers from last year. Out of 50 teachers in the building, 16 are CTE instructors. 5-years ago, there were 13 alumni faculty, but with retirements, transfers and lay-offs, the number is about 5.
 - ♦ This incoming freshman class appears to have fewer "at risk" students
 - NG commented on how some of the school administrators were missing from registration.
- Finance Committee
 - Current balance is just over \$1900, but a few expenses from the picnic have yet to be subtracted.

- KB and DL are still trying to get information from the IRS about the status of the scholarship fund. The number on the tax account number doesn't match the name on the account; therefore, the IRS will not provide assistance.
 - The scholarship committee has until the end of year to get the appropriate forms filed.
 - **Action Item:** Joanne and Ken are still working on a financial statement.
- August Annual Meeting Recap
 - We seem to have the mechanics of the picnic down.
 - Attendance seems to remain the same despite the marketing at Tech Show, on Facebook and the alumni website.
 - ♦ Lots of "singles". People who come alone hoping to reconnect with others.
 - Provide more activities to engage these people. They often keep to themselves.
 - ♦ **Action Item:** Josh to send out the number of attendees.
 - Consider a small site. The larger site allows people to spread out too much.
 - ♦ Suggest made to have at Buckman field, but discounted due to lack of amenities and facilities.
 - ♦ If the picnic is kept at Blue Lake, there is a sense of stability. (KB)
 - Car show was a draw, but a few number of cars. Less than at Tech Show.
- Homecoming is on Friday, October 1st against Jefferson
 - Is there a possibility of getting discounted tickets.
 - Sale of the tickets does not go back to the school. It goes directly to the district. The schools do get to keep money for concession sales.
 - What is the possibility to begin a Benson Alumni Band to replace the lost school Pep Band?
- At student registration, the PTSA was able to get a few parents to sign-up and NG says that many of the parents are Benson alumni.
- A request has been made by the head cheerleading coach to reactivate a Benson Spirit Club. She would like any help the alumni can provide. She will not be able to head it up herself due to other commitments.
- Shannon and Andrew Scorgie have officially left the Board of Directors due to schedule conflicts. This leaves a total of 3-open positions on the BOD to be filled for 2010-2011 year.
- **Action Item:** Josh to contact the Benson Hall of Fame
- Elections of BOD Officers.
 - Chairman—Dale Bajema
 - Vice Chairman—Neal Galash
 - Treasurer—Ken Bakke
 - Secretary—Tammy Hite
- Committee Assignments
 - Executive Committee: All BOD officers, DS and CL
 - Finance Committee: KB and JS
 - Events: Chair—TH, NL
 - ♦ Shannon and Andrew have offered to assist if time allows.
 - Membership: Chair—CL

- Scholarship: Chair—DL, Co-chair—JP, Bob Hyland
- LTDC: Chair—DS, KA, CH, TH and DB.
- LTDC
 - DS has spoken recently to Sarah Singer with PPS and confirms that the BRC has not been established yet.
 - DS is still on the Perkins / CTE task force
 - We need to establish how we want to move politically.
 - There may be some fear at the district about establishing business partnerships since they can easily “go away.”
- Cathy Skach may be taking charge of the yearbook. She may be a contact person for photos.
- Future events are to be determined. Small social events will be considered.
- Benson is still falling short in the Annual Yearly Progress Report. Most specifically, the African-American males. Amy Slaughter will be needing mentors.
- Testing for the AYP has been moved to 11th grade rather than 10th grade.
- Suggestion made to see what type volunteers are needed at the school.
- Next meeting to be Thursday, October 14th in the Benson Library Classroom beginning at 5:30pm.