

Benson Polytechnic High School Alumni Association
Board of Director Meeting—Official Minutes

Date: Monday, September 15, 2008
Starting Time: 5:00pm Ending Time: 7:15pm
Location: Group MacKenzie, 1515 SE Water Ave., Portland

ATTENDEES:

Richard Spies, Dale Bajema, Neal Galash, Bob Hyland, Kyle Andersen, Joanne Stainbrook, Paul Benninghoff, Charles Heil, Don LeBarre, Josh Piper and Tammy Hite.

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.

- Minutes from August 12, 2008 meeting accepted
- Dale (BOD Chairman) briefly reviewed the association's accomplishments to date and thanked everyone for making it possible; reunion picnic, website.
- 2008 Picnic
 - "Post-Mortem"
 - ♦ Need to get more people there.
 - ♦ People would like to see food.
 - ♦ Heard about event through a variety of methods: Facebook, Tech Show, word of mouth, etc.
 - Committee for next year's picnic will be created in Spring
 - Neal has done some research on possible locations for next year.
 - ♦ Columbia Park has a large facility and is accessible to Tri-met.
 - ♦ You can reserve spots for Regional parks starting October 1st.
 - Can post announcement with PPS website
 - A program of events might be needed.
 - ♦ Possibly games
 - There is a noticeable gap in the classes that did not attend (70's, 80's, & 90's).
 - ♦ Despite this gap, there were significantly more in attendance than the previous year.
 - Donation toward the event
- Financial Report
 - Currently \$220 in account, which includes some donations or bills from picnic that have not yet been paid out.
 - Some items can be reimbursed by the Scholarship Committee. Get receipts to Bob Hyland.

- Executive Committee needs two more members to conduct business according to by-laws.
 - Joanne and Neal are nominated and approved by board

- Website
 - Is currently based on free software.
 - Registered users can post comments. Currently there are 21 registered users.
 - Established a “Who’s who” spot for alumni to post their testimonies about Benson.
 - Future plan is to tie the registration with the alumni database.
 - Future ability to see who has registered, but not allow access to personal info.
 - Future ability will be to send emails to those who have registered.
 - A link from the Benson High School website, but there has been no response from the teachers.
 - There are some security concerns.
 - ♦ If an email is sent to alumni, use “Blind Carbon Copy” (BCC).
 - ♦ Class of 1950 will NOT hand over their information at this time.

- Membership
 - Believed that it will be more impressive and give the association more leverage with school district if the numbers are higher.
 - Neal has added some names from the class of 1958 to database.
 - Josh says that class of 1995 will give us their information.
 - Paying dues seems to still be an issue, but necessary to build database and communication network to alumni.
 - Mention of the association in the letter to be sent by Scholarship committee in late October or early November.
 - We are a non-profit organization, so donations are tax-deductible.
 - ♦ Notice at end of year to anyone who donates \$250.00 or more.
 - Out-reach
 - ♦ Contact the class officers.
 - ♦ Ad in Portland Tribune and Oregonian
 - Chuck and Bob will see what the costs will be.
 - ♦ Taylor Dixon’s documentary video is currently in production.
 - ♦ Bill Cooper (KBSP manager and alumnus from 72)
 - Membership committee
 - ♦ Chuck, Bob and Dale will serve for the time being.
 - How do we track the alumni database?
 - Use of postcards is cheaper than postcards.
 - Dale, Paul and Bob to meet with Debra Finegan with Classic Reunions to discuss database on September 25th.
 - Some contact info can be retrieved from Facebook, MySpace and Classmates.com, but limited
 - ♦ Notices can be posted.

- Long Term Development Committee
 - Dick is to meet on Monday with the school district’s advisory committee to analyze the CTE task force’s report. Dick will then call a meeting of the LTD to discuss next steps.

- LTD to start small with monthly meetings. Quarterly meetings with advisory members from industry, PPS, and school.
- Discuss about the September 6th article in the Oregonian
 - ♦ Carole Smith is not ready to give up on high schools and wants to create partnerships.
- Dick believes there are still people in the district who want to see CTE programs survive and thrive.
- No guarantees that any plan LTD proposes, it will be implemented by district or school
 - ♦ District likes the Benson community working on issue. Good politics.
- We need to contact current Benson staff for list of their current partnerships.
- What is the school district's time frame for their decision?
- Scholarship committee
 - Funds are managed through the Oregon Community Foundation
 - Not much was earned through last year's campaign.
 - ♦ Possible reasons proposed by Jim Robb per Don.
 - Tied to the summer picnic
 - Request came too early in the year.
 - ♦ Don hesitant of doing another bulk mail since after costs nearly equal to funds collected.
 - What happens to funds if Benson closes?
 - ♦ Suggested that if Benson becomes a 2-year skills center, scholarships could still be issues to students attend the center.
 - Possibility of having contributions made on-line. Pay-pal?
- Joanne offers to attend the school board meetings if she can. Bob watches them on the TV.
- Homecoming is October 3rd.
- Next meeting: Wednesday, October 8th, 5:00pm, at Group MacKenzie