

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

Date: Wednesday, October

Starting Time: 5:00pm      Ending Time: 7:15pm

Location: Group MacKenzie, 1515 SE Water Ave., Portland

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## ATTENDEES:

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

Guests: Fred Wong (Alumnus and Drafting Teacher from Benson) and Cathy Skach (Communications Teacher from Benson)

## 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 September meeting accepted
- Introduction of Cathy and Fred.
  - Cathy is putting together a video of Benson alumni and how Benson helped them.
  - Tammy mentioned that Taylor Dixon's video is in the editing process and she is hoping to have it complete by the end of December.
- Membership count
  - 20—paid members, 4—2008 grads, 8—unpaid members, 1—retired teacher
- Treasury--\$230.00, but some bills have not yet been paid
- Benson Site Council Report
  - Dale is currently the representative from the alumni association
  - Other members include teachers, students, and the PTSA president
- Long Term Development Committee (LTD)—Dick Spies, Chair
  - Summary of Dick's work with Lincoln High School and how it can be applied to all the district high schools.
    - ♦ Building community and business partnerships that could be beneficial to both the school and industry.
      - Unions, OMSI, city government, local colleges and universities.
    - ♦ Possibility of increased density on campuses by creating multi-use sites.
      - Colleges and business partners could have offices or light industrial on site.
      - The site could be used for more than just "high school" classes.

- Potential building height for Benson is 100 feet. Part of site could be built up to house offices that could be leased or used by the district.
    - Benson is uniquely sited in the heart of the city in an area with light industrial, residential and access to transit.
  - The district likes the idea of the association working on the issue and is ready to start having discussions about the issue. Looks good politically.
  - Dick will be meeting with city, business and district on October 29<sup>th</sup> to discuss Portland high school and what can be done. He has also spoken with Mayor-elect, Sam Adams, about Benson's potential.
  - Benson could become a sustainability research center since the state and local governments are planning to use it to re-kindle industry in Oregon.
    - ♦ Use of sustainable technologies on site.
    - ♦ All majors incorporate into curriculum.
    - ♦ Could lead to grant money if it can be found.
  - Need to develop a "big" picture and then find the support.
    - ♦ Benson has students that can think, invent, and envision.
    - ♦ It isn't the school we used to know...let's make it better than what we knew.
  - Bob mentioned the Northwest High Performance Consort, Oregon Business Association, and Councilman Saltzman as possible contacts. David Mark with Manufacturing Union 21 is working on legislation for 2009.
  - Dick will develop a graphic story board about Benson potential
  - Dick plans to contact district administration to let them know our agenda.
    - ♦ We need to be considered an asset
  - You can only meet with no more than 3-school board members at a time otherwise the meeting needs to be open to public.
  - Cathy mentioned that she had seen Carole Smith's (PPS Superintendent) speech to the City Club where she mentioned that she "was committed to not closing buildings."
  - Some concern about where you would house tech programs while Benson would undergo building renovations.
  - Next steps:
    - ♦ The LTD committee will meet at least monthly to begin building vision.
    - ♦ Quarterly meetings of an advisory group that includes business, industry, education and other partners.
  - Bob mentioned charter schools and if we should start talking about them. The group agrees that it should be considered. The money is out there for them.
- Membership Committee
  - Dale, Paul, Bob and Don have all met with Debra at Classic Reunions (CR) to clarify the proposal she made to the scholarship committee last year to build a Benson database that we could have access to.
    - ♦ They would build the database as classes have their reunions, so if a class doesn't go through CR then they wouldn't have their info unless we want to pay them to find it.
      - They would charge the class to find people, then charge us per name to add it to our list.

- ♦ To access the data, we would have to make a request and then they would charge us \$1.00 per name given, but they would give us 3000 names for \$700.00 for the scholarship mailing.
    - ♦ We would not have direct access to the electronic database.
    - ♦ CR would need \$500.00 to start process.
  - Jim Robb has given Josh a list of 1500 names, so we have a database with 2000 total.
  - Chuck has a disk of the 2003 Benson Alumni Book. He will take a look at it to find out if it is searchable.
  - Proposed to have Benson students help validate names. Money cannot be given directly to students, but funds can go to support a club.
  - General agreement that we should own our database.
  - Motion passed to not pursue offer with Classic Reunions at this time.
  - Josh will print labels for the scholarship mailing in November. Jim Robb will be asked to write the letter.
- Oregonian Ad- cost will be around \$329 for a 2-column wide x 5” long ad that would be placed in the sports section of the Wednesday or Friday addition.
    - Fund donated by some board members towards cost.
    - Motion passed that association will cover the remaining cost of article.
    - Bob and Chuck proposed possible verbiage for article.
    - Bob to work with Cathy for ad content and graphics.
  - Portland Tribune
    - Cost to run an ad would be \$35 per column inch.
    - A reporter from newspaper has contacted a few of the board members for an article in the paper. Not sure on date the article will be published.
  - Newsletter—Dale reminded everyone that we need to start thinking of possible articles and writers.
  - 2009 Picnic
    - Possible locations to be researched starting in January. Buckman field at Benson?
  - Fall-winter reception for members: Dates and location to be determined.
  - Budget—spending parameters need to be set by the finance committee by January for 2009.
  - Parent Teacher Conferences are November 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>. A table to be set-up to answer questions for parents, alumni and teachers. Volunteers will be needed. Tammy will find out times of sessions.
  - Next meeting: Wednesday, November 12, 2008, 5:00pm, at Group MacKenzie
    - Agreed that meeting will be held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month until quarterly meetings are deemed sufficient.