

## **Benson Polytechnic High School Alumni Association Monthly Board of Directors Meeting – FINAL**



Date: Feb 12, 2024  
Starting Time: 5:33 pm  
Ending Time: 7:23 pm  
Virtual meeting

### **ATTENDEES:**

At Benson: Rachael Kuryunny (RK); Rob Johns (RJ); Josh Piper (JP); Roger Edwards (RE); Thomas Smith (TS); Bobbie (Rob) Walker (BW); Dale Bajema (DB); Bob Trimble (BT); Jeff Strachan (JS)

Virtual: Maj Britt (Max) Baker (MB); Gerry Ochs (GO); Mike Landstrom (ML)

Guests: Dan Malone (DM); Kevin Clark (KC); Devin Graham, PPS office of modernization; Anthony Reimer, class of 2000.

ABSENT: Dave Hutchins (DH)

### **BUSINESS**

- Guest introductions:
  - Dan:
    - 325 incoming freshman; over 500 applicants. For anyone that applies now, have to go through office of transfer/enrollment
    - Tech Show April 18-19, 6-9PM. Can ask Dan or Steve Curly. Alumni will be in the gym again.
  - Devin:
    - All of the yearbooks have been scanned/digitized. Will be making them available at the district. Will live on Alumni website as well.
    - Working through photos for the decades. Might include Historical photos as well. The images will be used by designers to put together, then hang on the walls. Subcommittee is working on what will go in display cases – themes, museum level quality assembly. The display cases will be locked. The other items are going to be in the alumni room.
    - We have the sundial but it needs to be restored. There's also a new one going on the building.

- Dan:
  - Some of the small memorial plaques will go in the Alumni room. There had been one next to the engine for the soldier – it will go by the propellers. Hall of Fame stuff will be all reframed. Brackets will go in other places.
  - There was a discussion that the old banners might be an auction item. Perhaps the committee can decide.
  - Branding – marketing company coming, will sit down with staff and students. There may be three final choices.
- Dan and Devin left the meeting
- Member report – JP:
  - 77 paid members
- Financial Report – BT:
  - We don't have to worry about the CUB for the picnic.
  - Bob presented the financial report that was listed income and expenses.
  - \$395.01 was in PayPal.
  - \$3264.94 checking, end of Jan.
  - \$1211.79 savings, end of Jan.
  - \$900 was spent on food at the last picnic, but there was a lot left over. Estimated \$1200 budget.
  - RJ talked to BT about putting together an approximate budget for the rest of the year: newsletter, picnic, tech show, teach welcome in the fall.
- Archival storage – RE:
- Meeting minutes approval
  - Jan 2023 draft 2 sent out with KC's amendments earlier today. There were a few other minor revisions.
  - BW moved, JS seconded that we approve the minutes with DB, TS and RE's minor revisions to draft 2. The motion carried.
  - MB will send the final minutes today.
- Scholarship committee -DB:
  - We had several large donors, and some other donors that added about \$10,000 to the Scholarship Fund. There were about 20 donors. We need to think of other ways to get more alumni to donate.
  - RK said that it's good to solicit at the class reunions and tech show. Tough because we are trying to get their contact info and join the alumni association, but we can always ask.
- Discussion re picnic and reunions:
  - August meeting at the school. There have already been discussions about the front of the school layout; things to sell.
  - RK has already reached out to several classes. KC spoke about class of 84 reunion, might be September. He has a contact that he will give to RK.
- Site Council Report – DB:

- Curtis says he will have to cut some teacher positions – will not eliminate any CTE programs. Staff is working on hypothetical solutions, they will discuss on the 15<sup>th</sup>. We will not bring back any programs funded by the district for a few years at least.
- Curtis was hoping for 325 as a cap, so they are hopeful.
- New football coach, Brian Cory. They are looking to put together a Freshman team and will push 'Friday Night Lights'. Corey has a month by month plan already in mind. Must have 23 players in good shape by mid August, when Haskins will make the final call. We might have the Booster or Alumni group help support efforts.
  - KC: Note that if we can't make this work this year the program will be cancelled and we may not have another opportunity until Haskins retires. The health and safety of students is paramount. Football is about tradition, so you have to reignite that with participation from past players and coaches.
  - There was a discussion about field sharing as well. Soccer, football, and there's a soccer club that uses Buckman Field.
  - JP: 10% of incoming Freshman would have to go out for football. Haskins is looking at Wells as the blueprint. Includes women as well, but it's a tough ask to have that much participation. Rally with past participants is a great idea. We have a rich history with athletic performance but the current students really have only been hearing about women's basketball recently.
  - There was discussion of individuals that we might reach out to. RJ asked Bob and Mike about brainstorming on connecting with alumni.
- Alumni Room – RE:
  - Talked about the dimensions of the room and whether we would all fit – can move chairs into the hall as well. The eliminated half the cabinetry – it will make the room wider. We also will have one or two display cases outside in the hall. We don't know where all of the things are going to go – some may go to the library. Surplus storage room had items with numbers. There is an inventory of all the things not in the alumni room now. We will need to get the list and see what plans are made for those items.
  - JP: I thought we would get some answers on the inventory from Devin, but there should be an answer soon, we just need to know what's there. Everything is coming back to the school, it's just a question of if we have any other storage in the school. They said yes, but weren't sure where. So we can store the things not on display – it's up to us if we want to rotate things in and out. We won't be able to put holes in any of the walls – if we are going to hang anything we will need help with that.
- Open Board positions:

- RK nominated Anthony Reimer to fill open position 11. There were no other nominations.
- **RK moved that Anthony fill the position, MB seconded. Motion passed.**
- Concessions – JS:
  - At the Jefferson/Benson game, there were about 900 people in the stands. As competitive as it was, there were manners. The Principal remarked this is the best they have ever been treated as a visiting team. Visiting people were given free popcorn, and administrators free everything. He's been focused on building alliances.
  - Everything going well. Boosters will not be coming to Alumni group for more money for the senior banners. They are starting to put them up in the gym now.
  - Thank you for your work!
- CTE achievement award.
  - DB: Idea came to me regarding Robotics. They've been around a long time and had great achievements. They are the only club that has their own room in the building. They are one of only a few groups that compete outside of Benson Tech that are recognized for their technical achievements. Since we recognize athletics, it seems we should recognize the technical teams as well. HealthOcc also competes nationally. Wouldn't it be nice to have a space dedicated to recognizing these Benson Tech High School teams and individuals' achievements?
  - I think it would be nice if the Alumni Association would recognize outstanding technical achievements by students, starting next year. CTE teachers could handle criteria for selection, perhaps by academy. Give them a certificate? Plaque in the school with names listed year after year. They would also be recognized at the Awards Ceremony for Graduation
  - Let's think about this and prepare questions, comments. We can maybe pitch this to the teacher and help them develop a program. It would be nice to vote on a proposal next meeting.
  - KC: I think there could be opportunities to generate award monies; we could find industry sponsors.
  - RK: I also like the idea of a small monetary award that isn't tied in to secondary education. There used to be a corner that had VICA Drafting recognitions. I was sad to see that disappear when the drafting program was gone.
  - DB: He did mention it to Curtis and he liked the idea, since CTE teachers are down about the cuts.
  - KC: This has changed over time – there were VCA, HOSA and Skills USA awards in cases. There has been an award for best senior project by major. There was a time when people who won awards were asked to stand during graduation in recognition. I think

Dale's plan offers good opportunities, and to get input from teachers/faculty can shape this.

- Academy changes:
  - KC: There were rumors about a year ago that the Academy system was not working out as well as hoped. I helped advise district and school academy development and launch. Benson Tech was selected as one of the three pilot schools. Curtis projects the Academy programs are going to cease in 2-3 years. Some budget concerns may have caused this, not sure if there were academic concerns. Academies will be downsized. First year will continue with shop rotations, giving students an idea of what Academy they want to enroll in. Then Sophomore year will complete the Academy experience for students. Junior and Senior CTE will be major focused. The school will likely revert to its old scholastic structure of majors, with Freshman/Sophomore shop rotations and Junior and Senior majors. It's a proven model.
  - DB: One of the reasons it may not have worked was the period structure.
- ML left the meeting
- Digitizing Tech Peps:
  - RE: We have the cost of what it would be, and what we would get. I've been inventorying what we have. There are several volume structures involved. It's probably best to do it by date. There's also lots of duplicates. We might want more than one example, and bring this up at reunions. Ballpark is \$240 to digitize one year, so we may get people interested in supporting this. Most of the issues are in good shape, but the searchability is really key.
  - RK: What if we did 1924, for example - \$240 to spend to give proof of concept to classes/alumni to ask for other donations for the effort.
  - RE: 1920, 1921 are the oldest books, hardback, with the tech peps.
  - RJ: We could project it on the wall during tech show. If we assume about \$480, let's see if we can get it ready.
  - **DB moved that we dedicate up to \$500 for two years of digitization. RK seconded. Motion passed.**
- Tech Show:
  - Plan is to push come to the new school in September, and also see the alumni room.
  - Planning meeting April 1<sup>st</sup>.
  - Anthony brought up that people might think tech show this year is at the new school, so we need to emphasize it's the final one at the Marshall Campus.
  - Does anyone know where the 'alumni' banners that we put on the popup tents. They were designed to fit between the legs of the tents. GO says that Curtis should have those. He'll check with Curtis and Dan.

- JP has the banners that RJ had made years before that. He will bring them.
- Basketball playoffs start on the 21<sup>st</sup>.

#### **UPCOMING BUSINESS**

- **Task: Need thank you list for when we move into the new building, for committed partners.**
- **Next board meeting is:** March 11<sup>th</sup>, 5:30, hybrid, in-person in the auto classroom. Technology subgroup meeting after.
- **Tech show planning zoom meeting, April 1<sup>st</sup> 5:30PM:**  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84104770831>

[Annual Report added after meeting.]

Respectfully Submitted,

Maj Britt (Max) Baker  
Secretary  
BPHS Alumni Association

BUSINESS SAVINGS	BEGINNING BALANCE	TOTAL DEPOSITS	TOTAL WITHDRAWALS	ENDING BALANCE
	\$3,264.86	\$0.08	-\$0.00	\$3,264.94
BSAV00	YTD DIVIDENDS	YTD DIVIDENDS WITHHELD		
	\$0.08	\$0.00		
Actual	Effective	Transaction Description	Amount	Balance
01/31	01/31	Dividend Annual Percentage Yield Earned= 0.03% For 31 Days	0.08	3264.94

TOTAL OVERDRAFT AND RETURNED ITEM FEES		
Fee Type	Total For This Period	Total Year-To-Date
Total Overdraft Fees	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Returned Items	\$0.00	\$0.00

BUSINESS FLEX CHCK	BEGINNING BALANCE	TOTAL DEPOSITS	TOTAL WITHDRAWALS	ENDING BALANCE
	\$2,209.84	\$301.95	-\$1,300.00	\$1,211.79
BFLX00	YTD DIVIDENDS	YTD DIVIDENDS WITHHELD		
	\$0.00	\$0.00		
Actual	Effective	Transaction Description	Amount	Balance
01/04	01/03	Withdrawal Draft Clearing Check #218 - Withdrawal, Draft Clearing	-600.00	1609.84
01/09	01/09	Deposit ACH PAYPAL® TRANSFER	301.95	1911.79
01/09	01/08	Withdrawal Draft Clearing Check #217 - Withdrawal, Draft Clearing	-700.00	1211.79

TOTAL OVERDRAFT AND RETURNED ITEM FEES		
Fee Type	Total For This Period	Total Year-To-Date
Total Overdraft Fees	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Returned Items	\$0.00	\$0.00

CLEARED CHECKS - BUSINESS FLEX CHCK								
CHECK #	DATE PAID	AMOUNT	CHECK #	DATE PAID	AMOUNT	CHECK #	DATE PAID	AMOUNT
217	01/08	700.00	218	01/03	600.00			

Josh Piper

Michael J Landstrom

Max Baker

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