

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



Date: Dec 11, 2023
Starting Time: 5:30 pm
Ending Time: 7:29 pm
Virtual meeting

ATTENDEES:

At Benson: Mike Landstrom (ML); Rachael Kuryunny (RK); Rob Johns (RJ); Josh Piper (JP); Roger Edwards (RE); Thomas Smith (TS); Bobbie (Rob) Walker (BW); Dale Bajema (DB);

Virtual: Maj Britt (Max) Baker (MB); Bob Trimble (BT); Jeff Strachan (JS); Gerry Ochs (GO);

Guests: Bill Finzer C/O 1975 Student Body President; Anthony Reimer C/O 2000; Parker Myrus, C/O 2023 Student Body President; Curtis Wilson, Principal; Dan Malone (DM); Dick Spies; Kevin Clark (KC)

ABSENT: Dave Hutchins (DH)

BUSINESS

- Guest introductions
- DM rebuild:
 - CW:
 - under 200 applications, 2 weeks more to apply, Dec 22nd.
 - Ceiling capped at 300, waiting list 100, then see where the kids are coming from before they allow them into the lottery. Looking to get to 1750, still talking about caps, regions, etc. 8th grade open house, info night, etc. Moving to Marshall we lost about 300 kids, it will take time to get it back.
 - They are trying to keep Jefferson students from leaving Jefferson. Waiting list students on the West Side or schools overflowing are the ones we will get into Benson if they are on the waiting list.
 - Guadalupe will be Superintendent through Feb 17th. They are looking for an interim as they start a nationwide search – last time it took over a year.
 - DM:
 - Construction pics:
 - <https://www.flickr.com/photos/portlandpublicschools/albums/72177720313146730/>

- Highlights include The exterior of the gym - 6885
 - the main office - 6902
 - the interior courtyard - several shots
 - the frame of the new bike shelter in the CTE courtyard, complete with solar panel frames
 - He would like the Alumni group to focus on a theme for the first year of the alumni room, what to put in the cases, etc.
 - We need to stage the school for the Feb 2024 walkthrough.
 - Propeller, time capsule, etc.
- The tour:
 - KC: The school looks fantastic. I'm really excited about it. We didn't get everything we asked, which we know would be the case. It's a great industrial facility. Encourage you all to see it. Remember eight years ago we weren't even sure we would get here.
 - DS: Common space is going to be a knock-out. It looks great. Still working behind the scenes to see if we can get support from Architecture Program from Portland State, University of Oregon to get help with the programs we talked about before: industrial design, fashion design, etc.
 - ML: amazed with some of the changes. There are a lot of open areas for students to interact. Shops are huge and very well organized. Each wing has 2 floors. Overall changes from when the plan started to where we are now... can't thank the people enough. They are thinking green, keeping the students in mind.
- DM:
 - 2 points short of platinum process, which is amazing.
 - There's been a little delay with some plumbing, but March 18th is still the completion date.
 - Opening day – there is projector, sound etc. so we might want to have something on a loop, maybe an ad for the alumni association.
- DS: Friend of his, architect, is coming to the tour on Tuesday. Helping with advising staffing for new design program. He's never been on Benson campus – trying to infuse the knowledge of the power of the school.
- DM and CW left the meeting.
- Membership – JP: 111 members, which we think is a record.
- Treasurer Report – BT:
 - \$4876.74
 - Check for 70 and 62.
- Minutes – MB:
 - Oct board resent today with changes, those haven't changed since sent directly after the last meeting.
 - Nov annual and board, resent today with changes.

- ML moved and JP seconded that we accept the October/November board minutes as amended. The motion passed.
- ML: Annual minutes – approve the draft only, move to accept at the next annual meeting.
- MB read the Annual minutes.
 - Discussion: RJ explained that because of covid, we extended terms. Now we are going back to our normal processes for Board Elections. All officers are technically up for election at this time. Are there any questions?
- Elections:
 - Chair:
 - Nominations open:
 - ML nominated RJ.
 - JS moved to close nominations – MB seconded. Nominations closed.
 - RJ was elected to chair unanimously.
 - Vice Chair:
 - Discussion: It is suggested that if the board agrees RK is the best choice, then we will leave the office open and nominate RK in Jan.
 - Nominations open: there were no nominations.
 - ML moved to close nominations – MB seconded.
 - Nominations closed.
 - DB moved that we leave the position vacant. JS seconded. Motion passed.
 - Secretary:
 - Nominations open:
 - GO nominated MB.
 - JS moved to close nominations – MB seconded.
 - Nominations closed.
 - MB was elected to Secretary unanimously.
 - Treasurer:
 - Nominations open:
 - JS nominated Bob Trimble. GO seconded.
 - RJ moved to close nominations – JS seconded.
 - BT was elected to Treasurer unanimously.
 - Note anyone interested in being on the Finance committee, please let us know.
- Newsletter update – RJ:
 - Thank you to Connie Mar!
 - Newsletter contains an article with volunteer of the year, JS!
- Site Council – DB:
 - Necessary at each school legislated by law. Administrators, students, parents, community, etc. Alumni are important participants. We were invited to have a member on the council many years ago. School improvement plan is mandatory, but it has

never been brought to the site council for the last 15 years. Site council was busy trying to save Benson as a 4 year school at that time. They are an advisory body to the school, on matters the stakeholders find important. The school can also go to the council for advice on things they are trying to achieve. When the district tried to do away with sports at Benson, the site council was instrumental in challenging that position.

- Curtis Wilson has been an active member of the site council since he's been at Benson, but is not the chair. The Site Council can vote to hold different positions than he does as the Principal.
- As we move into the new building, can we bring back any of the classes that have gone away?
 - Band? Instruments are available.
 - Aviation
 - Design program
- It's not easy to bring back classes – funding, teachers, student interest.
- Meeting on Dec 14th – VP of Admin will talk about the procedure for bringing back classes. Offerings may be available for forecasting in the coming spring. We would have to have enough students to justify it. Same for Robotics, etc. He is interested in hearing suggestions.
- KC: We really want alumni input. It will take a concerted effort to lobby to get what we want – it's a community effort and we need voices from the entire community, including alumni.
- DB: This will be a long process. If we only have 300 students come in, it won't allow expansion of staff.
- KC: With anticipated hiring of a new superintendent, we don't know how promises given in the past will be affected. Example: performing arts program and band were planned for the new school. People from other schools, districts, and nations will be coming to tour the modernized BPHS. The new school will be a 'showcase' for the future of high school CTE facilities.
- DB: District is looking at 28 million shortfall. But with that said, we need to be promoters, and want input for programs that they might consider. If we can't bring back classes, CW said that there is the alternative path of clubs – a way to generate student interest and perhaps lay the foundation for bringing back classes.
- RK: A few years ago, CW mentioned that student interest will drive the development of new classes, but as a student, I wouldn't have thought to bring forward the idea of having a class that didn't exist.
- DB: One model for that is the Robotics club – they have been around long enough to have dedicated space.
- RK: Katie Leonard, Class of 1997 co-valedictorian, PCC math and aviation instructor, and parent to two aspiring BPHS students shared a video with RK, and asked RK to help get it to the

appropriate people within PPS/Benson Tech administration/site council/etc. In the video linked below, she advocates and outlines the process for reintroducing aviation to Benson Tech. Katie has expressed that she is willing to work with the district to obtain her TSPC CTE educator license. RK feels strongly that Katie would be an asset to the school given (among other things) her vast experience in both the aviation field and as a classroom teacher.

- <https://youtu.be/OxwvbyFhwQ?si=w6SYzBlkBF1PT3l>
- KC: Tying in new programs to local or state community colleges can help as well.
- RK: Drafting/design would be critical as well.
- MB: Student survey would be helpful too. Mentioned her daughters chose not to go there due to lack of choir/band. Music is math could be a tie in. (Note, clubs are listed here and indicate diverse interests:
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1jG0exh4_eKVuBe250Oju4zGau6IUQn8VvyRplxEAew/edit)
- KC: We do hope to do a survey through student council.
- Alumni Room Committee – RE:
 - We do need to ensure we use it from Day 1 to ensure that we keep it.
 - RJ: CW did say that Alumni can always have access to that room, just need to come to the office and sign in. Alumni may be able to find other uses for that room as well. Can run into teachers there, as well. Hopeful we can find ways to encourage other alumni to physically visit the school and use that room. We need presence.
 - RK: Can we offer tours? Meet at the alumni room, have a tour, and join our meeting.
 - RJ: Excellent idea. Guided tours as a standing thing would be cool. Boosters or others might be able to meet there, it would be a good smaller space, and there is the elevator access.
 - RE: contacted a local 'scanner' and he looked at the size of the project, and a bid is forthcoming. Said it could be done over time. If they could take the newspapers out of the bindings, it would be a reduction in price. The scanner will make all the words searchable. He said he could have it done in two months, or longer if we stretch it out. It's the bid that really will be the deciding factor.
- Social – RK:
 - Formal ask a month ago for donations.
 - Students who receive the reward will be required to report out to the Alumni Association. This year 50% response rate. Their stories are the most compelling reason people donate. We don't have a way to enforce it, but the verbiage on the application is important.
 - We won't know for a while how successful this year's ask has been.
 - RJ: Gift cards for Benson for needy families came from counselling. Thank you for everyone that donated. \$600 was raised and more

coming. It was a four day turnaround. You can still donate:
cbleckmann@pps.net Bleckmann, Caroline.

- Boosters – JS:
 - Such an overlap. Gal at the Booster's table: 97 alumni! Gave her a card and told her to check out the website.
 - Boosters gave almost \$6000 to the boys and girls tennis teams for fall teams. This was for the 5 football games we hosted for Grant.
 - Basketball season started, record soft opening. Brought in \$500.
 - Wrestling team brought in \$500.
 - Keeping 20% for Boosters, so they don't have to come to the alumni group asking for funding. 80% goes to the kids.
 - Come by and purchase some snacks! Kids are doing great. Basketball season has been divvied up between various groups: student council, black student union, Survivors of abuse women's group, teams etc.
 - Very small group of people running the Boosters. Most of the parents are only there four years.
 - RK: There is more social presence this year so they may see a bump.
 - Jan 2nd at Marshall is the next concessions.

Old Business:

- Alumni Yearbook Ad – RK
 - Didn't want to email Steve while on strike. Just emailed him last Friday. Imagine it will be between \$150-250. We will do an email vote if we need a quick turnaround.
- ML: will make a formal proposal to have a line item in the budget for cloud storage etc.
 - I move \$600 a year to facilitate digital upgrades, storage, and transforming print to digital media. Any amount above that needs to be submitted to board for approval.
 - JS seconded.
 - The motion carried.
- State Championship Banners for the new gym. Alumni classes have raised money. DM has made a request for \$700.
 - Discussion ensued. JS suggested that perhaps the Booster club should match: \$350 from Alumni, \$350 from Boosters.
 - BT: Alumni Association renewals will start next month. We see about 50 people or so right away.
 - JP moved that we donate \$700 for Banners to the school. ML seconded. Motion passed.
 - RJ will email CW and BT with who gets the check.
- Point of Sale card scanner QR code:
 - Paper filled out, get credit card info, etc. It makes signing up more difficult. QR code takes them directly to the site, they fill it out, etc. We can still have someone there helping people, but we won't need a card reader there.

- DB: when the school adopted Astros, the district has a contract with designer to create items. Can items be changed?
- RK: yes, we can change logos, etc. We wouldn't publish too much right away.
- She'll send it to the board. JP will update to 2024 dues on the website.



UPCOMING BUSINESS

- **Task: Need thank you list for when we move into the new building, for committed partners.**
- **Next meeting is: Jan 8th 5:30, hybrid, in-person in the auto classroom.**

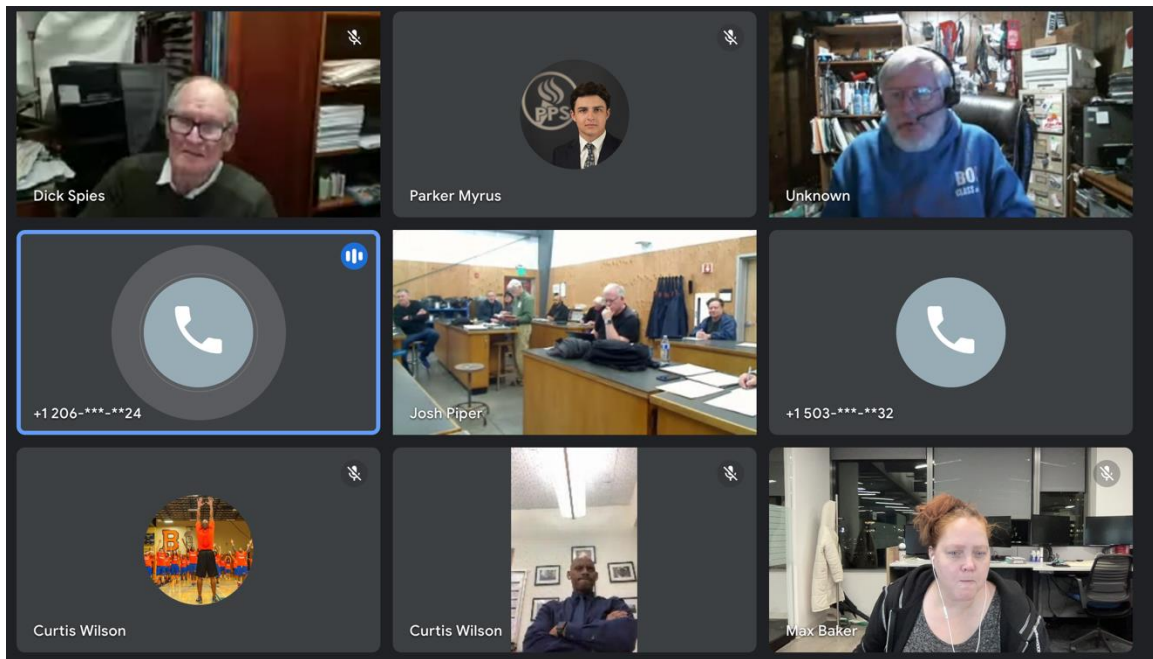
AFTER MEETING COMMUNICATIONS

- DocuDriven scanning archival documents:
 - Dec 15th, RE shared the quote from DocuDriven:198 boxes would cost \$24K. RE suggested that there are some materials that we should scan before doing the others over time.
 - Dec 19th, ML suggested that we might want to identify 20 boxes to do first, and then others over a 5 or 10 year span.
 - Dec 20th, RE suggested we focus on the issues that are undergoing significant deterioration, and that classes may want to take on fundraising, potentially using the GoFundMe account.
 - Dec 20th, RE responded to Neil at DocuDriven that we will wait until the committee meets and makes a decision on how to proceed.
- Dec 17th, RK nominated Josh Piper, Dale Bajema, and Rob Johns to fill BOD seats 2, 3, and 4 (respectively)
- Dec 28th, JP sent an email that Kevin Jeans Gail had passed away. His Portland Workforce Alliance non-profit operated out of the same space at Benson where the new alumni room will be
<https://www.oregonlive.com/living/2023/12/kevin-jeans-gail-portland-activist-who-found-goodness-in-life-amid-unspeakable-tragedy-dies-at-71.html>
 - DB noted: Kevin was not an alum, but a big supporter of Benson and of course CTE. Being located at Benson he was able to make job connections for Benson students while they were at Benson and upon graduation.

- Jan 6th, RJ reminded the board to pay the dues in order to participate in voting at the Monday meeting: Link to renew membership: <https://bensontechalumni.org/product/membership-2024/>
- ML suggested that we try and estimate expenses for CUBs for the next year and include that as a line item in the budget. KC suggested we have a contingency margin of about 15%. BT replied: August CUB 2022 was \$393; August CUB 2023 was \$529. Fee is determined by the number of hours requested times and the number of rooms used. Mainly it pays for a janitor to observe and clean.

Respectfully Submitted,

Maj Britt (Max) Baker
Secretary
BPHS Alumni Association



BUSINESS SAVINGS	BEGINNING BALANCE	TOTAL DEPOSITS	TOTAL WITHDRAWALS	ENDING BALANCE
BSAV00	\$3,264.70	\$0.08	-\$0.00	\$3,264.78
	YTD DIVIDENDS	YTD DIVIDENDS WITHHELD		
	\$0.87	\$0.00		
Actual	Effective	Transaction Description	Amount	Balance
11/30	11/30	Dividend Annual Percentage Yield Earned= 0.03% For 30 Days	0.08	3264.78

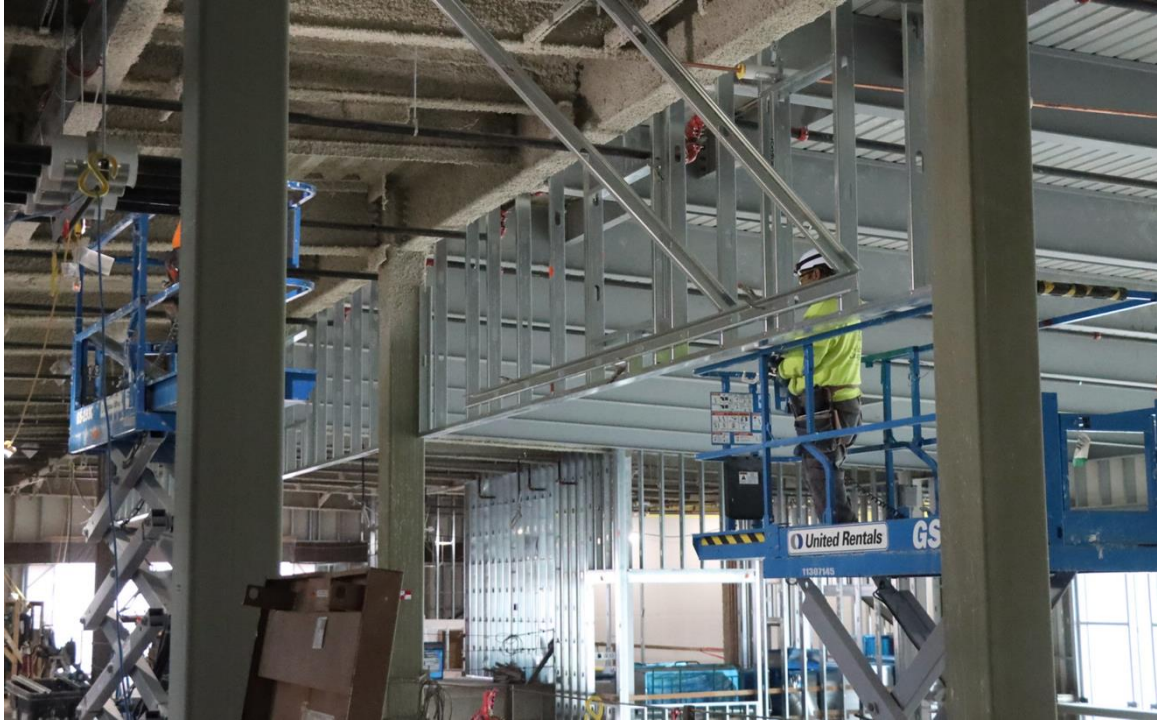
TOTAL OVERDRAFT AND RETURNED ITEM FEES		
Fee Type	Total For This Period	Total Year-To-Date
Total Overdraft Fees	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Returned Items	\$0.00	\$0.00

BUSINESS FLEX CHCK	BEGINNING BALANCE	TOTAL DEPOSITS	TOTAL WITHDRAWALS	ENDING BALANCE
BFLX00	\$1,725.23	\$18.81	-\$132.00	\$1,612.04
	YTD DIVIDENDS	YTD DIVIDENDS WITHHELD		
	\$0.00	\$0.00		
Actual	Effective	Transaction Description	Amount	Balance
11/09	11/09	Withdrawal Cash Draft Check #213 - Withdrawal, Cash Draft	-60.00	1665.23
11/14	11/14	Deposit ACH PAYPAL*TRANSFER	18.81	1684.04
11/29	11/27	Withdrawal Draft Clearing Check #216 - Withdrawal, Draft Clearing	-72.00	1612.04

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
213	11/09	60.00	216	11/27	72.00			





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