

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



Date: April 13, 2015

Starting Time: 5:40 pm Ending Time: 7:28 pm

Benson Tech Library

ATTENDEES:

Dale Bajema (DB), Roger Edwards (RE), Mike Landstrom (ML), Ken Bakke (KB), Max Baker (MB), Rob Johns (RJ), Annika Johnson (AJ), Dick Spies (DS), Wes Soderbeck (WS)

MINUTES:

- Discussion:
 - WS: Do we have new members from the Tech Show?
 - ML: Not sure, we haven't had a chance to check the office.
 - DS: Met with CJ Sylvester, John Isaacs, Curtis and several others. TJ outlined strategy of district re: Benson. Establishment of Design Advisory Group (DAG). Each school will have one. Also, a Project Manager (Deborah or Diane), who is currently working on Franklin. No district employees can be on the DAG, but key stakeholder groups will be represented. In the fall they will put an RFP out. Benson's program- the district will work with teachers, students and stakeholders to work out the vision for the redesigned school. Nov 2016 bond for Benson and the other 2 schools. Enrollment should be closer to 2000 with full-time students and co-op students (part-timers). Need to design for 1500-2000 students. Ground-breaking has not occurred at the other sites. Roosevelt should be completed in 2017. Strategy for Benson's remodel is to rotate the students from one side of the campus to another during construction. Push-back regarding design work until faculty have a chance to review.
 - Concern was expressed that some teachers may not be willing to let go of the past or look to the future during this process.
- Treasurer's Report – ML:
 - Hasn't checked the office to see if there is membership forms/money.
 - \$2851.07 in checking
 - \$279 and \$16 were expenses for Tech Show. \$79 for cakes for Tech Show.
- Membership Report – JP:
 - Current membership: 129 (66 of those are paid members, the others are recent graduates)
 - Paypal: \$0
- Annika took notes
- Max arrived at 5:55PM
- Design Advisory Group: DS

- Building partnerships should be initiated/directed by the faculty. DS is concerned that the teachers that have been there a long time and are resistant to updating curriculum may not build those partnerships.
- RJ handed out some information from the Benson Tech Redesign meeting
- Discussion about Benson's enrollment etc.
- DB: I've heard that all existing programs will remain at Benson, and they are thinking of adding Engineering and Information Technology. Education and Training? Not sure but think that means teacher education. Perhaps because it's a central location or for CTE instructors for other schools. They really want "capital partners" to make a financial contribution to the building
- DS: three levels of partnership:
 - Brick and mortar presence
 - Donating fixtures, furniture and equipment. We've found some of these already.
 - Educational/curriculum commitments
- DS: But we have to get staff buy-in.
- RJ: PPS handed out a timeline that says the curriculum planning needs to be done by end of July, but in concert also establishing the business and capital partners, which they have finishing at the end of December. It seems they don't know how to plan curriculum for Benson, which is why they want the faculty to handle it.
- DS: If we're waiting for faculty to give us info on the partnerships, the fear is that we won't have time to adequately get the partnerships going.
- DB: At the end of the meeting, everyone was excited because when all is done we will have a new school. 60% new, the rest gutted and built from the inside out.
- RJ: We'll be serving about 3000 kids. They are also talking about getting kids from other schools here for CTE if their school doesn't offer it. Interesting concept.
- RJ: Charlene Williams is Curtis' boss. We should have one of the meetings here to help them understand how Benson works.
- DS: We need to have more discussions about seeking partnerships. We can talk to potential partners, but you can only go so far with it. If they've gotten rejected in the past, especially by the teachers, they aren't interested in trying again.
- MB: It sounds like this is a problem that needs planning for a solution. Curtis needs to know that the way it is planned out isn't going to work. He could position it like this: all the teachers have to have these partnerships and curriculum planning by XX Date. If you can't do this or need help, the alumni association is ready to help. That way the gung ho teachers or teachers that already have partnerships ready can go for it. Teachers uninterested in change or ready to retire can hand it over.
- WS: I get all the latest info on Intel, as a channel partner. You can only find out what is going on there if you are a partner since they hold things close to the vest. I tried to talk to the computer guys about what they were

doing and what I could offer. I work with guys that are always taking parts and trying out different combinations. I meet with the sales people in Intel, and think we could forge a partnership. Microsoft does the same thing with software.

- DS: This would be great when we get the green light for partnerships. They do have partnerships with other schools.
- ML: The water component – you’ll see a lot of high tech leaving California and coming up here to move where the water is. We need to keep our ears open.
- RJ: Lots more grant money out there. Must align the need with the company with the grant.
- WS: With Intel, would love to get students into apprenticeships on the chip making etc. Once you get in, then you can get them to pay for more education.
- More discussion ensued about how we might influence a successful outcome with creating curriculum and building partnerships. Teachers are just as mistrustful and frustrated as business partners are with how things have worked in the past. We need to position this as a new school, new Foundation, new opportunities to change to meet the current needs of businesses.
- DB: moved that RJ send a list of curriculum suggestions/partnerships to Curtis for the teachers to consider in their curriculum planning.
- KB seconded. Motion passed.
- DB: Curtis has been meeting with businesses trying to form these partnerships. I truly believe he is open to doing what needs to be done.
- RJ: Curtis gets all this input from the school system. We can provide him information from outside the system.
- Discussion of who was running for PPS school board. WS is running in zone 3. It looks like we’ll have at least 2 new CTE supporters.
- Grants – RJ:
 - Two teachers asked to use the Foundation on their grant applications. After emailing members of the board, he agreed to let them use our name but we don’t have any powerhouse grant writers right now.
 - Health Center here would be great. They are still working on it. But OHSU will be the partner instead of Multnomah County.
- Archives – RE:
 - RE: They are going to start clearing out the community room next month. I found the Ranta obits, looked around. The archives would fit in about 4 file cabinets. But we have to move it by next month. It’s not a huge effort, but it needs to get done.
 - DB: Check with Tammy, she might have space for that in architecture.
 - RJ: Email me and we’ll propose a solution to Curtis and Tammy.
- Minutes:
 - RE took minutes at the last meeting. Any corrections/additions, get them to MB by Friday, otherwise they will be accepted as submitted.
- Booster club - DB:

- Lisa White is basically acting as a one-woman show.
- Curtis has put it on the agenda to build better relationships between the front office and the Booster and PTSA.
- We will wait to discuss the student graduation party offsetting until next meeting. Will be at Big Al's this year.
- Curtis let 6 coaches go, and hired 6 new coaches. It's an entirely new football coaching staff.

OLD BUSINESS – things to keep in mind

- Benson 5 year plan.
- Who do we talk to at the awards ceremony about getting time to address students about the alumni association?
- Plan for merchandise?
- 'Pathways to Manufacturing' that is managed by Impact NW. Currently Vigers and Daimler participate in the program with Franklin and Centennial students.
- Points West does financial seminars in the community and would be willing to come to Benson and talk to students. This idea needs to be followed up with Principal Wilson.
- Next meeting May 11, 2015 5:30 – 7:30PM at the Benson Library.

Respectfully Submitted,

Maj Britt (Max) Baker
Secretary
BPHS Alumni Association