

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



Date: Nov 19, 2018
Starting Time: 5:32 pm
Ending Time: 7:20 pm
Benson Tech library

ATTENDEES:

Mike Landstrom (ML), Roger Edwards (RE), Max Baker (MB), Jerome Martin III (JM),
Bob Trimble (BT), Josh Piper (JP), Dale Bajema (DB), Rachael Kuryunny (RK),

Guests: Andrew Kern (96), Michael Kern (68), Ken Bakke, Paul Anthony

Not present: Don Wear (DW), Gerry Oaks (GO), Rob Johns (RJ), and Brent Dahl (BD)

NEW BUSINESS

- Introductions
- Opening remarks – DB:
 - Historically, student have rallied (example Parkland school shooting leading to rallies and some minor changes.
 - Money speaks loudly in making government/political decisions. We need to get all parties involved – students, alumni, teachers, businesses. We need voters to voice their concerns. Employers with money.
 - Benson Site Council is advisory to the school, meets monthly. Parents, students, teachers, staff, alumni etc. Next meeting is Dec 10th, will issue an invite to the PPS board. School/students will email the members inviting them to come. (Paul added he received that invite on Sat from the student.) Curtis Wilson will extend a more formal invitation.
 - All of us may want to start emailing the board members your thoughts as well. The tragic thing about the process is that they seem to be acting largely on emotion and not on facts... rushing to make a decision without enough information. Letters still have an impact as well. (You can add that you are a voter to your communication if you are a voter in the area.)
 - Your orange and blue presence at the meeting also has an impact.
 - There are three meetings coming up of the school board. The first and third are important at the Blanchard building.
 - Tues the 27th: Public board meeting 6PM. At about 7PM there will be a work session on Benson Tech, lasting about 2 hours. There are comment spots there, but you have to be there and sign up then, sit through the work and then comment.
 - Tues Dec 11th: Public board meeting. Benson Tech is not up for discussion then, but the kids will still be there.
 - Tues Dec 18th: Public board meeting 6PM. They will vote on Benson Tech then. The comment spots have been taken, but there

will be the opportunity for the public to testify specific to the vote.
Discussion is limited to the discretion of the board chair.

- Minutes - MB
 - ML moved that we accept the minutes as edited. RK seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- Treasurer's report – ML
 - Balance is: \$2014.20
 - Janitor bill from picnic:
 - Other receipts from the picnic were submitted.
 - Will get the report done and sent to DB for the annual meeting.
- General Discussion:
 - Paul Anthony:
 - The picnic was really effective.
 - 8th grade information night had twice as much participation – almost the entire main floor auditorium was full.
 - The two 8th grade shadow nights went really well too.
 - BT – teacher appreciation night was well attended – about 30 teachers.
 - ML/RK – personally attending class reunions worked well with class of 78. Signed up 13 new members and educated them about what was going on at Benson Tech.
 - BT – Benson Tech participation at the football homecoming game was a bust. Almost nobody there.
- RJ arrived.
- Membership report – JP
 - 97 members
- RJ:
 - We've been making connections with media.
 - Nigel Jaquiss responded he will be looking into the story.
 - In the fall we had some time on channel 6.
 - Rob Manning with Think Out Loud – RJ gave them all the numbers. They asked pointed questions to Rita.
 - There are so many nuances in the board and how they function, unless you are continuously watching and listening, you can't see their attempts to make Benson Tech small.
 - There has been no plan for moving the other 9 programs currently residing in the school.
 - So how do we communicate?
 - We also are thinking about neighborhood schools, alternative programs at Benson.
 - How do we engage the business community?
 - We want to be a comprehensive high school, including arts, drama, and music. The superintendent seems to be thinking this way. This is our ideal and how it used to be.
- Paul:
 - The architects heard the Superintendent say 'comprehensive' and said – they have no athletic field.

- Buckman field is falling apart. Bassetti says about \$15 million.
- So comprehensive might mean \$300 million price tag for Benson Tech.
- It's a war of attrition. We have to keep at it. Board elections next year – we have to keep at it.
- Last year Benson Tech's graduation rate was slightly higher than Grant, but it wasn't publicized.
- Size and general design have to be decided. Any other decision can be pushed off. 1700 students, go with overall design Bassetti is bringing. This was the foundation of the bond. Be true to the voters. 2015 was when the resolution passed.
- Guests:
 - Will contact Amy C and tell her to be true to the planned rebuild.
 - And that they should contact outside professional media consultant.
- Paul:
 - It's not just Benson Tech, it's where the alternative programs go. PPS will need to work with the city to get permits to make the spaces they have fit for school occupancy.
- RJ:
 - Historical context: Back in May talked to lawyers but there was lukewarm reception from the state and the advice was that judges don't want to get involved in local politics.
- KB:
 - Lewis & Clark law professor suggested PR.
- ML moved:
 - The board will move forward with contacting the outside professional media consultant with RJ, KB, DB, Kevin Clark as our representatives of the alumni board in discussions with the outside professional media consultant. The representatives will have authority to move forward with actions proposed on behalf of the board.
 - Discussion
 - Amendments to the motion.
 - We need a Plan B if the outside professional media consultant isn't available to advise us.
 - The motion passed.
- Plan B:
 - Email and Website and social media: Wear blue and orange, show up at the meetings.
 - Provide emails to the board members.
 - Provide short bullet points:
 - Adhere to the 2015 PPS board resolution and the Bond verbiage:
 - Keep Benson Tech as a comprehensive high school with CTE focus.
 - Move out the non-Benson Tech programs to more appropriate locations.
 - Retain the 1700 student capacity design.

- Mention if you are a voter PPS and if you voted for the bond.
- RJ:
 - John Slaughter organized a wonderful march. For the next marches he suggested we have some food to eat, when it's around dinner time. Pizza and a water, etc.
 - We may want to move that we allow a certain amount of spending for that.
 - Motion: we allow up to \$250 per march, as a food budget for the next three marches, per march.
 - ML seconded.
 - Discussion: Individuals can donate to the association. It will likely be reimbursement with receipts.
 - Motion passed.
- DB:
 - Boys basketball program needs support. They would like to have us spread the word about their go fund me account. Need \$5000.
 - JM will contact Bobby about what the specific ask is that we can forward.
 - ML moved that we disseminate the sales pitch request provided by the boys basketball team through our media and contacts.
 - RJ seconded.
 - Motion passed.
- RJ:
 - There's no recognition that Benson Tech has no feeder program. All the middle schools are recruited for their neighborhood schools. This is a big challenge. Might be able to give applicants extra points for interest in participation in athletics.
- DB and KB were excused.
- After discussion, we decided to leave Dec 11th as our next meeting. After our meeting has concluded, we will head to the PPS meeting to show solidarity.
- Scholarship – JP:
 - JP will contact BD and figure out the mailing ask.
- Next meetings:
 - December meeting will be Tuesday the 11th:
 - Please contact anyone you think would be great on the board so they can come.
 - ML will have the annual treasurer's report ready.
 - Board meeting at 5:30
 - annual meeting 6:15 featuring an update on Benson Modernization with a guest speaker
 - Anyone that can, after the meeting, will go to the PPS board meeting.
 - Tech Show will be March 14th and 15th.
 - Next year's picnic should be August 10th.

Parking Lot:

- nBrain – KC – will talk about this in November.

- Other event ideas – RK:
 - People agreed the golf/cruise-in event wasn't as well attended this year. We will look for alternatives.
 - 6/23: Milk carton boat races with our tents next year. The board agreed this is a good idea. Engineering, families, free!
 - Labor Day picnic at Oaks Park. Trade Unions are there.
 - Perhaps some rose festival activities would be appropriate as well.
 - Central East Side golf:
 - RJ and BD went – they chatted up people as they came through. About every other person was an alum.
 - Hood to Coast – health occ kids? Hand out water, might have Benson stuff, etc.
 - Take the tents to certain games?

Respectfully Submitted,

Maj Britt (Max) Baker
Secretary
BPHS Alumni Association