

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



Date: Jan 11, 2012

Starting Time: 5:30 pm Ending Time: 7:30 pm

**ATTENDEES:**

Josh Piper (JP), Ray Simila (RS), Joanne Stainbrook (JS), Wayne Devore (WD), Max Baker (MB), Neal Galash (NG), Chuck Heil (CH), Ken Bakke (KB), Dick Spies (DS)  
Dale Bajema (DB), Monica Mueller of the PTSA

**MI NUTES:**

- Dale reported on the site council meeting:
  1. Students made 10 min film about Benson. We could ask to show in the alumni room. Josh will contact Melanie Grasler.
  2. To promote more student applications, the plan is to have:
    1. Parent nights
    2. Student shadow days
    3. Tech Show in Feb.
  3. The district is re-evaluating the lottery system because it is hard to staff and run a school not knowing how many students will be there. They also like the idea of allowing legacy students, or students with parents in a certain field, in. They are looking for short and long-term solutions/alternatives.
  4. Carol is working on how to entice junior and senior students to Benson.
  5. Rock Solid church 'adopted' Benson and is donating \$2000 to refurbish the teachers' lounge. They also want to do a cleanup day. We should try to make contact. Dale will contact them.
  6. Carol working with the Portland Workforce Alliance, who builds bridges with school and industry, coordinates apprentice programs and industry visits.
  7. Benson Foundation idea – when industry gives to the district for Benson, they don't know where their money goes. They don't like that.
  8. Carol feels that the district is ready to listen to proposals of what Benson SHOULD be. She doesn't believe they will provide more guidance. She wants to create a step-by-step plan to build Benson back up.
  9. Dale and a few others will meet with Carol. He thinks the first meetings should be more about listening than presenting our ideas. We should build on her thoughts.
  10. The school produced a flyer for Tech Show but it has the wrong dates on it.
- Meeting Minutes from Nov 10, 2011 meeting were approved. MB will email out the final corrected minutes.
- Treasurer (KB) reported \$3174.34 and \$68.10 in the PayPal account.
- The PTSA sent a thank you card for our \$100 donation. They will use it next spring.
- Tammy sent a reminder for all board members to pay their dues for 2012.
- Scholarship fund-raising: Mailing went to 70 or so people that had donated before. There will be more incoming, but currently we have \$650.00 split about

- 50/50 whether it came online or in the mail. The fund is currently called the “Reunion Scholarship Fund”. Josh will find out what is involved in changing the name of the fund.
- Josh to create the email distribution list from the list of emails on the last minutes.
  - Events:
    1. Tech Show:
      1. Max gave a tech show meeting update. Ideas included serving our own coffee and punch, cookies instead of cake, adding a table for the Portland Workforce Alliance, the Band, and the Retired Teachers.
      2. Dale to create a newsletter to have at the Tech Show.
      3. Could we have something about the Benson House completion?
      4. Max to send the full minutes to the board for their comments/suggestions.
    2. Picnic:
      1. It was decided to not have the alumni picnic the same weekend as the district cleanup, which is usually the last Sat of August.
      2. Dale will talk to Carol about whether we could have the picnic at Benson and have the old gym and bathrooms open. Another alternative would be the Norse Hall, which is close by. Then we could perhaps have a tour before/after.
      3. We need to decide on a date in time to get mailers and fliers printed up for Tech Show.
      4. Neal will investigate alternate locations for the picnic.
  - We should talk to Carol about what projects she would like to see get done around Benson that the Alumni Assoc. could help get done.
  - Dale spoke a little more about the Portland Workforce Alliance. It's approximately 12 companies, including Kraft Biscuit and Tice Industries. Kevin is head of the PWA. Dale talked to him about building bridges and it seems like our efforts would parallel theirs. Kevin agreed that what we really need is to publicize everything that is already going on, before worrying about getting new things going. Could we get the communications department to make connections and do publicity releases for the Portland Tribune, Willamette Week and the Oregonian? Ray might help with this.
  - Pep Band:
    1. Wayne reports there have been 5 practices, and they have played twice at the boys basketball games at Benson. There is a learning curve on when to play during games, but Wayne is talking with the Adult Rally Squad leader and Carol and everyone to trying to work together to make it work. It really adds to the games. The crowds at the games have been really sparse.
    2. Basketball runs through March and Benson may make it to the playoffs. The board would consider helping the band get to the playoffs.
    3. Josh will set up a google group for the Band. Max will help keep it updated.
    4. Monica Mueller said she would forward Wayne's emails about the band to the PTSA and Carol. She will donate her old flute to the band.
    5. The band practices every Tuesday at 6PM in the Band room.

6. The band will include Benson supporters. Basic attire – orange shirt/sweatshirt and blue jeans. It was agreed that once there is stability, the association would help with printed shirts/caps.
  7. The band will need to play in the Norse Parade sponsored by Norse Hall, whenever that is. Max checked the website and this is May 17<sup>th</sup>:
    1. When May 17 falls on weekdays, doors open at 4pm and the parade starts at 6pm.
    2. When May 17 falls on a weekend, doors open at 1pm and the parade is at 3pm.
- Shadow Days
    1. Potential 8<sup>th</sup> graders will come to Benson 8AM – 11AM on Feb 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> to shadow students and learn more about Benson. There will be approximately 90 every day. Barry, the VP, has asked if we could provide people to help out, mostly getting kids/parents from buses into the school etc. Logistics. Max volunteered to help. Dale will email Max and Barry to coordinate.
  - Long Term Planning Committee
    1. Dale and Mr. Goodhue are exploring the Charter School idea. There has been discussion on whether the focus should be on short or long term solutions, independence from the district or working with the district. Members of the committee will have a dinner meeting with Carol to discuss this further.
    2. There has been discussion of creating a Benson Foundation or funding mechanism to make sure the CTE programs are adequately funded. It might be simpler than a charter school. Industry doesn't know where their donations to the district go, so they are reluctant to give. Cooperation is difficult when the district wants to take over. It's possible the CTE portion of the school could become a charter school inside Benson.
    3. The Academy went to Oregon City because there was nothing there already, and here in Portland, there is already a program, but there needs to be more communication.
    4. Carol has already expressed interest in getting Juniors and Seniors to come into Benson into CTE.
  - Monica mentioned that the PTSA is selling Benson scarves, and they have paypal. PTSA is meeting next Tuesday, 7PM at Benson.
  - Membership
    1. The membership reminder postcard last year was sent to 1200 people and generated \$1500. Now we have 3600 mailing addresses. Last year we did much of the work ourselves, but this year it will be too much. We found a company to outsource everything to for \$1600.00, the bulk of which is postage.
    2. Josh moved and Max seconded that we approve spending \$1600.00 on the membership mailing. There was discussion that we will have a separate mailing for renewals that is included in that price. The motion passed.
    3. There are only 29 official paid members for this year so far. Reminder for the board to pay their 2012 dues.
  - Online archives – Josh reported that most of the past minutes and newsletters are available online. Max will provide PDFs of the minutes she has done to Josh.

- Everyone should look at the new website.
- Kenton Station meeting 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday 1/24 5-7ish.
- Skills USA – Joanne will check into donating miles for kids that need to travel to Skills USA competitions.
- It was agreed to have board meetings on 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursdays.
- The next board meeting will be before tech show: Feb 9<sup>th</sup>. Roy will miss that meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Maj Britt (Max) Baker  
Secretary  
BPHS Alumni Association