

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



Date: Sept 10, 2018
Starting Time: 5:40 pm
Ending Time: 7:31 pm
Benson Tech library

ATTENDEES:

Mike Landstrom (ML), Roger Edwards (RE), Max Baker (MB), Jerome Martin III (JM),
Bob Trimble (BT), Rob Johns (RJ), Rachael Kuryunny (RK), Brent Dahl (BD)

Guests: Kevin Clark (KC)

Not present: Josh Piper (JP), Dale Bajema (DB), Don Wear (DW), Gerry Oaks (GO)

NEW BUSINESS

- Treasurer's report – ML
 - Balance is: \$1501.42
 - Event brite sent a check, probably for cruise-in: \$395.49
 - Picnic: \$804 came in; 662 cash. Meals and 10 new members. 119 meals sold.
- Brent Dahl arrived.
- Membership report – JP
 - 10 since last meeting: 82.
 - Membership discussion points:
 - Remember \$20 is a minimum – can encourage people to donate more.
 - We want/need to try and get more teachers involved.
 - Higher numbers regardless of the money we bring in gives us more clout.
- Minutes – MB
 - Approve July minutes and August minutes.
 - RJ moved we accept the minutes. ML seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
 - August revised minutes were sent out. RJ moved and RK seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- Next meetings:
 - School is closed Nov 12. Suggested changing the meeting to the 19th. All agreed.
 - Dec meeting moved to Tuesday the 11th. Board meeting at 5:30, annual meeting 6:30, girls' basketball game starts at 7:15PM.
 - Tech Show will be March 14th and 15th.
 - Next year's picnic should be August 10th.
- Teacher Appreciation event 9/20:
 - 3:30-5PM in the band room. It's about 30-70 people.

- We donated \$200 last year.
- RJ moved we offer up to \$250, RK seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- RJ will check with Curtis and offer up to \$250.
- Board members will make it if they can.
- RJ moved: We will offer the teachers 2 for 1 membership at the event, extended through 2019. BD seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- School tours are so important – we could ask these teachers to help with that.
- There are about 10 staff still alumni. Curtis will allow us to make an announcement. Jorge Maceo has a great story to tell – maybe we could ask him to lead some tours and share his story. RJ will check with Curtis about whether sports teachers will be there.
- Bob Trimble will purchase food at Costco and other locations and bring it.
- Picnic – RK:
 - One of the lessons learned is that you have to make sure people fill out the email address field on the sign-in sheet. It only takes one person not filling out and the people after leave it blank too.
 - 119 meals
 - Decent 1998 turnout.
 - There were a lot of incoming freshman, many from private school.
 - Next year – contact sports teams, clubs to get representation. Jessica Murchison to get student ambassadors to show. MB will reach out to Jessica Murchison about attending student council meetings and to get the ambassadors/student leader participation at alumni events.
 - We need to have more tours and fewer people in each tour. Hard to communicate, people trail around and merge with other groups. 1 hour tours with 20 max people.
 - We'll update the alumni website with success of 98 reunion at the picnic, ask for the 99/89/79 classes to coordinate.
- 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?
- CTE planning for district for the next 5 years – BD
 - PPS said – we need help with this type of work.
 - Vendors supply RFPs with their ideas and estimates.

- He's been working on an RFP (Request For Proposal), talking to all kinds of people, getting good feedback on what it needs to look like.
- PPS does not seem to have a direction. We got official responses to our questions, and there is no current CTE master plan in force right now.
- There's an entire team working on this.
- He'll report back how this goes.
- Measure 98 money and PPS money used for this.
- Hear back on Sept 22nd. Interviews 26-29, announce Oct 5th.
- 60 vendors, but probably 15 decent bids.
- BD was excused.
- DAG email
 - Jen Sohm emailed about volunteering for the Design Advisory Group (DAG) for the Benson Tech Remodernization. BensonBond.pps.net . Application process ends September 20th.
 - They will meet Thursday evenings, once a month, throughout the year.
 - RJ: we've gone through this process twice. Now they are presenting a plan and want another committee. Not sure how much they will be able to influence the plan.
 - KC: The previous BPHS DAG schedule was replaced by a 'pre-DAG' process that continued into Spring, 2018 to coincide with further BPHS project pre-diligence assessments and BPHS project budget reconciliation by OSM. In addition, BPHS stakeholders have been concerned about bond language amendments approved by the board of education months ago. The new language allows the board of education to reserve the right to make changes to Design Team/DAG suggestions that were approved by the board of education. As a DAG, we provide advice. The design team provides advice. These recommendations are submitted to the board of education and they approve as they wish. The new language says there should be no substantive changes to approved project plans – hopefully they follow that language and respect our future submitted Master Plan. (I believe there was a revised Master Plan compiled from the pre-DAG work. But, the only one available on the PPS website dates to DOWA's 2016 draft.
 - Both RJ and KC applied for seats on the DAG. Probably DB and DS and BD did as well.
- Sports update – RJ:
 - It's been a battle to keep sports at Benson Tech.
 - Marshall Haskins is suggesting we merge with Jefferson or give up sports altogether.
 - Both Curtis and the Jeff principal are pushing back.
- Benson Tech Action Committee – RJ & KC
 - Monday meetings with many members. We've done our best to have a public understanding of the bond underfunding brought to light.
 - KB took the strongest approach to litigation. The judges don't want to get involved with local politics.

- We'd love to have a true investigation, but there's no documentation at this point. RJ had written to Secretary of State and others and nobody was interested in picking up the investigation.
- The CFO is talking about \$50 million for planning the modernization of Benson Tech. Lincoln's budget has not yet been approved, but the plan was approved. There's been little to no discussion about Benson Tech yet – the BOE and PPS leaders have emphasized placing BPHS on the presumptive 2020 bond measure. We've suggested they borrow money from the general fund or elsewhere. But the district is anticipating a severe operational budget crisis at the beginning of the next academic year – an approximate \$400 million shortage. PPS officials testifying in front of the BOE said it was the intention all along, at least a backup plan, to put Benson Tech on the 2020 bond measure. However, we're concerned about tax fatigue negatively impacting bond measure passage by PDX voters. Health and safety issues, such as school building seismic integrity, are nonetheless still important to voters. We might be able to get the support we need.
- As stakeholders we still don't have accurate numbers about how much our project will cost. There are a few factors in play, such as the labor and equipment shortage.
- The comfort level of the board of education with financial pressures was improved by someone stating that the amount of revenue would increase based on the increase of the value of homes. However, this still requires that every bond passes.
- Next meeting is Oct 8th at Benson Tech library 5:30-7:30PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Maj Britt (Max) Baker
Secretary
BPHS Alumni Association

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