

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



Date: July 8, 2019
Starting Time: 5:30 pm
Ending Time: 7:30 pm
Gregory Heights Library classroom

ATTENDEES:

Rob Johns (RJ), Gerry Ochs (GO), Josh Piper (JP), Mike Landstrom (ML), Bob Trimble (BT), Roger Edwards (RE), Rachael Kuryunny (RK), Dale Bajema (DB), Max Baker (MB), Dave Hutchins (DH)

Guests: Kevin Clark (KC) 1984 alum; Ken Bakke (KB) alum; Elizabeth O'Malley, Tech Pride Volunteers; Captain Jeff Strachan, class of 1977 alum.

Not present: Jerome Martin III (JM) Brent Dahl (BD)

NEW BUSINESS

- Guests:
 - Elizabeth O'Malley, Tech Pride Volunteer
 - Captain Jeff Strachan, class of 1977 alum.
- Opening talk - DB:
 - Need to think about the different experience incoming freshmen will have since many years will be spent at another location.
- Minutes:
 - ML had sent out the minutes, KC had a few updates.
 - GO moved, RK seconded to accept the minutes with the corrections sent. Unanimously approved.
- Treasurer's Report:
 - \$154 in Paypal, think these were memberships from the boat races.
 - \$120 from reunion.
 - \$3332 in savings.
 - \$102 spent on boat race refreshments.
 - \$200 to GO for plaque and \$150 for gift certificate for Paul Anthony.
- Membership:
 - 116 paid members.
 - RK got several at class of 1999 reunion, a few at the boat race.
 - Discussion about membership strategies.
- Preamble to bylaws:
 - Handout of the second draft verbiage:
 - Consistent with the general values of Portland Public Schools and the historical and current diversity of Benson Polytechnic High School, the Benson Polytechnic High School Alumni Association is committed to the inclusion and worth of all individuals in their

roles, membership, and participation in the Association's meetings, activities, and sponsored events.

- The Association discourages speech, actions, and other forms of expression during Association engagements that discriminate or harass on the basis of, but not limited to, perceived or actual race; national, cultural, and/or ethnic origin; physical appearance, sex, religion, age, sexual orientation, gender expression and/or identification, employment, economic status, military service, political identification; health, wellness, and/or disability; pregnancy, and parental, marital, and/or familial status.
- Discussion? None
- RK moved to accept and amend the bylaws, JP seconded. Motion passed.
- Milk Carton Boat Races:
 - RK says thank you to all that participated. We broke even with the memberships that came in.
 - As a community outreach and building interest, it was successful.
 - Wasn't so successful in connecting with Benson alums and increase membership.
 - The Royal Rosarians loved us, announced our presence.
 - They only had about 15 entries. The Rosarians asked for 5 teams from Benson next year.
 - Note that we need to make sure we provide enough giveaways for everyone, not just Benson Tech related people. Because the event requires no selling, other groups were giving away free things to everyone so people assumed we were as well, and it resulted in some uncomfortable conversations.
- DH arrived
 - Jeff mentioned he was concerned about the lack of attendance. When he walked around it looked like it was generational – 15 or 20 families all applauding for their boats. When he walked around the lake the Tech tents popped out. He feels that the event might get new life with the Rosarians embracing it.
 - KC and RK mentioned that they noticed the lack of event advertising.
 - They appreciated the photo of Curtis.
 - ML – we should think about the Rose Cup races and ties to automotive, the air show with aviation. Etc.
 - RK – we might think about having a 'go kit' where we have foldable tables, folding chairs, coolers etc. so we don't have to scramble to get everything together.
- August Picnic – DB
 - Permit from 11 to 4:30PM. \$48/hr. Tours will be restricted.
 - RJ will talk to Neal to see if he can bring the motorhome again. If not, he'll figure out alternatives.
 - BT/DB will tell Devin how many hours for the permit, they will clarify where we can go for tours.

- Guest Elizabeth says there's a Freshman Picnic-like event the night before registration. August 14th for incoming students and parents.
- RJ is on getting Paul Anthony to the picnic. RJ and DB will coordinate what to do for the presentation at around 1PM.
- There is no class reunion coming to the picnic this year.
- PA system? RK will talk to Curtis about getting the PA system.
- Who is leading the tours this year? Had hoped to go through school leadership. Asked guest Elizabeth if we could get Tech Pride help pairing a student with an alum, etc. Two tours, 15-20 people, don't let them roam. Statistics to hand out to the tour givers. Elizabeth will connect back with RK and DB.
- Newsletter:
 - Connie Mar needs drafts by 7/24 to put together.
 - RK and BT: Photos from the boat races.
 - JP will draft an article on scholarship recipients and the scholarship account.
 - RJ will do a spot on Paul Anthony.
 - RJ will report on Benson Tech Foundation.
 - KC will do a spot on the modernization and schematic design display item. GO will do graphic showing years in transit timeline.
 - RJ/DB articles on how to support the transition.
 - Athletic achievements article – looking for a writer:
 - RJ will go to Curtis to go to Scott Archer for an article.
 - RE will do an article about Curtis induction into the Royal Rosarians.
 - Elizabeth will convey the idea with the boosters/Tech Pride that they have an article or blurb.
- RK made a motion to approve up to \$1000 in expenses for the picnic for the CUB, newsletter and food. ML seconded. Motion passed.
- Benson Tech Foundation – RJ:
 - Could we use foundation funds for a Benson Tech bus during the Marshall years? Just considering the idea.
- How do we support the school during the construction/transition years?
 - GO is putting together a timeline graphic.
 - How do alums and staff support the students?
 - How do we make them feel like Benson Tech alums?
 - Oral history video that could stream on closed circuit, hallway displays, special event on Benson Tech campus for entire student body/staff, etc.
 - How to remind students their school is really on 12th street – visits. There are educational opportunities being designed for students to be on campus at times during construction.
- Modernization project – KC
 - Board Resolutions indicate the Board “expects to” guarantee entire Benson Tech project by full faith in credit loan, if problems arise with 2020 Capital Projects Bond referral and allocations. Based on BOE Meeting discussions, the BOE will still request some money on the bond

referral for Benson Tech modernization, perhaps to lower the loan amount. There remain some concerns regarding the three schools previously slated on the 2020 bond, WHS, JHS, and CHS, and their communities' reactions to likely being bumped off the bond. However, a new Board has convened and discussions and decisions about the bond referral and other funding mechanisms probably will not be finalized for another year. There are extreme penalties for not keeping on track – a penalty on the loan, contracting, etc. According to Paul Anthony and others, this means there is a point where the district must move forward to do the work because the penalties would be too high. KC anticipates the current budget of about 358 million will come closer to 400 million. But, the project serves high needs underserved populations and, if you compare the combined costs of LHS and MHS projects to the Benson Tech project budget, including modernization of MPG programs, the scope and costs are not unreasonable.

- RJ mentioned it might be good to get a meeting with the CFO to find out more about the penalties.
- KC – the question is whether there's a loan guarantee, if the project budget isn't locked-in until next spring.
- Remember that we may still face other issues before and after the Benson Tech building is re-opened following construction. For example, issues over district operational funding cuts may persist for years – the same sorts of cuts that closed the Architecture program for Academic Year 2019-2020. KC thinks there are ways we can ramp-up getting government-, academia-, and industry-sourced funding through the Foundation to support Benson Tech programs, so we stop losing majors, etc. We can do that in ways that don't encourage PPS to further reduce educational funding to Benson Tech.
- Garcia is working on setting up an NPO to structure and manage district-wide and school partnerships and grants – the timing and launch of this organization and how it might benefit Benson Tech is still unclear. But, many government organizations use such entities to manage funds solicitations, transfers, allocations, etc. Garcia formed one such organization in a Bay Area school district prior to working for PPS.
- Community Cleanup – RJ
 - Aug 17th, Curtis would like us to do the BBQ.
- Ideas for thought – DB:
 - Letter to Curtis to hand to faculty and staff about the Alumni Association – we're here to support you. Let us know your needs.
 - ML – Neal Kelly was going to hire a few students, but the instructor never gave the information to the students. We need to understand that if we lay the groundwork we'll get participation from the staff.
 - KC – how can we phrase the letter to better encourage faculty to become involved? We're often viewed as outsiders and stepping on their feet. The faculty might want the recognition for bringing

these kinds of opportunities to students. We need to find a way to work together. Can we propose a hypothetical in the letter based on the reality that state and district funding is declining and not meeting our needs (ex: architecture program).

- Elizabeth – Tech Pride reached out to the teachers with a 3 questions survey of how they could help and received no answers. She is married to a teacher and believes it's because they are stretched too thin. We should work together to help figure out how to help them realize how they can utilize the help.
 - In-person talks with teachers at the back to school night might help.
 - Other suggestions were discussed.
 - DB, KC, RK, RJ would love to have Elizabeth talk to them about what teachers to approach and the best way to do it.
- Next meeting:
 - August meeting will be at Gregory Heights Library at 5:30 PM in the classroom:7921 NE Sandy, Portland, OR 97213
 - August 5th (1st Monday)

Respectfully Submitted,

Maj Britt (Max) Baker
Secretary
BPHS Alumni Association