

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



Date: Feb 9th, 2012

Starting Time: 5:30 pm Ending Time: 8:00 pm

ATTENDEES:

Josh Piper (JP), Joanne Stainbrook (JS), Wayne Devore (WD), Max Baker (MB), Neal Galash (NG), Chuck Heil (CH), Dick Spies (DS), Monica Mueller representing the PTSA

MI NUTES:

- Minutes from the February 9th, 2012 meeting were discussed and approved. Final copy to be emailed out by MB.
- Treasurer (KB) was absent. We will get an account at the next meeting.
- Membership (JP)
Membership is up to 66, and Ken probably has additional paper forms.
- Events:
 - Recap of Tech Show (MB)
 - Josh provided numbers by class that signed in:
 - 40s: 6
 - 50s: 16
 - 60s: 32
 - 70s: 31
 - 80s: 46
 - 90s: 27
 - 00s: 41
 - 2010 and 2011: 35
 - Total that signed in: 234
 - ▲ What went well?
 - Balloons as key decorations worked great.
 - Extra tables up in A position helped us show off flyers.
 - Band signs, provided by Wayne, looked fabulous.
 - Band playing was great!
 - Room arrangement – having the sign in and alumni sign up right at the door was key.
 - Brett easy to work with
 - Trivia game got people talking to each other and watching the videos to find answers. Brett provided us with three student-made prizes each night. Very cool!
 - Providing our own coffee and punch
 - Robotics presentation – can we get more student group demos/presentations?
 - Newsletter was great
 - Decade photos/trivia on the yearbook tables was great.
 - ¼ sheet handouts on picnic was great.
 - Benson Fight Song ½ sheet handouts were nice.

- ▲ What could be better?
 - Balloon prep – need a few more people to help.
 - Need more people at sign in – about four. Two for sign in and two for the alumni table.
 - Trivia questions – not much participation. It needs to be ready to go at door opening. Need more preparation, signs, and promotion of student-made prizes.
 - Cookies vs cake. Heard at least one comment about lack of cake. Cookies are easier but the time it takes to serve cake could be used as a conversation/connection opportunity.
 - Yearbooks were late. Need to make sure appropriate person is notified instead of assuming.
 - Need more volunteers so board can be floaters.
 - Need new house display
 - At the last second, Brett asked if we would host a huge orange Tech Show donation box with student made sign. So we ditched the scholarship donation jar idea. However, we don't think this was effective (don't think anyone donated!)
 - Balloon idea – Handing out balloons at the end of the last night, lots of students were excited to get one, and little kids of grads. We could perhaps get some orange and blue balloons printed with something like 'Benson Alumni Assoc.' (each word its own line), and have an alum passing them out during the tech show, directing people to visit the alumni room. Helium tank from Lippman's was \$49.99 and included ribbon and balloons. There was enough helium to fill 100 balloons.
 - Band idea – can we have the band play in the halls somewhere, direct people to the alumni room?
 - Talks should begin now with teachers and PWA if we want them in the room next year, which I think would be great.
 - Don't have cost total yet, with Ken out. Please submit your receipts if you haven't yet.
- Picnic:
 - Max made the reservation at Blue Lake for sites 18A and 18B for Saturday August 4th. \$130.00. Going by previous experience, we should be there at 9:30 to start setup.
 - Board discussed and decided to do:
 - 50/50 raffle
 - Benson band will play
 - Band information
 - Free dogs, burgers and punch
 - Potluck table
 - Publicity! – PTSA, school email newsletters, school incoming student packet.
 - Chuck will see about getting better audio support.
 - Chuck will invite the PTSA.

- Robotics club event in May? – Dale was approached with possibly having the BPHSAA sponsor an event. After discussion with the Executive Board, he committed us to arranging space, publicizing it, and providing punch and cookies. There is no date set. There are many questions: Who is the audience? Parents, incoming students, alumni, industry? Dale will be working with John DeLacy (Benson Alum and Club mentor), Matt Pellico (teacher advisor) and the PTSA (possible joint sponsor) to nail down the details.
- Other ideas of alumni support:
 - Ben Fleske OMSI – Josh to contact
 - OSU Extension – 4H support – Rob to contact
 - NASA space camp scholarship for two students? Max to investigate
- An intro drafting class (construction drawing) will be offered next fall. Emails have been flying about drafting tables. Discussion affirmed that the board will help in any way it can, once details have been set regarding what is needed, which is partially determined by whatever grants Carol can get. Kathy Skatch is asking for \$300,000 and hoping to get \$100,000, which must be spent on capital goods. We are hoping for a wish list, then we can help approach alums and industry if needed.
- Participation in Kern Neighborhood cleanup (4/21) including Benson HS grounds. The PTSA and Rock Solid church (connection is Jesse Richard, a former substitute teacher at Benson) are indicating they will participate. The PTSA is planning a pre-cleanup walkthrough with Carol to identify areas that need attention. Kids can get involved with weeding and graffiti removal. They will have dumpsters, but we may need a truck to get our stuff to their dumpster site, or may be able to use the school dumpsters. Chuck will bring truck and trailer. Rock Solid is going to provide donuts and coffee in the morning, and a noon catered lunch. Suggestions included: eblast to alumni membership:
 - Date and time – 4/21 8AM to noon (or portion thereof)
 - Bring your own tools (suggestions)
 - Donations – barkdust/chips, landscaping?
 Monica will be the PTSA liaison and point person.
- Band update – Wayne
 - Chuck asked that the band be formally recognized by the board. Our thanks!
 - Past Activities:
 - Band played at Tech Show and was well received. A few people signed up for information.
 - The band played a few of the varsity boys basketball games at Benson.
 - The band played all three days in Eugene at the playoffs.
 - Lots of kudos for the band.
 - Thanks to Ken for Thursday and Friday hauling.
 - Would like reimbursement amount for the alumni students that came from Monmouth to play in the band. Note: Executive board previously voted to reimburse band members some money for travel/food expenses. Wayne will make sure money gets to the alumni students.
 - Future activities:

- The coach for the girls basketball would like us to play for their games next year. We are open to that.
- The Baseball team asked us to play. We are open to that.
- Norse Hall asked the band to play at the Kern neighborhood cleanup at the catered lunch.
- The band will march and play in the Norse Hall parade on May 17th.
- We want the band to grow. Many parents at the basketball tournament had not heard about the band.
- At the beginning, Carol gave Wayne a list of kids that indicated they were interested. Some came for a few practices and dropped out. Issue: contact rules for us to contact the kids for reminders, etc.
- Should we push for a band club? The Spanish teacher had volunteered to be the faculty advisor. It's then possible that the teacher could contact the kids directly, or we could have a release form. **Wayne to explore.**
- We need to make sure the band information is in the welcome packet for next year. **Wayne to explore.**
- The band needs a 501C3 umbrella to make instrument and cash donations tax deductible.
- Discussion led to the idea of a band VEST. Band members will work on a design.
- CTE Development Foundation (RJ)

The Executive Committee approved the idea in principle and encouraged Rob to explore a Benson Development Fund focusing on CTE programs. This would allow cash, supplied and equipment to flow directly to Benson without a portion going to the District. Lincoln has a similar foundation for capital improvements. Rob talked to a lawyer and found:

 - It needs to be a 501C3 organization.
 - It will cost approximately \$1500 – 2000 for the legal stuff – filing, structure, legal advice.
 - Then we will need an accountant to maintain it, hopefully a Benson alum volunteer. John Bell was the CPA (Benson grad) we talked to previously. **RJ will contact him.**
 - Later we will need organizational charts, etc. Try and get some big names on the board, like A.C. Green.
 - **RJ will put together the info we need to have a vote.**

Dale and Rob will talk to District officials involved in the existing PPS foundation before finalizing plans.
- Tri-School development proposal – DS

Dick has met with representatives from Lincoln and Roosevelt to develop a proposal for the District on school program enrichment. The executive committee had previously signed off on these efforts. Dick also met with Carol Smith and liaisons and they like the cooperative approach. Dick thinks there is strength in numbers and that this is perceived as a positive effort.
- Long Range Facilities Planning – DS
 - The school district is gathering info right now, as Long Range Facilities Planning (total picture) was part of their legislative mandate. They have to

have a 10 year plan wrapped up in the next few months. There have been numerous comments about Benson during these meetings. Dick believes that the argument for strengthening Benson is gaining momentum with the district.

- Lincoln has received criticism because they are so far ahead of the rest of the schools in their plan development. Dick wants to learn from their efforts and see what will fit into Benson's story.
- Note: There was a front page article in the Portland Tribune:
High school redesign traps Benson
Successful school must cap enrollment, yet wants to grow
By Jennifer Anderson
The Portland Tribune, Mar 15, 2012, Updated Mar 15, 2012
http://www.portlandtribune.com/news/story.php?story_id=133176020248340300
 - The district allows Benson 260 spots for incoming freshmen. More than 400 have applied, 382 of whom listed Benson as their first choice.
 - Rob Johns quote
 - Lars Larson talked it up, in favor of Benson growing.
- We need to get organized so we can talk with the mayor, the county, the state – all levels. The district is seeking ideas so they can ask for a bond, so we need to lay out our vision: building opportunities for mixed use development, CTE, technology. The idea is that each school presents a package with their story and needs.
- Dick thinks the 'warm, safe, dry' approach to the last bond measure is what killed it – needs to have vision for the future, including partnering with communities and business – a robust Benson.
- Other states are trying to do what Benson does with CTE.
- Work experience information from alumni – Josh
 - Josh and Dale met with PWA. Kevin Jean-Gail asked if we had info about where our alumni is working that might be useful in reaching out for new business partners for Benson. Josh is working up a plan to ask all contacts: Place of Employment, Skill sets.
- PTSA
 - Chuck has been attending the PTSA meetings. He suggests formalizing a liaison, since he will be retiring from teaching and stepping off the board.
- Scholarship
 - No report.
- Other business:
 - Joanne checked into donating miles for kids that need to travel to Skills USA competitions. If we can get 501C3 status, we can get airline sites to list us as a group to select on their websites for donating unused miles to.
 - Rob attended the Ford presentation at Benson. He talked with Carol, who said that she is setting up meetings with the President of OSU and with OIT. She is emphasizing that Benson grads already have college experience. These partnerships are coming. OSU and OIT have scholarships for entry level campus programs.
 - The Google groups list is working, so please use it for board correspondence.

- The next meeting will be April 12th from 5:30-7:30PM.
- The meeting dates for the rest of the year are scheduled for 2nd Thursdays 5:30 – 7:30PM. **Please let Max know if you cannot attend.**

At Benson library:

March 15th

April 12th

May 10th

At Dick's work:

Group MacKenzie

1515 SE Water Ave. Suite 100 (by OMSI)

(doors locked by 5PM; be ready to wave at the window and have a phone number handy)

June 14th

July 12th

August 9th (consider that the picnic is Aug 4th, with annual meeting and board elections. may want to reschedule or cancel)

September 13th

At Benson library:

October 11th

November 8th

December 13th

OLD BUSINESS

- Ray to help coordinate PR releases to the Portland Tribune, Willamette Week and the Oregonian about what is currently going on at Benson. Where are we at with Benson House publicity?
- The scholarship fund is currently called the “Reunion Scholarship Fund”. Josh will find out what is involved in changing the name of the fund.
- Max will provide laminated name tags to the board in time for the picnic.
- Reminder: Band will be marching in the May 17th Norse hall parade.
- Dale contacted Tom Thompson with the Oregon State Department of Education: Benson and the State of Oregon received the sustainable program grant and they've been working on the study for two years but haven't finalized it. He will call to Reese Lord, who was working for the Mayor but is now at Systems, a private group of Educational Consultants.
- Rob Johns
 - OSU Engineering scholarships and Benson science teacher connections.
 - Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation has a grant we could go after. Kyle Cold at OSU Extension could help us write the grant and submit it.

- Science Connections – having Benson students visit some nights and days at OSU for programs. Pam Doles on the board – program for steps into college for targeted individuals.

Respectfully Submitted,

Maj Britt (Max) Baker
Secretary
BPHS Alumni Association