

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



Date: Jan 14, 2019  
Starting Time: 5:30 pm  
Ending Time: 7:30 pm  
Benson Tech library

**ATTENDEES:**

Gerry Oaks (GO), Roger Edwards (RE), Max Baker (MB), Bob Trimble (BT), Josh Piper (JP), Rachael Kuryunny (RK), Brent Dahl (BD), Rob Johns (RJ), Dale Bajema (DB), Dave Hutchins (DH), Jerome Martin III (JM)

Guests: Kevin Clark (KC); Ken Bakke (KB), Cheyenne Montalbin (teaches Tech Algebra and Tech Geometry); Dick Pugh class of 58

Not present: Mike Landstrom (ML)

**NEW BUSINESS**

- Remarks – DB
  - Purposes of our group:
    - Social meetups for alumni
    - Support of the school
    - Let's talk about this more today
  - Met with superintendent in Dec. as site council member. His feelings about the meeting:
    - He's comfortable in this position.
    - Felt he was listening and asking good questions
    - His ideas stem from being a professional educator.
    - Deals with politics 24 hours a day.
    - He believes in Benson as a comprehensive H.S.
    - He is interested in maintaining the school, possibly with small tweaks.
    - He is interested in moving the other programs out of the building, but this will take time.
    - Don't panic, let's work our way through this – attitude.
    - DB believes the staff changes indicate he will be here for a while.
    - DB suggests we support him if we can.
  - Need to strengthen
- Cheyanne presented thank you card and board from the Tech Geometry and Tech Algebra classes for donations from the Foundation.
  - RJ mentioned that the Kerns brought up this need.
  - There are about 1/3 of the Freshman in the class.
  - KC mentioned federal funding opportunities.
  - Cheyenne mentioned she is working with Curtis to identify more opportunities.

- Reclaim NW and Habitat donate materials.
- Currently building a small stage for Portland Mercado.
- Minutes – MB
  - BD moved to approve the minutes from the Dec meeting and annual meeting. RJ seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- Treasurer’s report – RJ on behalf of ML
  - \$1968 in checking – all expenses paid.
  - \$45 in savings.
  - \$172.98 in PayPal.
- Membership – JP:
  - 36 paid members because it’s the new year.
  - Reminders will go out for people to renew.
- JM stepped out
- Election of Treasurer
  - ML is out on surgery recovery.
  - BT has volunteered to be the treasurer.
  - Discussion ensued.
  - RK moved that we elect a treasurer tonight, BD seconded. Motion passed.
  - RK moved that we elect BT to the position, DH seconded. Motion passed.
- Modernization – KC
  - PPS Board approved unanimously the Benson Tech Master Planning recommendation on Dec 17<sup>th</sup>. There can be no substantive changes now.
  - The real challenges will be in the next few months on the issues still to be resolved: Programming, allocation of CTE space, etc.
  - The superintendent’s endorsement was key.
  - DB: could seniors from other high schools come to get in-depth training? This may be worked out over time.
  - KC – ‘hybrid model’ definition is still under consideration. Some members of the board may want to pursue a more aggressive definition that could impact enrollment, assigned space for CTE dedicated to Benson Tech students, etc. Depending on when and how education is offered, we could do it in a way that doesn’t impact the 1700 student schooling. Exchange programs could be possible, where Benson Tech students take courses in other schools as well.
  - There ~~is was supposedly~~ a tentative March ~~deadline~~ for about moving the determining the future of alternative programs at BPHS, but there has to be enough time to make assessments before those decisions ~~can~~ could be made. Beginning in Fall 2018, the BOE requested assessments from several PPS departments. The findings of those assessments have not been announced publicly.
  - DAG process is proceeding. Next meeting on Jan 31<sup>st</sup>. We’ve been told that the board will guarantee the build with a bridge loan if the bond doesn’t pass.
  - The 2020 bond measure may be a barrier – some schools may have to be removed to guarantee the funding for Benson Tech. Multiple graduation pathways funding may knock the other high school off the bond, too. Such

decisions may drive complaints from affected neighborhood schools, possibly resulting in negative public opinion about balloting and passing the presumptive 2020 bond.

- RK showed us the Portland Tribune physical paper, which shows a headline of 'Benson Budget Balloons Again' vs. electronic headline of 'Runaway costs threaten Benson rebuild, says bond committee'. Sways public opinion.
- Mike Rosen, Julie Esparza Brown, Paul Anthony, and Amy Kohnstamm board members seats will be up for election.
- Changes in BPHSAA photos – RK
  - Storage is now in Flickr Pro, so we have an annual fee of \$50 that we previously voted to approve.
  - JP is backup.
- Time Capsule – RE
  - Nobody knows anything about it.
  - Everyone is excited about opening it at Tech Show.
  - They've put together a committee including staff, students, RE and some class of 1969 members.
  - RE is trying to find the two members that he believes are responsible: Bruch Foster and Larry Hintz.
  - Class of 2019 is excited about it. People are trying to reach Tammy to get students invested.
  - Jessica Murchison mentioned that it has publicity possibilities.
- Ken Bakke was excused.
- Archive for letters supporting Benson Tech:
  - JP – we do use the google drive for archiving. The drive is accessible to anyone on the board google group.
  - RK – as a backup, we'll screenshot them and keep them on Flickr.
  - If you have any letters/articles, please sent them to RK.
- Dick Pugh arrived.
- BPVC – DB
  - Benson Pride Volunteer Committee was created at the beginning of the school year.
  - Meeting on 1/15 at 6PM at Kenton Station.
  - RJ and KC will be there.
  - We've invited them to send someone to our meetings and could reciprocate.
- Draft 2019 Budget
  - Discussion of some previous events.
  - Suggested by ML:
    - \$500.00 Tech Show:
      - Includes Printing, food, any administrating issues needed for Tech Show
    - \$800.00 Freshman Picnic
      - \$400.00 CUB (janitorial)
      - \$200.00 food

- \$100.00 Admin/printing costs
    - \$100.00 other
  - \$500.00 Summer Function
    - Previously the cruise-in/golf was used and another option or suggestion was the milk carton races in West Moreland Park. We will need a committee on this but the weather challenges last year Rachael's suggestion participating in the Milk Carton boat races. Again a thought.
  - \$800.00 annual picnic on front lawn of Benson Tech HS
    - Includes \$400.00 CUB (Janitorial) \$200.00 food, \$100.00 Admin/printing, and \$100 trash and trinkets.
  - \$200.00 Annual Teacher appreciation once school starts.
- Discussion:
- \$2200 means 110 members to break even, not including funds we might raise through selling food, etc. at events.
  - Important to review the events and whether we want to do the same things the same way or change things.
  - The BBQ at the cleanup was successful – many people appreciated the alumni providing food, about 90 people did the work and hung out together. We could involve the new parent group.
  - Dick Pugh – suggested having signs on the tables remember our scholarship endowment fund. Before Thanksgiving, send a reminder, in May, remind about adding it to wills.
  - DB suggested we come up with list of events, estimate high/low figures for each event.
  - Thoughts about collecting new members:
    - Events
    - Attending reunions
    - Sign in sheets should have example person at the top with contact info filled out.
    - Tech show
      - move Josh up front
      - have the paper form there too
      - must have alumni sticker
      - car decal, magnet etc. to hand to new members. GO will check with his contact. RJ suggested for this year getting the foundry to supply coasters for us.
    - RK will think about Tech Show and Aug picnic and tweaks for this year and potential budget. DH will help.
    - Remind Curtis about giving info to seniors.
    - Review, revise the talking points.
  - RK will check out the Milk Carton Boat races on June 23<sup>rd</sup>. Tents, lemonade and signup. DH will work with RK on it.
  - Athletic events presence. Girls basketball, track and field. We would need someone to take on this coordination.

- DP has class of 1958 information from reunions. He'll give that to RK.
  - Labor Day unions picnic at Oaks Park is another event we might want to do – there may be a fee.
  - Annual meeting – what if we had it in November? Old directors would still lead Dec, but both could be there. Food. Etc.  
Discussion: need to move nov meeting anyway because it's veteran's day. Everyone agreed that would be a good idea. Maybe want to add food as an incentive. Maybe have a speaker? We mentioned Sig Unander, [airart@aracnet.com](mailto:airart@aracnet.com) – who can come and present about Simon Benson.
  - GO will ask his contact about pricing a few 'alumni' panels we can put on our tents.
- Next meetings:
    - Feb 11<sup>th</sup>, March 11<sup>th</sup>. 5:30 – 7:30PM Benson Tech library.
    - Tech Show will be March 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>.
    - Picnic should be August 10<sup>th</sup>.

Parking Lot:

- nBrain – KC – will talk about this in November.
- Other event ideas – RK:
  - 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