

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



Date: Dec 14, 2017
Starting Time: 5:30 pm
Ending Time: 6:57 pm
Benson Tech library

ATTENDEES:

Dale Bajema (DB), Josh Piper (JP), Rachael Kuryunny (RK), Ken Bakke (KB), Neal Galash (NG), Roger Edwards (RE), Max Baker (MB)

Guest: Kevin Clark (KC); Moses Tran, senior student (Health Occupations)

OLD BUSINESS

- Guest speaker:
 - Moses Tran:
 - Applied to Columbia, Boston, etc.
 - Serves on PPS board as the student representative, was invited to Finland to tour school system. Will meet with national board of education, tour two high schools and two middle schools. Finland architects came to Portland and we hosted them, so this is an opportunity to have our architects meet with their architects as well. Trip will cost about \$4000. Has received money from businesses, needs about \$1700. Trip is next March.
 - Interested in continuing to work for Benson Tech in the future.
 - They hosted a fundraising banquet at the MAC club, and have reached out to donors at Madison and Lincoln. All that money is distributed between students and teachers. He also has a personal donation page.
 - The board requested one page proposal to pass to the Benson Tech Foundation. Also requested that he come back and share his experience.
- Moses Tran excused himself from the meeting.
- Opening Remarks:
 - DB: reflections
 - Don't think we're doing as well as we can recruiting members.
 - Communication – we do a lot, but we don't communicate it well: Social activities, school activities. Newsletters, emails, webpage – but is the word really getting out to people?
 - We should think about our communication plans: what, when, how. Social media.
 - How many of the alumni knew there was a threat about sports, and how we intervened?

- Can we form a communications group? JP has been very responsive to requests. But we need folks to gather news and make it consumable.
- RE: what we did for the centennial did draw attention. Maybe we need grander events?
- There was discussion about advertising events, how to gauge level of sustained interest.
- RK: now that we have class contacts it will be helpful. Getting people going to a reunion to plan it for our picnic weekend would be great. Talked about a one pager alumni association membership form to hand out to reunion planners to give out to their attendees.
- NG: contacted other H.S. alumni associations to get copies of bylaws, talked to them about their membership. They have very few active members as well, give free memberships to new grads, etc. same things we are doing.
- MB: Think we get increased participation when we connect it with the school – most people that come to activities want to have a school tour.
- KB: We need to have a form right at the door at Tech Show and press people to join – most people will. Also think we should think about calling people vs. email when it's important enough.
- NG: We should think about lifetime memberships as well.
- Membership is down in the last three years. Discussion about what factors may have influenced the ups and downs. Late mailing, extra postcard mailings.
- MB: need a volunteer coordinator. It's hard to keep members involved if there's nobody calling them to keep them aware of what they can volunteer at.
- RK asked about areas of interest clarification for the membership form.
- DB posed the question: how can we get alums from 2000s and 2010s to join? RK: what about gift memberships?
- MB: can we get 2 mins at a pep rally or give a note to Curtis to include in senior packets etc?
- JP: last year printed stickers and gave them out at graduation, but garnered 0 memberships.
- Discussion on collecting senior data:
 - tech show – get a piece of cake if you fill out this card with your information for the alumni association.
 - Booth in the hall, with stickers.
 - Get the senior class officers to understand we exist, so they can reach out later for reunion planning.
 - Many students are 3rd or 4th generation, they might have influence with their family members to join.

- RJ and others would like to make the golf event from the grand reunion an annual event. If we are going to do this in June 2018, we need to reserve it now. They would need \$500 commitment to reserve.
 - Discussion: June 10th weekend would be a conflict, the next weekend is father's day weekend. Those are things we need to think about if reserving a date. Within a week after school ends, we will not get Benson Alumni staff participation.
 - RK moved that we support the idea, on the 3rd or 4th weekend of June. There was no second.
 - Discussion: If we decide in Feb not to do it, we may be able to get it back. The other stipulation is that they want a commitment of \$1500 in food/drink spent there. There is a potential for further out of pocket expense if attendees didn't spend that.
 - JP: class of 77 may carry the entire event. They loved it. I think it's very doable. And remember people wait until about a month out to actually commit.
 - NG and KB said they should consider Broadmoor or other places.
 - DB: as a social event, it's outreach and part of our goals.
 - DB: Is everyone supportive of the idea in general?
 - NG: I move to support a \$500 deposit for a golf tournament, with explorations of venues including Colwood, preferably in the 2nd half of June.
 - RK seconded and all voted in favor.
- Minutes
 - RJ sent minutes via email. MB, DB, and KC provided some feedback.
- Treasurer's Report
 - ML will have an annual report.
- Site Council - DB
 - Think about these issues in Jan/Feb.
 - Benson's 5 year plan:
 - Focus is everything EXCEPT the new school building.
 - First plan is ending; will start creating a new plan, including KC's idea about professional lectures. Looking to put in ideas that are financially feasible and have an inside champion, as well as a plan of how it would happen. Reviving the student newspaper, increasing student scholarships etc.
 - Award ceremony for significant donors and/or contributors.
 - Preceding tech show
 - Co-sponsored with BPHSAA and the Tech Foundation.
 - We need to think about providing refreshments.
 - This will help us in the future.
- Things to add to next meeting: purchasing ad in yearbook.

NEW BUSINESS

- Next meeting January 8th at 5:30PM at Benson Tech.

Respectfully Submitted,

Maj Britt (Max) Baker
Secretary, Pro-Tem
BPHS Alumni Association