

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

Date: Thursday, January 13, 2011  
Starting Time: 5:35pm Ending Time: 7:30pm  
Location: Benson Library Classroom

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**ATTENDEES:**

Dale Bajema (DB), Josh Piper (JP), Dick Spies (DS), Neal Galash (NG), Majbritt Baker (MB), Joanne Stainbrook (JS), Ken Bakke (KB), Nhi Le (NL) and Tammy Hite (TH).

Guest: Don Le Barre (DB)

**MINUTES:**

Note: Items may not be in the exact order in which they were discussed. If any corrections or additions need to be made, please forward them to Tammy Hite.

- Current account balance: \$2410.00
- Current membership count: 15
  - **Action Item:** Most of the BOD needs to pay for the 2011 year.
- Finance Committee - JS
  - If the BPHSAA does not year \$5000.00 or more per year, it doesn't need to send in forms to the IRS.
- Scholarship Committee- DB
  - 66 requests for funds went out to previous donators.
  - At time of meeting 10-donations had been received equaling \$290.00 and another \$310.00 on-line.
  - **Action Item:** TH to mail DB the donation checks she forgot to bring to the meeting.
- Communication Committee- JP
  - Nothing new at this time.
- Events Committee- TH
  - Event committee meeting to be held in next couple of weeks to discuss Tech Show and annual picnic.
  - **Action Item:** TH to send out date, time and location of meeting.
  - NG—Next Kenton Station meeting will be on 01/25/11.
- PTSA – CH
  - CH not present at meeting to give report.
- Benson Site Council / Design Team- TH
  - See 10-1209 meeting notes.
  - TH showed examples of the new marketing postcard and brochures.

- May 2011 Bond Measure—DS
  - DS is hearing a lot of opposition to the bond measure and believes we should write a letter to the district to show the associations support for the passing of the measure, although improvements to Benson are not scheduled in the first phase of the measure.
    - ♦ Almost all of the district school buildings are in need of repair, improvements or replacement at all levels.
  - **Action Item:** DS to write a couple of paragraph statement that could be sent to the district.
- A Close Look at the BPHSAA
  - DB asked the group to divide in half and address questions he prepared:
    - ♦ What did we do right?
    - ♦ Where were we less successful? Why?
    - ♦ Do we need to change the Association’s direction, priorities and/or focus?
    - ♦ Do we have the right balance of effort between supporting Benson vis-à-vis supporting its graduates?
    - ♦ What can be done to make “paying membership” more attractive and/or desirable?
  - What did we do right:
    - ♦ Tech Show
      - Notifying alumni through the use of Facebook, emails to database, website, and magnet signs about the event and PPS announcement.
      - Having T-Shirts and other items for sale.
      - Having things to draw people into the room: yearbooks, refreshments, history of Benson.
      - Car Show
      - Announcement and postcard for picnic.
    - ♦ Annual Picnic
      - Attendance is steady, but would like to see it grow.
      - Car show
      - Raffle covered about 20% percent of cost for picnic.
      - Potluck table
      - Location (Blue Lake Park) is good.
      - Idea of providing games is good, but needs to be better organized.
  - Where were we less successful and why?
    - ♦ Teacher Involvement
      - Can’t seem to get alumni teachers to join the association
      - Teachers don’t attend alumni (community) events. They only seem to come to the alumni room during Tech Show for the refreshments.
    - ♦ Membership Committee
      - Need to be better about sending out reminders for membership renewal.
      - Need to be better about sending out thank you letters for joining.
    - ♦ Incentives to join and be involved.
      - Need to develop or market the incentives for joining.
      - Need to find ways to get people to be involved with all committees
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- ♦ Dialogue between the meetings.
  - ♦ Regular committee meetings so fewer BOD meetings are needed.
  - Do we need to change the association's direction, priorities, and/or focus?
    - ♦ Supporting School—Mentorship and Field trips
    - ♦ Keep group together
    - ♦ Maintain leadership role
    - ♦ Connect more with other groups—Site council, PTSA, District, Staff
    - ♦ Improving Tech Show
      - Scavenger hunt or alumni event.
      - New students
      - Competition-vote for best technical presentation
    - ♦ Scholarship fund
    - ♦ Membership growth
    - ♦ Kenton Station
    - ♦ Phone bank volunteer fundraisers
    - ♦ Clean-ups.
  - **Action Item:** All—Consider how we can respond to some of the issues and how we can make membership for attractive.
- Next meeting, Thursday, February 10, 2011, 5:30pm, Benson Library