

**Benson Polytechnic High School Alumni Association
Monthly Board of Directors Meeting – Final**



Date: Oct 10, 2020
Starting Time: 5:33 pm
Ending Time: 7:22 pm
Virtual meeting

ATTENDEES:

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

ABSENT: Dave Hutchins (DH), Paul Rossi (PR), Andy Payne (AP)

GUEST: Kevin Clark, alum (KC); Curtis Wilson, Principal of Benson Tech (CW); Danny Malone, VP of Construction (DM)

Virtual meetings will commence until we can safely meet in person again.

NEW BUSINESS

- RJ introduced Danny Malone, VP of Construction.
- Guests:
 - Danny Malone: Role with this group is to take some of the essence of the old Benson Tech high school, and make sure that continues into the new building. Lots of meetings about furniture: desk heights, etc. Would love to have alumni do a walkthrough to identify things for museum-like setting or things that could be auctioned off: ex: Old tool boxes, etc. Sooner, rather than later.
 - Curtis: Dan is eliminating some of the minutiae. They check in about once a week going over things that he has made decisions on or needs input on. He has that depth of knowledge, having been a part of the other school remodels. Excited to have him aboard.
 - RK: Majors? How is it going?
 - CW: some teachers are good at online learning; other teachers are still trying to figure it out and we are supporting them.
 - RK: Application process?
 - CW: Lottery will open Nov 11th and closes Dec 12th. We just started conversations with the district about how to inform 8th graders. District wants to have all the high schools work together so everyone isn't individually reaching out to all the families. They are going to try and do a District meeting with breakout rooms where each high school has a room, so one spiel.

- KC: What is being done about providing extracurricular programs in addition to athletics? Are clubs active?
- CW: District is watching athletics for a few weeks to see what happens. Athletics practices start tomorrow. If there aren't too many issues, they will figure out how to do clubs.
- KC: Are you and the staff considering an alternative virtual tech show?
- CW: Haven't thought of it. First hurdle was welcome back homecoming night. Second is 8th grade information event. Third is parent/teacher conferences. Then we'll think about Tech Show. It's also dependent on the staff, who is under stress.
- KC: Will we have teacher/budget crisis next year?
- CW: We already know attendance will drop next year, because it happened with every school when they moved during construction. We've been working with the district to see if we can be held harmless when that happens, so we don't have to cut staff. We already have to make cuts due to budget, we might have to make more cuts. We've prioritized the CTE programs, but some of the programs have low numbers. Once we get to Marshal and our numbers drop, we know that when we come back our numbers will explode. Then we will need to get rid of the cap. The District will be making the pitch in areas where there are more kids that would go to overcrowded schools.
- KC: Health and safety issues alone demand that the district should lower the enrollment for students at those crowded schools. They are looking at balancing student enrollment and educational programs by changing neighborhood boundaries and are engaging the PPS community more now than district administrations have in the past. This entire process will probably not be done in three years, so we still need to make the argument that lowering enrollment (capping enrollment) at other schools benefits students district wide, such as lifting the cap at Benson Tech to alleviate the enrollment pressures at Franklin, Grant, and Roosevelt.
- CW: If this was a normal two-year process it wouldn't be too much of an issue. It's quick - pack to move, 1 year, pack to move and you're in a new building. Because we're adding a 3rd year, you are over there for 2 full years. Do no harm to the staff, because our numbers will drop for 2 years. In the third year when enrollment explodes we need to have that staff ready.
- KC: Do you think the alumni association needs to communicate to the Board (of Education) to reinforce our thoughts or would that be more damaging to our goals?

- CW: Hold that thought until we find out if we can retain all our staff regardless of how much our student enrollment drops. We'll know this spring.
- Curtis and Danny were excused from the meeting at 6:09PM
- Discussion:
 - RE: It may be worthy to raise the idea to have all high schools be magnets - then all schools are in the same boat.
 - KC: Three to four years ago, district thinking was that it may be difficult to ensure equity under that sort of magnet school system - what schools get what programs, etc. The Board now has a different composition, but they seem unfavorable to the idea of focus-option schools, particularly preK-8, preK-5, and 6-8 schools. This position seems to go against some of the platforms that board members were elected on.
 - RK: Outreach to alert schools to the district event to hear about all high schools.
 - JP: We may consider reframing: thank you Portland voters for making sure the bond passes and hey, parents - your child could be part of the first class to graduate from the new school.
 - KC: We just have to be careful of perception of message.
- Support for the bond - KC:
 - RJ: Andrew Scott, currently the Deputy Chief Operating Officer of Metro, chairs the bond committee and asked the foundation to contribute to the bond campaign. He suggested that we should not rely on the loan guarantee - that the Board may have to consider additional teacher cuts if the bond doesn't pass and they have to finance the loan.
 - KC: We are in a COVID funding crisis right now. There was a local option levy passed in 2019 to fund teachers for five years and people aren't sure how that is going to play out. The district has a Chief Financial Officer and a Chief Legal Counsel. They should know the status of the bridge loan. I'm not sure how this 2020 bond measure plays into faculty hiring/retention, since it was intended to support district infrastructure and curricula. Or, what position Andrew Scott is coming from, since he has not been a vocal proponent of focus option schools.
 - RJ: There's a very short amount of time before the vote. Do we want to send out another blast/ad on the site that the bond measure is coming?
 - Discussion: DB and GO: I think we should: it impacts the financial future of the modernization, and your YES vote would be appreciated.
 - There was consensus. **RJ will draft the message - keep it brief.** We can put a link back to the newsletter to read more.
 - We'll do a separate email later on for the 8th grade info night. **RK will email Curtis to send the info when it is known.**
 - <https://www.oregonlive.com/opinion/2020/10/editorial-endorsement-2020-vote-yes-on-portland-school-board-and-keep-commitment-to-rebuilding-schools.html>

- [https://ballotpedia.org/Portland Public Schools, Oregon, Measure 26-215, Bond Issue \(November 2020\)](https://ballotpedia.org/Portland_Public_Schools,_Oregon,_Measure_26-215,_Bond_Issue_(November_2020))
- Treasurer's report – BT:
 - Money for 4 new memberships came in.
 - Bank Statement Savings:
 - Balance \$1,000.17
 - Bank Statement Checking:
 - Balance: \$2654.99
- Membership – JP:
 - Currently 87.
 - Recently 2 new, 2 renewed, as a result of fall mailing.
- Alumni Newsletter - DB:
 - Shooting for end of January. If we can nail down the topics in Nov, we could have most articles done before end of Dec. Historical article, bond update, etc. Then a push for the first 2 weeks of Jan, updates.
 - RK: PPS extended remote school through Jan, we should know if that will be extended and we'll have enrollment numbers, too.
- Minutes: MB:
 - September minutes had been sent out twice and there were no additions/corrections. RK moved to approve Sept minutes, BT seconded. Unanimously approved.
- Annual meeting - DB:
 - According to our bylaws, we need to have an annual meeting in the 4th quarter, and paid members need to have 30 day notice. If we have the meeting on Nov 23rd, that gives us time. We have 5 director vacancies next year. 2 are currently vacant, 3 are held by RJ, JP, and DB. They all can be re-elected if that is the will of the voters. Start at 5:30 then have our board meeting following that. Can vote for officers in December.
 - DB moves that the PPBHAA annual meeting be held virtually on Nov 23rd at 5:30PM at which time we will fill any vacant Association officer positions. The board will meet directly after that at approximately 6PM. At the Dec 14th meeting at 7:30, the board will elect officers.
 - RK seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
 - DB: moved that nominations to fill the empty positions should be received by the secretary on November 15th, and that the secretary will have sent this list for consideration to all paid members November 21st.
 - This would be a way to allow people to accept/decline nominations, or for us to vet who the people are before voting.
 - **JP will post the meeting info on the website.**
 - MB: Discussion about if there are still vacancies, and someone was present that wanted to be on the Board, they could be elected at the regular board meeting after the annual meeting.
 - RK seconded the motion. It unanimously passed.

- ADA letter to PPS - RJ:
 - Letter was sent out a few times. Does the Alumni Association want to endorse it as a group? Individuals have already reached out to sign it.
 - RJ - we know how poorly most schools are laid out for those with disabilities. I've reached out as an individual and think we should consider supporting it.
 - RK - I've reached out as well and it seems in line with our goals.
 - Can anyone think of any cons to supporting this letter?
 - RE - there is no shortage of topics such as this that we could sign on to. That's my only objection.
 - KC - I cosigned as a private individual with associations as a registered PPS partner, member of the PPS CTE Advisory Council, and member of two professional organizations. One of the great things about this effort is the support for schools that won't be modernized in the next 5 to 30 years. I would encourage private citizens to sign it even if the organization doesn't.
 - The discussion ended with the decision to not sign at this time.
- Building walk-through - RJ:
 - He knows about retaining the yearbooks, is interested in the giant slide-rule.
 - You can reach out to Danny individually. Do we want to do it as a group?
 - The aviation things are almost museum quality.
 - KC: how do we flag items and where will they be stored?
 - RJ: there must be a storage plan because there are many things that can't go to the new building and can't stay at the old building, during construction.
 - Let RJ know now or later if you have an interest to get together in a group to do a walk-through with Danny.
 - GO: the majority of people that can go there, we go through and take consensus to make a punch list. Then they don't have to go back and forth.
 - DB: we might want to do it sooner so there's time to have a second pass.
 - KC: it would be good to get an inventory list before we do a walkthrough, so we have ideas about options.
 - **RJ will contact Dan for a list of items they have already identified to save/dispose of.**
 - KC: Is there a number or price limit of things we can retain?
 - RJ: We don't know yet. The process is to register the names of people that want to go. We can decide if we're going shop to shop, maybe break it into two days. We don't really know how much time it's going to take.
- Next meetings will be virtual:
 - Annual Meeting: Nov 23rd at 5:30PM
 - Board Meeting: Nov 23rd at 6PM.
 - <https://meet.google.com/goo-dwsy-ryi>

- You can also join via phone by calling:
 - Dial-in: (US) +1 816-944-1361
 - PIN: 512 701 146#
- Any information that comes in after the next meeting and before draft minutes are sent out will be included below.
- Scholarship fund - DB:
 - Maybe some people are having a hard time right now, but maybe some people have some extra money since they aren't travelling, etc.
 - KC: I was wondering about creating a scholarship to honor three STEM teachers that I had as a BPHS student - is there a process in place?
 - JP: I'd have to look up limitations on current scholarships right now. Community College or trade school, possibly. You might consider setting up a fund with OCF. There's a unified application process. One application opens up about 100 opportunities for a student.
 - KC will look into it.

Parking Lot:

- Time Capsule contents during rebuild?
- sending out recognition of milestone birthdays to alums, including Benson Tech information, and estate planning. (Leftover Benson branded things that Curtis has - can we send them?)

MEETING AJOURNED

Respectfully Submitted,

Maj Britt (Max) Baker
 Secretary
 BPHS Alumni Association

