

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



Date: Aug 7, 2017
Starting Time: 5:30 pm
Ending Time: 7:30 pm
Mackenzie Architects Conf Room

ATTENDEES:

Dale Bajema (DB), Roger Edwards (RE), Ken Bakke (KB), Wes Soderback (WS), Dick Spies (DS), Josh Piper (JP), Rachael Kuryunny (RK), Bob Trimble (BT), Rob Johns (RJ), Max Baker (MB), Neal Galash (NG)

Guests: Kevin Clark (KC), other guests Jerome Martin III, class of 1977; Brent Dahl, class of 1977.

MINUTES:

Opening Remarks- DB: Membership has been a challenge from inception from start of 12 people, created a web page, by 3rd year, 150 members. Never reached in 5 years since then. Then dues were \$12 annually. Sought connections more than money. There are multiple reasons to spend money. We have had \$2,000 to \$4,000 annually available in our checking account. The alumni has funded a number of activities in support of the school. It would be nice to have a real solid membership committee. We have been reinforced by the class of 1977. Data base approximates 2,000 names. We want to turn names into members. And active participating Alumni. Consider formation of a membership committee. Bob Trimble has had ideas to cultivate more members. July Minutes are out to BOD members for review 8/7/17, for comment by end of week.

Treasurer's Report- Mike Landstrom not in attendance.

Membership -74 paid members, one new one since July meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

- Athletic ask update - DB:
 - ...
 - Discussion of letter of support for athletics at Benson Tech.
 - RJ: PPS PIL director seems to have power to do anything he wants without having to present solid evidence based approach.
 - DS: enrollment will be 1700 students.
 - RJ: that scares the other schools.
 - WS: district trying to tear it down, 2 principals that didn't seem to care about sports, students not coming out for sports. There's some merit perhaps that Benson Tech hasn't done what it could do to promote the sports.
 - DS: what is their concern really?

- WS: they can't field 'competitive' teams. The information from the 'surveyors' saying that sports participation hasn't improved looks like it came from the director.
- RK: There's other sports at Benson Tech, other than football.
- DB: What's happening with Jefferson's basketball program – the team travels around off season making contact. Players have relocated from other states to play on the team. All the Grant's girls soccer team players are from the club and all the coaches participate in that club. Their boosters club is also strong and can raise donations and support. Our sports have not much support compared to the other schools.
- DS: no ticket revenue for sports anymore – that used to subsidize other sports.
- KB: we need to keep fighting to build and rebuild.
- RJ: We've submitted our list of people to meet, and PPS will reach out to set a time to meet, hopefully this week. Not sure where we are for Aug 15th due date for our response to the report.
- DS: support from Benson?
- RJ: he lost Sanjay, who was Curtis' handpicked person. Haskins has selected a former assistant coach at Roosevelt to be at Benson, so in the past the Principal had some power, now the PIL director is making the decisions.
- DB: Curtis is personally committed to keeping sports at Benson Tech.
- Discussion about the fact that the new superintendent might make a difference.
- DB: remember that Haskins was put in place to give the public a different perception about the PIL. He believes he has a mandate and thinks he has to eliminate Benson Tech sports in order to achieve his goal so we will continue to pursue our agenda.
- Picnic
 - Plan for about 100 more people for food than normal.
 - No sides this year as there was plenty left over last year.
 - Josh and Rachael will bring misters and hoses.
 - Discussion about the class of 97 attending.
 - Different color tickets for free meals.
 - Expenditure for Newsletter:
 - MB moved that we authorize up to \$200 for printing, mailing and other expenses for the newsletter for the picnic. KB seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- Vacant Directorship:
 - Last meeting Jerome Martin was nominated.
 - WS moved that we unanimously accept Jerome as a board meeting. RK seconded. Discussion was positive for the motion. Motion passed.
- Revision of Bylaws:
 - The committee will continue to meet and have a presentation for next month's meeting.

- WS: Please provide your input about what you'd like to change. I'd like to see us adopt Robert's rules of order. The modernized version was written by PhD.

NEW BUSINESS

- Back to school teacher gathering
 - Social time for teachers to get to know each other, and the board.
 - Venue from last year not available.
 - August 29th?, 3PM to 7ish. Soft drinks and food.
 - Cost is about \$200.
 - KB: Move that we spend up to \$200 for the teacher gathering. RJ seconds. Discussion: RE – how much money do we have? RJ: we have about \$2000 in the account. Is there another location close? No. JP: maybe we could piggyback on an in-service day. MB: non in-service might be more relaxed and ready to talk about things other than the school.
 - Motion passed unanimously.
- Tech Show:
 - School will have Tech Show in Feb.
 - District has decided based on input from neighborhood schools that they want to know everything before Christmas, so the deadline for applications will be due in Nov/Dec.
 - Mini tech show in the fall for students interested in Benson, not open to general public.
 - If we want to do other social events, we need to start planning soon.
- Other event ideas:
 - RK – piggyback on other Portland events, like the milk carton boat races. We could have a separate competition with students or alumni entering, perhaps have a community meetup with an area for people to watch the event. OMSI star parties, homecoming game, summer concerts.
 - BT – box for blazer or other sports events. RK – it's hard to get people to purchase tickets to cover costs, might be better to do free events.
 - RK will chair this social events group. Anyone can contribute ideas. She'll present a plan in November.
 - RE – homecoming football game would be great. RK – It's in September this year so weather should be better for better participation.
- Membership – new ideas:
 - BT – membership badges.
 - MB: different badge for members
 - RE: have the year of membership on it? What about other year.
 - WS: member badges are nice, but if it gets lost and they want another one?
 - WS moved we postpone membership badge issue indefinitely. NG seconded.
 - Discussion: KB: we're looking to get members, not what we do after. It's a marketing device...
 - Motion passed.

- MB: is there any interest in using the alumni directory to contact alums?
- RE: I've been comparing the book with yearbooks. At the end of the project he'll hope to have a list of people involved in their class.
 - Discussion about comparing with PPS and making sure students really graduated from Benson.
 - Thanks to RE for doing this project.
- Awards idea – Kevin:
 - Awards for staff – professional development
 - Awards for students – career readiness
 - Money could be used for Professional CTE organization memberships, etc.
 - Could possibly seek grants.
 - NG: would this be a foundation function? Possibly. They are 501C-3.
 - Needs exploration.
- Next meeting Sept 11th at Benson Tech.
- Check out the article RK passed on about Benson Tech alum in the NYT.

Closing Remarks - DB

- One of our missions has been to support Benson Tech. Good success, some not so successful.
- How many of you like your neighbor or friend to tell you how to raise your kids or someone other than your boss telling you how to do your job? Nobody likes it. Those people don't necessarily understand what our job is or what we do. In our enthusiasm to correct wrongs like cutting sports, capping enrollment, etc. (because we are passionate about Benson Tech's success) we sometimes charge in and misunderstand our role. There's no Booster's club or PSTA, and we are proud of our role, but we shouldn't feel like we should tell the staff how to do their jobs. We have good ideas for support, but we need to think about how to approach it the right way. In many cases we don't understand all the requirements the teachers have: state, professional requirements, time pressures, meeting multiple goals. It's more than maximizing profits: being a good citizen, treating employees fairly, etc. We may say – the district really doesn't understand CTE, if only they understood it's the most important thing they would do what we want. But realize there are a lot of parents that want their students to do things other than CTE, and the district has to balance all that with state and federal requirements etc. The school board is elected by voters, trying to do what voters want (ideally), hire PPS staff, give them assignments, those staff hire other staff. Ultimately, if we don't like what's happening, we vote for different board members and it all ripples down. We need to use soft skills, diplomatic skills, to try and convince teachers, or board members, of our arguments. That's living in democratic society. A lot of times it's planting seeds (ideas) and waiting to see what happens. Building bridges, building trust. We've been successful being allies of the last two principals. But we shouldn't tell them what they should do, we should work with them. That's what DS and RJ and many of us have done in working with the last 2 principals and some of the teachers. We've been more successful in the past in dealing with staff in the district office, like Trip Goodall, John Isaacs etc. where

they could understand the value of Benson Tech. We might have made a difference in how things turned out. Protests with students have made a difference, like with Mike Rosen. It's worth reflecting on, being cautious about how we express our passions – engage in conversation, mingling with teachers, etc.

- DS: These comments are very important. Brent and I have had experiences with Friends of Timberline, which I've followed for about 30 years. I see some really strong parallels with what we do in that organization in functioning as the third leg of a 3 legged stool. It functions best when the group has convinced the other two legs that they bring value to the table. Sit down and understand the concerns the Forest Service or the operator has running Timberline, and is there anything we can do to say things that they can't say themselves. We've been trying to do that with Benson Tech teachers and Principal as well. We want to help you get to the next step and we can bring people to help.
- RK: Post election analysis related to this topic. When you are trying to converse with people that have different views, ask questions. What matters to you? Then try and find common ground. It works well with adolescents as well.
- DS: It's difficult to do that over a long period of time. Meeting with faculty in the band room, asked who they wanted to meet up with. Over time, the characters change constantly. Timberline faces that as well – the Forest Service changes people from one month to the next. Sometimes there are inspired people and the next thing you know, they are gone and you have to start over. It takes patience and being a good listener.

PARKING LOT

- Plan for merchandise?
- Archiving location and cataloguing

Respectfully Submitted,

Secretary
BPHS Alumni Association

Dear Benson Tech Alumni, Community, and Supporters,

My name is Devarieous Sly-Clay and I'm the Head Football coach here at Benson. I'm reaching out to ask all of you for your help as we continue to turn our program around. My coaching staff and I are preparing for our third season and we have seen a huge change in kids attitudes, work ethic, and pride towards the program.

So how can we use your help? Well we are asking that you guys make a donation to our program. Each donation received goes to ensuring that our kids get a better athletic experience. Last year we used money raised to buy new uniforms, provide kids team meals before every game, team swag, 7 on 7 tournaments, help cut their cost for team camp, and coaching development. This year we want to be able to do the same things, but also be able to buy new equipment because a lot of our equipment is older.

My goal is to help our kids be great students in the classroom, be able to compete at the highest level on the field, and leave Benson with great memories and lessons that last a lifetime. Please help us continue to create new traditions and new legacies.

If you're interested in donating to our program please make out a check or money order to "Benson Tech Football" and send to:

Attn: Benson Tech Football
546 NE 12th ave
Portland, Oregon, 97232

Thanks again for your help and support. If you get a chance come check out a game this upcoming season because we would love to have you here.

Sincerely
Devarieous Sly-Clay
Head Football Coach
Benson Tech High School
Bleed Orange Sweat Blue
Go Tech!!!!

2017 Bond Measure Endorsement.....March 24, 2017 **

BPHS Alumni Association Endorses PPS Health, Safety, and Modernization Bond Measure – Benson Polytechnic High School (BPHS) modernization is part of a bond measure recently approved by Portland Public Schools (PPS) for a special election balloting. The District’s school board on February 28, 2017 included \$202 million in the overall \$790 million capital bond measure that will go to the voters on Tuesday May 16, 2017. The money will be used to rebuild part of BPHS, renovate other parts, modernize scholastic programs and equipment, and correct plumbing, electrical and seismic shortcomings by academic year 2023-24. (Other bond monies will be used for Lincoln HS, Madison HS, and Kellogg MS as well as environmental work in other PPS schools.)

The Benson Tech community, including teachers, students, parents, and several Alumni Association Directors, was actively involved in the master planning/pre-design process that led to PPS’ decision. They believe ongoing design visioning and tax-payer funding will provide a major opportunity to improve BPHS’s capability for high-quality career-technical education well into the 21st Century. (For more information go to www.healthyschoolspdx.org and www.pps.net/bond2017.org).

Accordingly, the BPHS Alumni Association’s Board of Directors voted on March 13, 2017 to support the passage of the bond measure and strongly urge Benson Tech Alumni to support the bond measure for BPHS’s future with their vote, their time and/or their money. Contact Rob Johns for questions about supporting the bond measure campaign at robjohns@comcast.net.

** Posted on BensonTechAlumni.org. and sent to BPHSAA’s alumni , Curtis Wilson (BPHS Principal), Paul