

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



Date: Apr 10, 2017
Starting Time: 5:35 pm
Ending Time: 7:47 pm
Benson Tech library

ATTENDEES:

Wes Soderback (WS), Gerry Ochs (GO), Mike Landstrom (ML), Don Wear (DW), Dale Bajema (DB), Max Baker (MB), Neal Galash (NG), Ken Bakke (KB), Roger Edwards (RE), Rachael Kuryunny (RK), Annika Johnson (AJ), Bob Trimble (BT). Guests: Kevin Clark (KC); Walter Robinson and Bobbie Reagan, from the Bond Measure committee

MINUTES:

- Previous Minutes – RJ/MB:
 - Motion was made by ML to accept the minutes with minor revisions. GO seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- RJ is out so MB will take minutes at this meeting.
- NG moved that the endorsement for the bond measure is attached to the minutes. ML seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- Treasurer's Report – ML:
 - \$4145.39 is the current balance. One check has cleared towards expenses for Tech Show. Includes a PayPal transfer
 - Savings: \$15 – money for the centennial
 - Note: we are going back to having 2 signatures on checks going forward. This is specified in the bylaws.
- Membership – JP:
 - 62 members.
 - Sold a yearbook
 - \$43.09 transferred from PayPal should arrive in the account in a few days.
 - We talked about sending email blast about Grand Reunion. RK suggested we at least target everyone that signed in at Tech Show.
- Supporting clubs and groups at school – DB:
 - Last meeting we discussed the Football coach's request to pass on fundraising request to our email list. While we still need to discuss what our policies are, JP has said it will be easy to send out an email, just passing on this request's information.
 - DB read the important parts of the letter to the board. (Letter attached below.)
 - Discussion:
 - WS: we don't need to ask our alumni to support the team when we don't have enough money in our own account.
 - RK: one subgroup we haven't connected with well is athletes – this may be a way to reach them.

- Others discussion ensued, with the majority of the board reacting favorably to pass on the request.
 - ML moved we distribute the letter to our list. NG seconded.
 - WS moved that we table the motion on the floor. There was no second, and only one vote to pass the motion. The motion to table the previous motion failed.
 - Would like to ask for feedback from the team if they get contributions from the alumni.
 - Motion passed with 2 dissents: WS, RE.
 - RK: Note that JP will probably include info on the Grand Reunion and August picnic.
- Bond Measure guests:
 - Bobbie Regan – 2 sons graduated from PPS. Her and RJ sons knew each other in school. Former PTA president, school board 12 years, worked on measure 98 to expand CTE. Still working on that campaign, which passed by a large measure. Legislature may not fund it fully so there’s still work to do.
 - Walker Robinson II – got involved because he believes in education and having safe learning spaces. Believes in STEAM, and CTE. His day job is with Multnomah County. Former policy advisor for a commissioner.
 - When we passed a school bond a few years ago, it was a 32 year plan. This current bond is part 2 of the basic bonds, the next ones would just be renewals. In September Franklin and Roosevelt will open, Grant 2 years later. Fabian K-8, with high poverty and minority kids. That bond contained a lot of seismic and safety issue solutions.
 - This bond will finish up the high schools, then next will be middle and K-8 schools. This one is also focused on clean water, removing lead paint, resolving asbestos and radon issues. Fresh air, light etc. PPS is swinging back toward elementary and middle schools, and we need to remodel Kellogg middle school.
 - ADA, strapping roofs to walls, upgrading fire systems is also included in this bond. Nobody filed a voter pamphlet statement in opposition. Haven’t heard of any groups opposed to the bond. 39 out of 600 door surveys of likely voters were opposed. Have lots of endorsements as well, so it has a shot at passing. But, May elections are usually low turnout. Expecting 20-25% voter turnout. Tends to be voter apathy, distaste for government in general.
 - The lack of leadership in PPS may hurt its chances. 3 board members are stepping down, and a new superintendent is coming, so there is hope.
 - Two polls have been done – health and safety resonates the most. Both polls about 60% passing going in.
 - Stickers and window signs here for you, we’ll have lawn signs later. We need people to talk it up, have events.
 - They passed the volunteer sheet around for people to sign up if they want to. Postcards parties, etc.

- Wed (4/19) event with teachers, students. Afterward, alumni. The board received an email around 8:30AM this morning.
- DW: by 2013, losing 70% of trucking, grocery store, fast food workers. Automation is happening – jobs of the future are going to be technical. Middle school is the age to start technical thinking. Schools filling with refugees – they need this technical education. We are rebuilding our schools to teach for the jobs of the future.
- RK: Is there space for shops at Kellogg middle school?
 - Regan: not sure. Most middle schools do, most K-8s do not. Not sure the ed specs have been developed yet. Assumption is yes.
- BT: Brinsmead middle school used to have shops. It's a gateway drug to CTE. Now it's a k-8, called Clark.
- Next bond will be last 3 high schools, health and safety, and possibly middle schools.
- Focus questions on this campaign, please.
- Walter: loves the excitement in this room. The best way you can help is by helping with voter turnout. How can we transform the current board to make sure they are focused on our current needs? We all have the power to encourage others to vote. Students in the city are doing some great things.
- Regan: Lincoln students created a PAC to help campaigns. SHOVELS – Students Helping Organize Votes for Enhanced Learning Spaces. This bond won't help me, but it will help my siblings and next generations.
- KC: If this bond measure doesn't pass, how does it affect the 32 year plan?
 - Regan: they are 8 year plans that overlap every 4 years. Whether it passes or not, we have to go out again because the state doesn't pay for school improvement – bond measures are the only way. Many states match bonds, but in Oregon that doesn't happen. Just recently they passed a measure that they are contributing a little – 8 million.
 - KC: If it doesn't pass, are you going to revamp it?
 - Regan: in 2011 a bond failed, when we had a levy and a bond. Levy was for teachers and operating dollars – passed overwhelmingly. Bond missed by 600 votes. Then we revamped it. What we learned is that we can't do a bunch of little things, but go deep on a few. Start with high schools because it affects all students in the area. Also if you start bottom up, kids could continue to go to schools being rebuilt through their entire school life.
- WS: Modernizing, removing hazardous materials. Removing hazardous materials is for all the schools?
 - Regan: yes.
- There is an oversight committee as well, just as with the last bond measure.
- Look forward to seeing you on the 19th. (Email sent this morning by DB)

- The guests departed the meeting.
- Summer Schedule
 - June 12th, July 10th, Aug 14th, Sept 11th were our old dates
 - Proposed dates: none in June, July 10th, August 7th and Sept 11th.
 - There were no objections to the proposed dates.
- Grand Reunion: DB
 - Planning group met on April 3rd, talked about publicity, details on the dinner etc.
 - RJ is trying to line up speakers for the dinner, will send out invites to potential donors.
 - JP sent out a specific message to all our email list about the Grand Reunion. More starting in May and June.
 - RK resent an update jpeg with the schedule that you can put on others' Facebook walls.
 - RJ has a task list to pass around.
 - More discussion about publicity.
- DW left the meeting.
 - Talked about getting a rep to the graduation ceremony to shake hands.
 - KC will check posting on events at Oregon Live.
 - Press Releases should go out to all major radio and news stations.
 - If you haven't purchased tickets to the events you want to attend, please do so.
 - Class of 69 time capsule is in the front hall. Class of 2019 is discussion opening.
- Newsletter – DB:
 - Past, Present, Future theme
 - Present History
 - Current events
 - Student Essay
 - Rose Festival Coordinator
 - Tech Foundation
 - Connie Mar has offered to assemble it. Some students may volunteer.
 - Send any other content ideas to DB.
- Review and approve bylaws
 - Are they working or do we need to tweak?
 - NG will lead the committee to come up with proposals, then we can read over sections, discuss and approve over several board meetings. WS, MB volunteered.
 - Committee should have proposal for July meeting.
 - Please send suggestions to NG.
- Photos – DB
 - We need to have more photos of the things we are doing to use on our site.
 - RK will see if she can set up a place to have anyone's photos post so we can use them.
 - JP would need a spot to place photos to post them.
 - Discussion about photo releases – definitely need them for students.

- Brochure – DB:
 - Wants feedback on the brochure by next Sunday, so they can put it together and move forward – for handing out at the Grand Reunion.
 - No orange background – orange/blue border would be better.
 - Need black and white copy as well.
 - Are we interested in selling advertising?
 - Franz
 - Point West
 - Eastside Alliance
 - Kenton Station
 - Could contact the locations we’re having events at to see if they’ll give discounts for ads.
 - \$100 for business card size ad? Need to decide how many printed with that ad.
 - KB is going to head the committee and work with RJ on contacting these organizations.
- General Remarks – DB:
 - Need to move the organization on to the next stage. Four people currently attending have been involved since the beginning. We will continue to be involved, but we need more. It took many years to get the Alumni Association together and be recognized. We’ve had some success and some failure. We live and learn. We started with nothing, and we have some great successes behind us. We need to share what works and doesn’t work with new board members.
 - We need to recognize where we come from, where we are and where we are going.
 - Share the accumulated information of the organization. The review of the bylaws is part of that. Information about how Benson functions, in order to help inject ideas and support. Currently setting up a speaker series. When to go to the school or when to go to the school district, etc.
 - Improve on organization procedure and structure based on how we really function. Like using the minutes to store official copies of documents like handouts; monthly finance reporting etc.
 - Increase membership. We’ve had limited success.
 - Bring in new directors. We should have more than enough interest to fill the positions. We’re pretty white male. Current student body is 75% minority, and we need better representation. Curtis is really excited that in the last 3 years he’s increased the diversity of the staff.
 - Our view of the school is as a student, not an administrator or teacher. Benson is seen as an educational institution -- by the public and by education community/officials - that meets state requirements, and then lays the CTE education on the top of that. This puts great restrictions on what can be accomplished.

- Bylaws state we are supposed to do social activities and support the school. Not run the school. We need to remember to be sensitive.
 - Discussion about getting staff that are alumni more involved with our organization.
- Handouts from this meeting attached to the bottom of these minutes:
 - Football coach help ask letter
 - Bond endorsement statement
- Next meeting is May 8th 5:30PM in the library.

NEW BUSINESS

- None

OLD BUSINESS

- Separate group to come up with policy for any group associated with Benson Tech that is asking us for funds.
 - We will appoint a committee after the Grand Reunion
- Things to remember:
 - Idea of paying students to follow up with alumni in the directory.
 - Kevin – we can use response data to help secure grants and partnerships
 - Plan for merchandise?
 - Archiving location and cataloguing

Respectfully Submitted,

Maj Britt (Max) Baker
Secretary Pro Tem
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