

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



Date: May 8, 2017
Starting Time: 5:33 pm
Ending Time: 7:43 pm
Benson Tech library

ATTENDEES:

Josh Piper (JP), Gerry Ochs (GO), Mike Landstrom (ML), Max Baker (MB), Dale Bajema (DB), Roger Edwards (RE), Rachael Kuryunny (RK), Bob Trimble (BT), Ken Bakke (KB), Rob John (RJ), Annika Johnson (AJ), Wes Soderback (WS). Guests: Kevin Clark (KC)

MINUTES:

- Update from Curtis on enrollment and next year:
 - Lottery went out – 300 kids. Two Freshman forecasting nights in April. 230 attended. Sent letter out to the 70 that didn't come. They've asked 50 names to be taken off the waitlist.
 - District wants them to push ahead with full scale Engineering program. It will be a bit of a scramble since they just notified them today. We don't have all the details on what that will look like.
 - Recently constructed Benson House will be listed soon, around \$600,000.
- DB: sharing experiences
 - DB helped form the Alumni Association back in 2008. If you think back to that time, school districts across the country:
 - Believed that every high school graduate was going to go to college.
 - All schools dealing with 'no child left behind' legislation. Lots of testing. Achievement results affected the grade of the school. This affected funding – a stick approach.
 - In Portland, the school population was falling at the high school level.
 - Roosevelt, Jefferson and others had failing grades, which allowed students there to apply to other schools. There was mass migration. And the number of students affected the school funding as well. This increased the disparity. At the extreme, Lincoln offered 5 languages, all four years. Roosevelt offered one, only for 2 years. Students started to flee to Benson Tech. Marshall was still open then, and Benson Tech had open space, which the district started using.
 - In 2009, there were input meetings with the district. There was a lot of alumni and business concern that bad things would happen to Benson. The alternative put forward was a 2 year skills center. The argument for the skills center was supported by the interim principal, because he saw it as an opportunity for 2000 kids to have an opportunity to get good technical

training. The Alumni Association and the Teachers argued we needed the 4 year integrated academic and technical institution for many reasons. Teachers cross communicating, cross subject material, etc. Another argument was that the inclusion of other classes produced well rounded education.

- The school was capped at 850, Marshall closed, etc. It seemed to boil down to numbers, pushed kids to stay at their neighborhood schools, made transferring between schools more difficult. With fewer schools and smaller enrollment at Benson, the enrollment grew between the other schools and there was more equity.
- Before this, Benson enrollment was being cut every year, so teacher positions would be cut. With the cap, teacher felt some stability.
- Site Council helped by pushing district to allow recruitment of 8th grade students. Benson Tech really stepped up, had great success. Then the new principal Carol Campbell also had recruitment success. But then the kids couldn't get in because of the cap. And, many of the kids applying had never stepped inside the school and didn't understand what a technical school entailed. There were a lot of lottery kids that never forecasted, or dropped out Freshman year. This led to the district being reluctant to lift the cap.
- Shadow days were born from teacher brainstorming – along with encouragement to attend Tech Show during recruitment.
- Note that the application for Benson Tech can't contain any information about whether they demonstrated technical aptitude, but they could ask if the student has ever been to the school itself.
- Falloff of students Sophomore/Junior years is usually because if you fall behind there's not a lot of school time to make up credits. Kids return to their neighborhood schools because they can make up credits during the school day.
- The idea spread around 2012 that maybe not all kids will go to college. The district took this and decided to offer some shop classes (CTE light) in all neighborhood schools.
- The district has been moving up the application deadlines, and consequently the school has moved up the Tech Show date, because it's a good way for incoming 8th graders to get a feel for it. The application will probably move the application deadline to around Thanksgiving. Instead of moving Tech Show that early, it will be rolled to April. They'll have a mini Tech Show for the 8th graders in November. We'll hear more in September.
- The Alumni Association was crucial in getting the district to consider raising the cap. The challenge now will be the modernization period.
- Now with tech boom, school population is increasing again. People are moving here with teenage kids, etc.
- Schools run on a pretty normal calendar. It's useful to understand the calendar because if we are trying to push an idea, we need to know when to introduce it and approach the district, board, or school. Usually by

April, the principals know what their budget will be, FTE count etc. Benson will have a reduction of 3 ½ FTE for next year, which is small in comparison to other schools. He's going to take them out of admin/staff this year. All schools will take a much bigger hit next year.

- Discussion about what happens with waitlist kids and sophomore.
- Minutes – MB:
 - ML moved to accept the 2nd draft April minutes
 - KB seconded.
 - Motion passed.
- Treasurer's Report – ML:
 - Checking - \$4164.51
 - PayPal transfer \$19.12
 - Deposit of \$100 of previous checks
 - Savings \$15 (\$10 from centennial)
 - No expenditures.
 - Could not find KB's check with dues.
 - KB turned in a receipt from Tech Show.
- Membership – JP:
 - 69 paid members. 4 since last meeting. 2 were class of 77, one through the mail, and KB.
 - PayPal \$38.24

OLD BUSINESS

- Athletic ask update - DB:
 - Money goes into the school athletic fund.
 - Use of the money requires 2 signatures.
 - No word on whether he has received any money from the alumni ask.
 - WS discussed what accounts were available and if they were tax deductible.
 - RK looked up the secretary of state website. The PTSA is the only other group that was registered.
 - JP: We have an EIN given to us by the coach where athletic donations can go. The checks are then sent to the Benson bookkeeper.
 - KC: is part of our protocol to ask for an update on the funds given by alumni, since we helped with the ask?
 - DB: We will ask the coach to come back and update us in September.
- Modernization/Bond Campaign – RJ:
 - 2012 graduate rap singer came out in favor of the bond measure. That's the positive.
 - Keep telling people to vote and vote in favor!
 - PPS clouded it with their challenges at the board level. 2 discrimination suits, HR director leaves, superintendent woes.
 - RK: wish someone would highlight how well the Office of Modernization has handled the rebuilds with the first bond measure.
 - Bond measure postcard party went well.

- RK: My letter to the Selwood Bee had the last 3 paragraphs cut asking people to support the Bond measure.
- Summer Schedule
 - none in June, July 10th, August 7th and Sept 11th.
- Grand Reunion: DB
 - JP – numbers on Eventbrite.
 - 40 for meet and greet
 - 89 for picnic and tours
 - 60 for dinner
 - 9 for golf
 - 10 for cruise
 - DB - Committee met last Monday.
 - Teacher flyer went out last week
 - Continue to talk about publicity
 - Will continue to send blasts to Facebook and our email list.
 - Reminder to teachers will go out
 - Letter to all graduating seniors
 - Notice in the Columbian for SW Washington
 - KC posted on Oregon Live classifieds (free one). There's a few other places he will investigate and post in. Will concentrate on the events calendar next.
 - BT – put together some radio spots for KBPS, approved by Kevin Flink. Kids will read live during school days. Not sure what they will do on weekends. Copy was put in Scott Young's hands for KISN –LP(95.1). They will be on the air, get the name of Benson Tech out there.
 - RK - Class contacts – we have what we have. Class of 82 has 200 members in the area. We've been doing a lot of Facebook and email. Keep posting!
 - RK : discussed spreadsheet for sign ins – how did you hear about the Grand Reunion question. Also, occupation or professional affiliations.
 - The feeling is that we will get more response this month because we are closer to the date.
 - Dinner –RJ
 - Met with PGE Foundation people today. Asked them to reserve 2 tables and give them to the teachers for free.
 - Bisetti's will host a table
 - They are bringing easels and drawings, and talk about the remodel.
 - Dick Spies will host a table for architecture.
 - Ask out to Benson industries.
 - DB – I sent out the planning checklist. Let me know if you have any questions. We will meet again mid-May. There are many details like exhibits, old yearbooks, speakers etc. Lots of moving parts.

- DB – A few months ago, we authorized money to cover the deposits on Grand Reunion activities.
 - Meet and Greet total cost will be around \$968, offset by ticket sales. Possibly \$500 cost there.
 - Picnic:
 - Cake and punch cost about \$160.
 - Cost of regular food \$250 for 120 people. 50 ticket break even.
 - ML suggested getting Portland Bottling to perhaps provide fountain drinks. RJ and committee will follow up.
 - Free picnic lunch to any teachers.
 - \$600 food must be bought on the golf course, offset by individual purchases.
 - This \$1600 total fits within the \$2000 previously approved. Does everyone feel comfortable on this?
 - WS expressed concern that we are spending money before we have ticket sales. There was discussion that this is normal practice. Getting the word out about the events will bump up sales this month, as well as younger electronic generations purchasing at the last minute.
 - GO – Regarding broadcasting the Grand Reunion on KBPS: Kevin Flink says 2 technicians could come out and broadcast. \$27 an hour, 4 hours minimum.
 - Discussion about whether we should do it.
 - RK has a bunch of photos from Tammy via Rob Johns in our Flickr account now.
- Merchandise possibilities:
 - Tim H. has a huge backlog of T-shirt printing, so probably won't have kids there at the events. DB will ask.
 - Would be nice to have license plate covers at the cruise-in.
- Printing:
 - Trifold – DB:
 - Trifold is being redesigned by BT.
 - KB has 5 advertisers interested.
 - KB and BT will get together to lay it out.
 - ML is taking it to the printer. They will meet later.
 - Checks for advertising will go into the savings account.
 - Need them a week before Grand Reunion.
 - Trifold for Foundation will be done by RJ.
 - JP will print a scholarship appeal.
 - Newsletter – DB:
 - 300 copies, available at all 5 events.
 - Articles in progress will highlight where we've come from, where we are, and where we are going.

- RE is handling historical info, DB has a lot of current info, kids groups, newer majors back, etc. Future: bond measure, future reconstruction plans. Will update based on vote. Pitch for foundation, pitch for scholarship fund etc. How you can contribute asks.
 - Connie Mar will get it together by Memorial Day.
 - ML will get a printing cost estimate as soon as he has details about what needs to be printed.
- Alumni membership for new graduates – DB:
 - We previously approved giving new graduates 4 free years of membership so that we can gather their information.
 - RJ moved that we offer 4 free years of membership to the seniors and include it in the senior letter.
 - GO seconded.
 - Motion passed.
 - Note: Senior awards ceremony at 10:30 to noon is the senior awards ceremony. JP will attend.
 - DB is going to print copies of the senior letter and get them to Curtis to pass out.

NEW BUSINESS

- Membership dues – DB
 - RK moved that we have a special membership deal for people signing up during the Grand Reunion – they get the rest of 2017 and all of 2018.
 - RJ seconded.
 - Discussion – WS suggested we put that info up on the website, for the Grand Reunion.
 - Motion passed.
- June 6th is the school's Freshman Welcome picnic, 6PM. DB to verify date.
- 5 year plan – DB:
 - This is the fourth year of the five year plan that was created with Carol Campbell and the Site Council. Curtis has used the plan successfully and would like to create a new 5 year plan, where the first year overlaps with the last year of the last plan. This will be apart from the reconstruction.
 - This will include the PIL, establishing a dental clinic, reviving the Tech Pep, etc.
 - They will look at 20 to 25 items that are doable, has resources, have a champion/sponsor, identifiable steps to achieve goal. For example, introducing intro to journalism class in place of English etc.
- Next meeting is July 10th 5:30PM at M Architects.
 - Review/revise bylaws – send suggestions to NG, MB, WS.
 - Resume policy discussion re support of Benson Tech activities/programs
 - August community picnic
 - Teachers back to school event.
- Grand Reunion committee members please stay to pick a date for another May meeting.

PARKING LOT

- 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,

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