

**Benson Polytechnic High School Alumni Association
Board of Directors Meeting Supplemental notes from emails
3/3/2020 to 6/7/2020, with emails in effect instead of meetings – Draft**



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Possible contributors:

Board members:

Roger Edwards (RE), Bob Trimble (BT), Rob Johns (RJ), Josh Piper (JP), Maj Britt (Max) Baker (MB), Dale Bajema (DB), Mike Landstrom (ML), Andy Payne (AP), Rachael Kuryunny (RK), Dave Hutchins (DH), Paul Rossi (PR), Gerry Ochs (GO)

Guest: Kevin Clark, alum (KC)

- 3/5: Kevin Clark (KC) emailed: Amy Henry presented some fantastic testimony before the PPS BOE this past Tuesday March 3. Her testimony concentrated on BPHS and district-wide student counseling needs and the lack of suitable financial appropriations for school counselor and psychologist FTE. I communicated with Amy about this important issue. Although she is busy, she is interested in contributing an article on the topic to the BPHSAA Newsletter. If this is acceptable to you, I believe that she might try to submit an article which summarizes this important issue for the 2020 Spring Newsletter. Otherwise, if Newsletter article and time constraints present a problem, we can plan an article to be included in the 2020 Summer Newsletter. The article could be completed before the end of the 2019-2020 academic year, so that the article is ready for production and we don't impose on Amy's Summer break. PLEASE respond with your approval or lack of approval, so that Amy may know how to proceed.
 - Approved: RJ, GO, BT (KBPS article can be moved if needed), ML, DH, JP, MB
 - KC: Thanks to all of you who have responded to my inquiry. To my recollection, we never use a BPHSAA BOD quorum for determination of Newsletter article topic selection. But, your input is nonetheless valuable for guiding the process. Dale now may be away on his vacation cruise. BUT, if Andy and the remaining BOD members would be good enough to provide their input, that would be great. With the Spring Newsletter article submission deadline rapidly approaching, we need to give Amy enough time to revise her testimony into an article. Amy's justified concerns were presented early this week to the PPS BOE and alerted me to an emerging disastrous situation for BPHS student educational supports involving counseling. I strongly believe the situation should be brought to the attention of alumni via the Spring Newsletter issue, if possible.
 - 3/7: KC: Since a quorum of 7 BPHSAA Directors approve the idea to have Amy write a Spring Newsletter article on the need for greater district financial and FTE appropriations for BPHS and district high school counseling needs, I think

we can officially invite Amy to submit her contribution on or near March 16. I also want to reiterate here that Amy does have limited time due to her work obligations and, if she is understandably unable to meet the rapidly approaching Spring Newsletter article submission deadline, we should allow her to submit the same article content for the Summer Newsletter, if she wishes.

- 3/9: KC: Benson Tech Boosters sent me an updated set of announcements that I'm now sending to you for your information. BTB is making significant progress in their fundraising efforts to support BPHS athletics. And, I hope that alumni will continue to assist them to reach their goals. BTB leader Amber Johnson plans to attend the 2020 April BPHSAA BOD meeting to further chat with Directors about BTB efforts.
- 3/11: RK forwarded the PPS announcement it will suspend any group gatherings: Suspension of non-essential school-based activities begins immediately, effective Thursday, March 12, and will remain in effect for 30 days.
 - RK: The 30 day period expires the week prior to Tech Show. That said, it can (and likely will) be extended. Does anyone know if there's a plan b. for Tech Show (e.g. an alternative, later-spring date), or if this year's show will simply not go on?
 - DB: It seems whether TS goes on and what is happening with schools in general will get resolved in the coming week or too. It might be well to immediately think about whether we have an April BOD meeting. If there are truly important items to resolve we might handle them by email as we have other issues in the past. Prep for TS, if it is on, might be more difficult but we have a tested plan.
 - MB: I think we have to proceed to prepare as if it is happening, but understand that it will probably be canceled. As soon as testing becomes widely available the number of cases is going to skyrocket (which will bring the rate of death down at least). It's going to get much worse before it gets better.
 - KC: I agree with Rachael, Dale, and Max. I attended the TAGAC meeting last night at PPS district offices. We were informed prior to the Governor's public announcement that PPS was initiating policies and practices to minimize the transmission of COVID19. However, although non-essential activities had been and were being canceled, there was understandably no clear path to resolution presented (e.g., re-scheduling of events, etc.) simply because actions are being assessed as situations progress. The same is true for all of my government and non-government professional activities, as is likely the same for many of you. I expect, as does Dale, Rachael, Max, and possibly others of you, that the scope of district action will be better identified in another few weeks. Until then, we should continue to plan BPHSAA TS100 activities as if they will proceed, with knowledge that TS may be cancelled based on contingency updates provided and actions taken by district and school representatives. To that end and to Rachael's concerns, we as an organization may want to discuss issuing a statement to alumni about TS via

the BPHSAA website, social media, and emails. I believe the statement should clarify the district's current position on the matter of large assemblies and nonessential activities and should give suitable health warnings to alumni based on documented/cited federal and state health organization warnings, alerts, and recommendations. Although the BOD is a small collective well below 200 to 250 members, Dale's recommendations to continue BOD activities via email is probably a smart choice at the present time.

- 3/12 was the last in person rehearsal for the Tech Pep Alumni Band, who was rehearsing for Tech Show performances.
- ML: With the recent events of the Coronavirus (Covad-19) we need to be sensitive to everyone. As previously shared we need to plan for the Tech Show and suggest the following
 - Complete the News Letter. If the Tech Show is postponed or cancelled I suggest we mail the newsletter to our entire list Josh currently utilizes.
 - Continue to plan and have everything in place but do not make any expenses not directly necessary. For example the poster of Simon Benson move forward, Newsletter move forward, food postpone, printing requirements hold off until the last possible minute to name a few. We can plan and be ready for any scenario. This way we can implement our plan in a very short time frame.
- ML cont: As for meetings I'm asking Verizon if I can use my Web-Ex account to hold our meetings. We can share information, use video, and white board if needed. It's an option for the board so we can continue to meet virtually and conduct business if needed. That's my 2 cents. Everyone stay safe and as everyone keeps sharing "wash your hands".
- BT: With all Oregon schools closed until March 31, I do not see adequate time for the school to reopen and prepare for Tech Show. The staff will be focusing on restarting classes. Tech Show will be postponed (my guess) if not just not canceled this year due to lack of interest. School will have to run into the summer now (like having a lot of snow days) unless the virus just gets out of hand. We may have a Tech Show in June! Yes keep a minimal plan ready to go, but don't expect a lot of visitors for this year (if large events are allowed again) or until the virus is clearly finished.
- MB: School is now closed after Friday until the 1st, and I would expect that to extend.
- DB: 3/13: In the BOD chatter of the past few days we've shared concerns and questions re whether Tech Show will be held this Spring. In an exchange of emails with Curtis I had yesterday/Thursday re Site Council, he said he would keep everyone updated re TS. Regardless of whether Tech Show is held in April or not, I recommend that we push vigorously ahead with preparing and "publishing" a Tech Show newsletter pursuant to Connie's schedule. The planned articles provide timely news for our alumni, and we can be imaginative in how we distribute it including as

usual posting the Newsletter on our web page (maybe an email blast to call it to people's attention), suggesting links to it via social media (and TPV and the Boosters web pages), etc.

- RK: 3/14: Was there any additional discourse at either of the last two BOD meetings about the Milk Carton Boat Race? In January I requested that someone else take on the event if it's something we wanted to participate in again this year, and I didn't see any discussion of the topic in my (admittedly cursory) review of the Feb and March meeting minutes. I ask because I am putting together a piece for the newsletter about upcoming BPHSAA and class-specific events, and need to know if I should include the Boat Races in the article. Thanks, and here's hoping everyone is staying safe, healthy, and warm!
 - BT: I think that event was skipped this year due to a lack of BOD people as it is on Father's Day. If the virus issue drags on, I could see many Rose Festival events canceled out of abundance of caution.
- ML: 3/16: What is the plan for Wednesday due to the COVID-19 (Coronal-virus) outbreak? The Tech Show Committee was to meet and wanted to make sure if we were and if not will there be a call or alternative meeting thought? Hope everyone is staying safe and well.
 - RJ: We will cancel our 3-18 meeting. The odds of Tech Show are very low. I will check with Curtis.
 - RK: Rob and Dale - have either of you heard from Curtis re: the status of Tech Show? The recommendation the CDC issued yesterday urging cancellation of gatherings of 50+ for the next 8 weeks would, I think, make the decision to postpone (if not cancel) fairly straightforward. In the meantime, until we know the status of TS, I definitely do NOT think we should meet in person. Might we instead start an email thread wherein all those with specific TS tasks update others as to their progress? As was discussed over this past week, the newsletter should still go out in one form (electronic and/or print) or another.
 - RJ: Curtis responded that they have no final decision on Tech Show, but it doesn't look promising.
 - 3/17: MB: Since school is out through April 28th, Tech Show has to be a no go. I recommend zoom or bluejeans for online meetings.
- 3/18: DB: Not to be an alarmist, but there is serious medical warning that covid19 might not be fully under control even through the summer and large gathering discouraged. As we get closer to 'publishing' the Tech Show Newsletter we might want to note in relevant articles, "to stay tuned" to our webpage for possible changes of class reunions and the August Picnic, or a prominent reminder on the front page.
- 4/13: MB: Are we thinking about trying to have a virtual meeting? Are we in holding pattern for dinner picnic or actually canceled? Anyone hear anything for fall?
 - RJ: With school closed/ended for the year, and current rules on gatherings. I have pretty much thought we stay on hold til we see an opening for whatever the new normal is. I am not really a fan of 12-16 person conference

calls and I do not use Zoom. I would suggest we revisit this issue May 4th in advance of our scheduled May 11th meeting. I am conversation with Curtis so we can pick up any time with him on what we want to plan for.

- 4/14: RE forwarded thoughts from Larry Hintz re the time capsule:
 - Larry: Since our last communiques, I have been thinking about the Time Capsule and wanted to offer a suggestion since the Alumni Association has decided to take the lead in doing something with it. First, let me say again that since no student groups or classes have shown any apparent interest in this, I think the Alumni Association is an excellent idea since that organization is in existence to stay involved over the long haul. I also think the idea of securing the cast-metal lid so that access is limited is a great idea as we previously discussed. Having officially opened the Capsule and discovered the original contents gone, to relaunch it there is a need to begin collecting items to restock it. Alumni might again be the resource for contributions to this. So, my suggestion (if it hasn't already come up) would be to announce a Time Capsule Campaign that might last for perhaps a year (or become ongoing with no ending date, just a relaunch date) and involve contacting Alumni with a description of the project and asking for contributions of BPHS memorabilia that individuals might consider donating. This is a narrower scope of the type of items we originally envisioned, but seems appropriate to me since space is limited. We put other items like newspapers, news magazines, music and other cultural items that gave some perspective on the times in addition to BPHS memorabilia. I'm pretty sure I put my old slide rule inside since every student had one in 1969. Depending on the donations you receive, there may be a need to choose which items to include in the relaunch and which ones will not go into it. If you get a dozen letterman jackets, you may only want to include one for the sake of preserving space over the years to come. I would certainly contribute. With plenty of time, the Campaign can be advertised by direct mailings to all past alumni, at BPHS events where some alumni will turn out, website announcement(s), etc. Thanks again for all you do, Roger. Feel free to keep me posted or to reach out again.
 - RE: Unlike most of our other schemes, the time capsule had no schedule so the shutdown has not really set back its planning. We might already have enough ideas of how it could be filled, and with the scheduled remodeling for the school, it could probably become a real "in the foundation" kind of time capsule. However, I like the option of keeping it in a locked display cabinet because that would allow students to walk by it for four years and then start wondering about it 30 years later. High school students seem to have other things on their minds than high school alumni. The Benson renovation also offers a lot of possibilities for memories from the first 100 years. Perhaps a tribute to Principal Charles Cleveland, whose tenure during the first 40 some years helped make Benson what it became. Is loading the capsule something we should proceed with now or would it be better to have it sealed in 2025,

when the the Class of 2029 begins their freshman year in the renovated building? Thoughts?

- 4/23: ML: My apologies for not addressing this earlier but wanted to reach out to the entire board to see if all Benson Tech students have internet access to continue their education. I understand from the CTE side the hands on learning can be a major challenge. My question have we been approached to assist students who do not have internet? As a board should we reach out to Curtis and if there are students needing help is there something this board can do? With our board's diversity are there any business that may be willing to assist helping students obtain internet connectivity? It's just an idea. As some of you know I work for Verizon Wireline and if there are some students I will be reaching out to Verizon Foundation to see if there is something they can do. Thoughts? Everyone stay safe, healthy, and together we will get through this.
 - BT: Comcast has the Internet Essentials program <https://www.internetessentials.com/> available to low income students or low income schools. It is \$10 a month and the application is rather simple. Comcast passes virtually every house in Portland so internet is available to anyone. PPS.net has a help request form if a student needs help with internet or a computer. Not sure how we can help. Curtis cannot release any information to us about staff or students without permission.
 - MB: Great questions! I can tell you that PPS has been constantly reaching out to parents and students about internet and devices. There is a program for getting both devices and internet access to students in need that I don't know much about, since we were fine in both areas. So I don't believe there is a gap to be filled by the alumni association there, although it might be worth asking Curtis if there are any needs that have arisen from his point of view. Seniors were told that if they were on track to graduate before quarantine they will graduate. Patrik is doing very little school work at this point. My other kids have about 4 hours of school a day.
 - LM: Max, Thank you for your guidance and additional information. Living in Vancouver and working from home keeps me out of the loop on most issues surrounding Benson's needs hence my reliance with our Board Members help and support. Bob, thank you and knew about Comcast but was more focused on Benson's few who may need our help. This is a very challenging time for the students in Benson Tech and PPS in general. I believe we need to keep vigilant to avoid any potential risk to the students and future students looking for a Benson Tech HS education. Everyone stay safe, healthy, and most of all take care of yourself.
 - 4/24: RJ: I see Curtis Sunday, if anyone has questions on what is going on with PPS or Benson, please email me. Stay Safe.
- 5/4: JP sent out an email blast which included:
 - a link to the newsletter: https://www.bensontechalumni.org/wp-content/uploads/newsletter_202004.pdf

- Announcement of BPHS Rose Festival Princess, Roserina Chipen: <https://bensontechalumni.us1.list-manage.com/track/click?u=99afb4c30c88af3d5fd995f5e&id=7ff970b957&e=7c5e843a31>
 - A link to an article: Steve Curly's Media Design class has partnered with a local non-profit and local professional groups to create custom artwork for a series of neighborhood installations. <https://bensontechalumni.us1.list-manage.com/track/click?u=99afb4c30c88af3d5fd995f5e&id=d4c8a7b993&e=7c5e843a31>
 - A link to an article: OregonLive has a great story about Terica Buckner and her journey from Benson student interning at a local auto shop to owner of that same shop. <https://bensontechalumni.us1.list-manage.com/track/click?u=99afb4c30c88af3d5fd995f5e&id=eda2e13830&e=7c5e843a31>
- 5/11: RJ: Hopefully in June we can get together. Maintain our spacing etc and find a place that works. Curtis has told me that they are still looking at having a graduation ceremony for the kids sometime in August. On May 19, the Seniors will have the opportunity to pick up their cap and gowns and pick up a yard sign that says they are in the class of 2020 for Benson Tech. The teachers will be spaced out in the "horse shoe" around the automotive wing to say hi to the kids as they drive through and get their cap and gown. Curtis and I have discussed the August community picnic and it's likely there will not be one due to the social distancing and Phasing rules of Oregon. We would just move the date into the Fall at a convenient time/acceptable time, maybe the Old Gym. There will be fewer athletic activities to conflict with a Fall community picnic date. The planning is day by day as this pandemic tosses so many things at all of us. I hope you and your families are safe and healthy. Feel free to answer back to the group as you wish.
- 5/13: RE: Would it be possible to distribute a BPHSAA business card to the seniors as they pick up gowns and lawn signs for their graduation? Portland high schools no longer require the funding produced by advertising fees for their yearbooks so that option is not available for our message. The card could proclaim a simple message, such as:

Congratulations
 BENSON POLYTECHNIC HIGH SCHOOL
 Graduate

Let us know if the BPHS Alumni Association can be of service.
 Contact us now at www.bensontechalumni.org, or in the future at the social media in use at the time.
 - RK: We should still have a hundred+ bumper stickers (I'd need Josh to look in the plastic bins to confirm and count). We could consider giving those out in addition to, or in place of, business cards. Does anyone know how many students are set to graduate? I could order more bumper stickers if need be, though it's unlikely that they'd arrive prior to the 19th.

- RE: There were 245 juniors named in last year's Blueprint. Don't I see ads, whenever I am not interested, claiming you can have 500 business cards printed over night for \$10? The bumper sticker is a good idea too, but it will be gone when time comes for the 25 year reunion. A business card might get thrown into the 2020 Blueprint and rediscovered in 2045.
- 5/14: RJ: I asked Curtis. Only a PPS employee can give out anything in the Horseshoe. He is willing to get something regarding the Alumni to the Seniors. We will have to get it to him between 9-11 am on Monday when he is at the school. I will ask how many Seniors. I checked with Mike Landstrom, who's sister owns the print shop we use for business cards. They are shut down. Anyone have other ideas on what best to provide to the Seniors?
- RE: Print shops do claim to produce lots of business cards quick and cheap. Unless there are objections I will try Friday to have something like the attachment printed for delivery to Curtis on Monday.
- RJ: 230 Seniors, Roger. All, do I hear a motion to fund the cost of business cards/handouts for handing out to Seniors for Monday delivery by Roger to Curtis. I trust Roger will handle the print cost appropriately.
- RK: I make a motion to fund the cost of 250+ BPHSAA business cards to give out to members of the Class of 2020. Note that the suggested copy may benefit from some minor revising. At very least, the url should read:
www.BensonTechAlumni.org
Thank you, Roger, for your efforts and oversight of this time-constrained task!
- BT: I approve of the expenditure for cards. I think the alumni group can stand on the city sidewalk outside the horseshoe driveway fence(s) and hand out a card using a gloved hand as autos or people leave the campus. Benson property stops where the asphalt meets the concrete. Curtis is not likely to object to something off school property and out of his sight.
- DH: I'm in agreement, I believe to the senior class that will mean a lot.
- Recap approval given: RJ, BT, MB (seconded motion), RK, RE, JP, GO, DB
- 5/15: RE: I've got the cards and will deliver them to Curtis at the appointed hour on Monday.
- 5/18: RJ: Some news on the cap and gown distribution tomorrow at Benson. Curtis told me today that he was ok with having a few representatives from the Alumni, but everyone is 6 feet apart, gloves, mask. So, I made the invitation to Roger as the originator of the idea to be able to handout the cards he had printed. He has accepted, however, I have offered if for any reason he does not feel comfortable, then to let me know. I bring this up so everyone knows we have personal representation in the horseshoe tomorrow. But it's not like the "old pre Covid days" as its social distancing etc... the kids will walk or drive through the horseshoe. The alumni tents will be up as well as the CU tents so that items can be protected from the rain. But individuals, teachers etc will be socially distanced and have their umbrellas, hats, coats, masks and gloves.... what a different world.

- 5/19: RE: I went in this morning and stuffed cards into gown packages and was done well before the graduates began arriving. So the Alumni Association has accomplished something during this time of trouble.
- GO: Nice work Roger, I am sure everyone is grateful for your efforts on this. Thank You
- 5/26: MB: This is what the card looked like, in the cap/gown bag for seniors:



- 5/27: MB: Saw this note online: Hello fellow Techmen and Techsters!

- I'm Kyle Nguyen, Associated Student Body Senior Class Vice President, and I need your help! As you all know, COVID-19 has shaped our way of life and has affected many students, staff, and faculty members at

Benson and across the PPS district. I want to create a video tribute expressing our gratitude and thanks to the essential workers on the frontline battling against this pandemic and keeping Americans healthy and safe. Without their dedication and tireless efforts, life as we know it would've been affected negatively. If you are interested in being a part of this project, feel free to contact me at Kylenguyen2134@gmail.com or on messenger! I have provided a jpeg of the "Thank You Essential Workers" project below for you all to see the overview! Let's be united by spirit and be bonded by our tech pride and show our appreciation and gratitude for our fellow essential workers!

- 6/5: RJ: As these COVID days drag on into the summer, I would like to have a virtual meeting. Does anyone know how or can sponsor a Zoom like meeting? I could set up a conference call line if we cannot zoom, hangout or team. I would appreciate the assistance. Would like to discuss updates on what PPS may do for Fall or not, the building up to the Nov Bond vote, the DAG committee met virtually yesterday, Athletics is an issue. We likely will not have a Community picnic at this point.
 - JP sent the URL for the next meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Maj Britt (Max) Baker
Secretary
BPHS Alumni Association