

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



Date: Dec 9, 2024
Starting Time: 5:37 pm
Ending Time: 7:10 pm
Hybrid meeting

ATTENDEES:

Board Members: Roger Edwards (RE); Bob Trimble (BT); Dale Bajema (DB); Rob Johns (RJ); Rachael Kuryunny (RK); Anthony Reimer (AR); Kevin Clark (KC); Josh Piper (JP); Thomas Smith (TS)); Jeff Strachan (JS); Bobbie (Rob) Walker (BW)

Online: Gerry Ochs (GO); Maj Britt (Max) Baker (MB)

Guests: Ken Bakke (KB), former board member, alum; Dan Malone (DM), PPS

ABSENT: Mike Landstrom (ML)

BUSINESS

- Welcome/Intro Guests (RJ)
 - DM:
 - Locks installed on cabinets in alumni room
 - Dedication plaques are up.
 - Gym floor used last weekend for basketball – looks great.
 - Locker rooms will be a while, lots of wiring.
 - Reader board out front is supposedly ready to go, waiting for code to put announcements on it.
 - 185 pairs of BT shoes (previously discussed) coming this week for seniors.
 - KBPS is back online, still working on power issues. Waiting on engineer. Hosting Almost Monday this Friday for 30 minutes. In 2006 it was Brianna.
 - 483 applications as of today, closes next Monday
 - Cell phone policy waiting on district vote. Phones are supposed to be away during class, otherwise parents have to come pick it up.
 - Yonder is still possible – Principal's discretion to increase the rules – with Yonder, it would cost 30K for BPHS – vote is in January.
 - MB said that her experience with a child at Grant is:

- Teachers like it because they don't want to be enforcers, and they are seeing less phones in class
 - I don't know where my daughter's pouch is – lost and they cost \$70
 - Kids know how to get around this – they buy a cheap phone and put it in the pouch and put their own phones in their bag/purse/coat.
- No decision yet. District isn't paying for pouches.
- KC mentioned this is an equity issue.
- DM suggested writing/emailing to school board with your thoughts.
 - Tours: Jan 13th, Feb 10th. RK: we may get other people to our board meeting if we offer a tour to alumni around 4:30PM. Meet at front office at 4:25PM.
- Scholarship fund – KB
 - Information on donations has arrived, but doesn't include everything. Another report will come in about a week.
- Member Report (JP)
 - 119 members
 - Dues start Jan 1st for the year
- Financial Report (BT)
 - \$6397.81
 - Year to date report available [see below]
 - Financial report will not be available until after end of the year.
 - Check to RK for Flickr account outstanding.
- Prior Meeting Minutes Approval (MB)
 - October minutes draft 2 sent Dec 8th with JP and KC's edits, which they sent via board email Nov 18th.
 - JS Moved to accept the September minutes, JP seconded, motion passed.
 - Tabled approving Nov minutes until Jan to give time to review since they were sent on the 8th.
- Newsletter Update (DB)
 - Discussion of topics
 - Report on the 9-14 Grand Reopening dedication
 - Rob's Dedication Speech
 - Football Season Wrap-up and 'winter activities'
 - Wrap-up Fall Sports
 - Wrap-up of 2024 Class reunion
 - Benson Trivia
 - Boosters news
 - Election
 - Benson Tech's growing Art Program and donation from Tech Foundation
 - Benson's Robotic Program

- Tech Show
 - In Brief by DB:
 - Results of Board elections
 - Update on new cell phone policy
 - First Benson Tech female students honored
 - Benson Community Picnic in Sep
 - Articles to Connie by Dec 16th. Shooting for Jan 10th release.
- Evolution of newsletter:
 - Until pandemic, printed 4-pager with pdf online (exception was 100 year Grand Reunion)
 - After pandemic, boosted the newsletter for communication, and decided that doing electronic newsletter means no restrictions on pages/length, and add color, etc. People look forward to trivia, etc.
 - GO's extensive coverage of the modernization really kept up interest.
 - Boosters distribute it, and Principal Wilson sends the link in his emails out to parents/students.
 - Let's think about how we communicate with this larger community and be more effective?
- Site Council Report (DB)
 - Continued work on Benson Tech vision. It's been a good team building exercise, too. Around 15 people with parents, students, alumni.
 - Cell phones were absent during the first month or so, but it's gotten worse now. It's really frustrating as a teacher. Note State of California is moving toward a statewide policy, so it's a national problem, too.
- April 17-18 Tech Show - Subcommittee Update (RK)
 - One guest and alumni members brainstorming session today.
 - Discussed trying to use complimentary space in commons area that would complement the old gym
 - Talked about alumni tour with 'behind the scenes' special area or info.
 - Talked about doing groups or year meetups, or having Simon Benson's grandson speak.
 - Old Gym 'classic' – enroll members, newsletters, yearbooks, refreshments, tech peps, obits, loop of the documentary.
 - Targeted experiences in the alumni room.
 - Larger ideas, like live performance, may not work out this year but we will consider this.
 - Will come back in Jan 4:30.
- 2025 Reunions Update- Planning (RK)
 - September 13th picnic – at least one reunion.
 - Discussed that many older classes are centered on Facebook. Trying to get added as a member can be challenging.

- If RK can get a contact for class organizers, or can talk to people at Tech Show, we can ask for speaking time.
- Discussion about why classes don't want to share info with alumni association – independent, more in the vein of don't want the authority to have the info. JP said that the number of FB contacts are now more than email contacts.
- Discussion about having cards with QR codes. For groups, FB still remains highly utilized, even for classes in 2000s.
- Funding Issues Update - (KC)
 - Funding crisis has lasted for several years. Reduction of up to 6FTE possibly. This will likely have significant impacts on CTE and other elements. We might lend our voice to try and influence the Oregon legislature.
 - The Governor's proposal allots over 11 billion statewide – an increase that would affect BPHS and statewide special education and mental health services, as well as CTE. The district liaison was willing to work on our behalf. Suggested we form a set of objectives that meet what we believe to be the school's needs. We would work with school administrators and others to form these objectives, then express these to the PPS Community Budget Review Committee, between Dec 2024 and March 2025. There are also PPS focus groups that we may be able to join and have our input heard. It's preliminary, but we need to act soon if we want to influence spending over the next 2 academic years. It's also a good approach to sustain our later economic interests for BPHS – sustainability, expansion, integration of STEM and CTE.
 - This is an opportunity to cooperate with the district to influence state spending. We've consistently ranked in the bottom 3 states for school funding for at least the last decade, and it affects long term outcomes for the students. We need a strong strategy stated tactfully. We can take a multifaceted approach, talking to folks at the district and state levels, nonprofits, etc.
 - RK has a friend who has worked with legislators in Salem on behalf of a nonprofit school in the past. I can ask her to come in if this is the right time. "Is there a more/less effective way to petition the legislature on school funding issues?" She has historic perspective as well.
 - KC – It's good to have different perspectives on this. Would love to hear from her. We've had small subsets of the board attempt this before, but it would be good to get a larger effort. These are discussions we are also having in Site Council. Not sure how much federal funding the district is currently receiving. There is not enough tax revenue in Oregon to pay for the funding needed for schools.
- Continue discussion "What Does the BPHSAA Do?" (RK and RJ)

- RK sent out a document Nov 18th. [see below] KC and DB provided some feedback that has not yet been fully reviewed.
- Providing examples will be helpful.
- Discussion about doing some graphics and photos about what we do – 1 page flier front and back?
- Discussed who in marketing may be able to produce a more streamlined piece. Not urgent but important to have, at the latest Tech Show.
- Astro Gear/Swag (JP)
 - We have the stickers and the poster.
 - There may be more for us to do with Merch in Feb/March. Hats.
- Boosters Update (JS)
 - Spread for teachers before Thanksgiving. Half of the teachers do not read their emails – they were confused when they saw Boosters in the room with food. 3 out of 5 teachers said they don't read their emails. 'we get so many emails'. Maybe subject – Teachers: FREE FOOD or something.
 - MB: Many years ago we just put fliers in their inboxes.
 - We may just send runners to their classrooms to let them know in the moment.
 - Two games have brought in a ton of money already. The gym is GORGEOUS. (RJ if we close early, we could go look at it.)
 - Come and see the women's basketball team! Last year 2nd in state, and we lost 4 seniors, but we are even better this year! Two Freshman are already being recruited. Our next four years are going to be great – “never seen a group that plays with such joy”.
- Alumni Room Status (JP)
 - Dual display unit for Tech Pep, etc. has been moved in but still needs to be assembled.
 - Committee has been working on unboxing treasures and organizing. We may not be ready for January, but making progress.
- Digitizing Documents - Tech Pep (RE)
 - Done 15 years now, working on 1936, should be done in a week or so. The display is in the members section of our website. Search procedure works reasonably well! Display is far better than the issues that were sent to DocuDriven. They are doing a wonderful job. I keep getting more excited about it.
- After this meeting, if you want to see the new gym floor, we will go see it.

Old Business

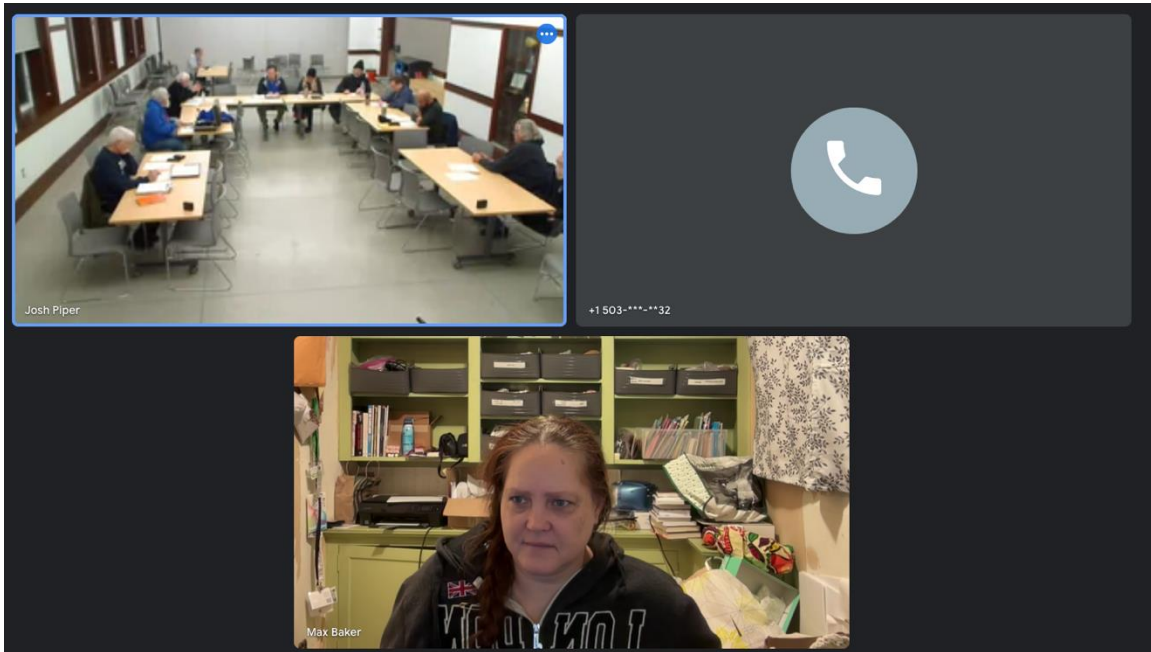
- Annual minutes 2023 vote.
 - JS moved to approve the draft 3 annual minutes from 2023. BW seconded. Motion passed.

UPCOMING BUSINESS

- Jan 13, 2025 – 5:30 PM Board Meeting- Hybrid; Tech Show subcommittee meets at 4:30

Respectfully Submitted,

Maj Britt (Max) Baker
Secretary
BPHS Alumni Association



BUSINESS SAVINGS	BEGINNING BALANCE	TOTAL DEPOSITS	TOTAL WITHDRAWALS	ENDING BALANCE
BSAV00	\$3,265.58	\$0.08	-\$0.00	\$3,265.66
	YTD DIVIDENDS	YTD DIVIDENDS WITHHELD		
	\$0.80	\$0.00		

Actual	Effective	Transaction Description	Amount	Balance
10/31	10/31	Dividend Annual Percentage Yield Earned= 0.03% For 31 Days	0.08	3265.66

TOTAL OVERDRAFT AND RETURNED ITEM FEES		
Fee Type	Total For This Period	Total Year-To-Date
Total Overdraft Fees	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Returned Items	\$0.00	\$0.00

BUSINESS FLEX CHCK	BEGINNING BALANCE	TOTAL DEPOSITS	TOTAL WITHDRAWALS	ENDING BALANCE
BFLX00	\$2,523.25	\$1,398.05	-\$1,003.73	\$2,917.57
	YTD DIVIDENDS	YTD DIVIDENDS WITHHELD		
	\$0.00	\$0.00		

Actual	Effective	Transaction Description	Amount	Balance
10/03	10/02	Withdrawal Draft Clearing Check #229 - Withdrawal, Draft Clearing	-369.00	2154.25
10/15	10/15	Deposit ACH PYPAL*TRANSFER	1398.05	3552.30
10/25	10/24	Withdrawal Draft Clearing Check #232 - Withdrawal, Draft Clearing	-529.24	3023.06
10/28	10/25	Withdrawal Draft Clearing Check #231 - Withdrawal, Draft Clearing	-105.49	2917.57

TOTAL OVERDRAFT AND RETURNED ITEM FEES		
Fee Type	Total For This Period	Total Year-To-Date
Total Overdraft Fees	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Returned Items	\$0.00	\$0.00

CLEARED CHECKS - BUSINESS FLEX CHCK								
CHECK #	DATE PAID	AMOUNT	CHECK #	DATE PAID	AMOUNT	CHECK #	DATE PAID	AMOUNT
229	10/02	369.00	231	10/25	105.49	232	10/24	529.24

Benson Polytechnic High School 2024 Year to Date Report					
Check#	Date	Amount	Event	Payee	
219			Void		
220	2/23/2024	\$306.60	Yearbooks, Stamps	Rachael RH Kuryunny	
221	4/8/2024	\$200.00	Yearbook Scan	Roger Edwards	
222	4/4/2024	\$28.44	Stamps	Rachael RH Kuryunny	
223	4/19/2024	\$292.76	TechShow Stuff	Rachael RH Kuryunny	
224	4/19/2024	\$109.95	TechShow Cake	Max Baker	
225	4/29/2024	\$55.00	Volunteer Sweatshirts	Rachael RH Kuryunny	
226	8/18/2024	\$7.95	Copies	Rachael RH Kuryunny	
227	9/14/2024	\$71.54	Grand Opening Stuff	Rachael RH Kuryunny	
228	9/14/2024	\$44.21	Badges	Bob Trimble	
229	9/19/2024	\$369.00	NewsLetters	Dale Bajema	
230	9/19/2024	\$116.98	Boosters Coutesy Deposit	Rachel McDonald	
231	10/15/2024	\$105.49	2024/2025 Yearbooks	Rachael RH Kuryunny	
232	10/16/2024	\$549.24	Benson Posters	Josh Piper	
Paid Out		\$2,257.16			\$2,257.16
			Outstanding Checks		
		\$2,257.16			
Income					
	Jan	\$301.95			
	Feb	\$540.17			
	March	\$194.13			
	April	\$113.89			
	May	\$164.01			
	June	\$0.08			
	July	\$0.08			
	Aug	\$206.99			
	Sept	\$1,323.26			
	Oct	\$1,398.13			
	Nov	\$200.00			
	Dec	\$9.00			
		\$4,451.69			\$4,451.69
					\$2,194.53
Start Balance 1/1/24		\$4,476.73			
Adjustments					
End Balance	11/30/2023	\$6,397.31			

Nov 18, 2024

What does the BPHSAA do?
(V1.0, 11/18/2024)

We....

Advocate to maintain, strengthen, and evolve Benson Tech in its dual role as a comprehensive high school with a distinct focus on functional and immersive Career and Technical Education (CTE)

- *Organized a multifaceted effort to fight a PPS Board proposals to transform BPHS from a four-year, comprehensive high school to a 2-year, limited-focus skills academy

- *Mounted a successful opposition campaign when the district was considering either entirely eliminating athletics at Benson, or combining Benson and Jefferson's athletic programs

- *Continue to petition the district to lift the artificial enrollment cap

- *Help shape and guide the school's development through engagement with the Master Planning

Committee (MPC), Modernization Design Workshops, and other affinity groups

Commemorate the rich, 100+ year history of BPHS, including its programs, achievements, and (current and former) students and staff

- *Maintain historic archives (yearbooks, Tech Pep, photos, assorted memorabilia) and track alumni obituaries

- *Work to preserve paper ephemera by converting to electronic files, including uploading photos to publicly-accessible FLICKR account, creating digital copies of old yearbooks, and scanning a century's worth of aging Tech Pep student newspapers

Communicate with alumni and community members, providing current info regarding the school, BPHSAA

events, class reunions, and assorted Alumni Association initiatives

- *Manage the BPHSAA website and social media accounts, posting up-to-date news and information for alumni and the greater school community

- *Publish regular Alumni Text newsletters

Coordinate social and community-building events for BPHS alumni and supporters

- *Host annual activities such as the all-class community picnic and the alumni room at Tech Show

- *Plan singular celebrations to mark milestones, including the 2017 Centennial

"Grand Reunion", and the 2024 Grand Reopening of the 12th Ave campus

Elevate Benson's students and staff by procuring financial, material, and functional support for the school's academic and CTE programs, extracurricular activities, and athletic teams

- *Fundraise for, and oversee, both the Alumni Scholarship Fund and the Benson Tech Foundation

*Collaborate with the Boosters and school administration on teacher appreciation initiatives, campus beautification projects, and formal recognition of student and athletic achievement

*Provide fundraising opportunities for student groups by facilitating concessions at sports events