

## **Benson Polytechnic High School Alumni Association Monthly Board of Directors Meeting – FINAL**



Date: May 12, 2025  
Starting Time: 5:38 pm  
Ending Time: 7:33 pm  
Hybrid meeting

### **ATTENDEES:**

Board Members: Josh Piper (JP); Dale Bajema (DB), Roger Edwards (RE);  
Bobbie (Rob) Walker (BW); Thomas Smith (TS); Rachael Kuryunny (RK); Kevin  
Clark (KC); Maj Britt (Max) Baker (MB)

Online: Gerry Ochs (GO); Bob Trimble (BT)

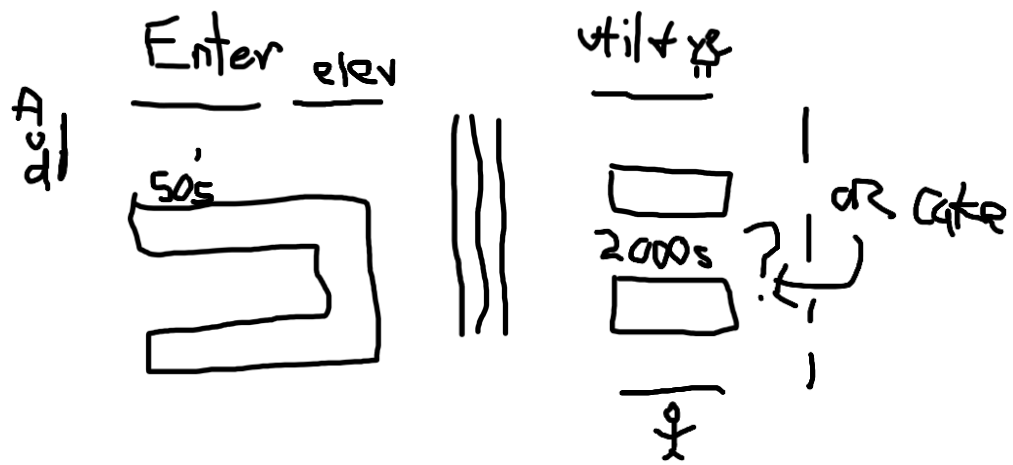
Guests: Dick Spies, former board member and alum (DS, online), Dan Malone  
(DM)

ABSENT: Rob Johns (RJ); Mike Landstrom (ML); Anthony Reimer (AR); Jeff  
Strachan (JS)

### **BUSINESS**

- DM:
  - 1050 next year – one of the only schools that received an additional FTE. We gained about 3 ½, every other H.S. lost.
  - 160 graduates this year, gaining class of 350 Freshman. Next year, about 180 graduating seniors, gaining 350 more.
  - We had to add an electric room this year, so got rid of a lab and created an electrical room out of not much.
  - Jet engine delivered from Rose City. There is still some stuff there, still paying rent. Bridgeport lathe, etc.
  - Getting a lot of requests to use the Benson H.S. space. District Admins, etc. many groups want to use this. Group from Taiwan wants to use it during Rose Festival. The parking is miserable, though.
  - Hosting all administrators, about 300, coming in August.
  - Enjoyed the class of '55 during their tour during Tech Show.
  - Lots of work to finish this summer: Internal HVAC
  - Locker rooms/weight room is open.

- Graduation is June 4<sup>th</sup> at 4:30PM, first year at PSU. RK gave a stack of alumni cards to DM. It will either be in the grad packet or they can put it in the diploma.
- RK – Rob on vacation in Spain! RK running the meeting today.
- Member Report (JP)
  - 91 paid members.
- Financial Report (BT)
  - Tech show:
    - Spent \$936, most was cake addiction.
    - \$454 newsletters
    - \$60 RK.
  - Paypal: \$289
    - \$3456.19 in Savings
    - \$3696.36 in Checking
- Prior Meeting Minutes Approval (MB)
  - March and April minutes. JP moved and DB seconded accepting the amended minutes. Motion passed. MaxB will send out the final versions.
- Tech Show feedback:
  - Lobby complaints:
    - Some people were confused because they had to go to the popup tent to get in.
    - Hallway had the same issue. Lady at the front sent some people down C wing or to the wrong elevator.
    - Times the auditorium was not available to walk through because of presentations.
  - Lobby suggestions:
    - Have someone down at the bubbler/A board there directing alumni to the popup tent.
    - Consider Alumni T-shirts
    - People liked the Benson cutout, but not tons stopped to take photos with it; most people wanted to get into the bowels of the school. Boosters have their own roll out version of that near the student store.
  - Entrance:
    - Tent near the wing entrance was good
    - Big sign near the tent was good
  - Downstairs Suggestions:
    - Cake tables pulled back toward auditorim doors so people aren't walking behind. – Garbage can out front?
    - More space to sign in – spread it out a bit more so people aren't as bunched near the entrance. Make a u shape with the tables. Put a diagram with decade areas to sign in at the entrance.



- Cake in the area down the few steps, between the bathrooms? Cake upstairs? Can we keep the cake out of the auditorium and alumni room?
  - Could we bring cake into the alumni room and then just bring in a carpet cleaner? Could we serve cake in the basement in the maker space?
- Other:
  - So many people wanted to see/meet Chet, because his last name was Benson.
  - Sig seemed thrown off his game by unstructured format. Chet loved the format. Having them at a table and as a focal point worked.
    - We can ask him to do a few 20 min presentations about specific subjects with Q&As.
  - Also considering short presentations re the documentary, or what Benson meant to alumni like AC Green, or Aminé, Steve Kauffman (Apple). Get speakers of interest.
  - Upstairs – can feature the digitized yearbooks on a screen. But several folks said they don't think the paper yearbooks will be less of a draw.
  - Alumni basketball game? Sell tickets? Or have that be September Community picnic rather than Tech Show?
  - Newsletters all gone. Postcards – some left, some good.
- Start talking about Tech Show in November? Because then we can nail down speakers.
- General:
  - School was only about ½ open this year. Next year there will be more to see. People were generally happy. It may truly be that people feel they have to come both days.
- Scholarship Committee – DB:
  - RK participated in the selection, gave out four totalling \$8000 this past year.
  - Annual appeal worked out. By 1<sup>st</sup> September and sent to the Alumni Association's list of alumni as well as on social media pages.
  - Background:
    - Past 4 years 21 scholarships totaling \$38,000 from earnings from investments.

- Past 4 years \$45,000 collected from donors
    - Last year, about \$15K from 30 donors
  - Idea is to increase donations – more people donating to the fund. We ask between 2-3K people, but we only get about 30-50 people donating.
  - RK finds being on the selection committee very gratifying. This year, 4 recipients. Only 1 had a parent with a college education. 1 in prison, 1 had died. Fascinating essays. Feel great about giving these students opportunities.
  - Scholarship committee will meet at 4:30PM before our next meeting and will further explore asking for Benson alumni Owned businesses to donate to the Fund.
- Scanning:
  - Tech pep 1921-1943 books are scanned.
  - Missing 55 and 56 issues.
  - 1943 and 1944 books were found. Note there were comments about the Army leaving, but there was no comments about why they were there or when they came.
  - Tech pep did have notes about casualties of the war. Many RE found obituaries for.
  - The board thanks RE for being the historian!
- Alumni Newsletter – DB
  - Last one was excellent!
  - Sept target date is for the Sept 13<sup>th</sup> celebration. 8-page printed paper, details forthcoming but information gathering is underway.
    - Working list of articles will be ready a June meeting.
    - Retiring faculty list to be included.
      - Amy Henry is retiring. Staff is creating a scholarship in her honor. Get the word out but keep it a secret! Ryan will send a link to donate. She arrived the same time as Curtis.
    - New faculty introduction
  - Let's add to June agenda to donate from the Alumni Association.
- Sat the 13<sup>th</sup> Community Picnic:
  - BT will submit the CUB
    - May have the bay doors open, may figure out a way to get the auditorium/alumni room access
    - Taylor may show the documentary.
    - Cub: 11AM – 4PM, Cafeteria, we may or may not use the Alumni room. Don't mention food carts. Boosters and other extra curricular activity groups.
    - Benson Tech Community Celebration
  - History:
    - In about 2010 the picnic previously focused on being an all class reunion gathering was changed to a Benson Tech Community event strengthen the various Benson Tech

stakeholders' effort to resist PPS's proposed plan to make Benson Tech simply a skill center.

- While teachers, parents, and other supporters may come and go, as alumni we are here "forever" supporting the school.. We've taken steps to try and get classes to tie their reunions with the picnic.
- Trying to get Boosters, clubs, parents and incoming students there.
- Now that it's in September, new teachers and students are there a few weeks and we make them feel more welcome.
- Ideas for things at the picnic:
  - Focal point will be the Commons and Courtyard. RK proposed we do not open the Alumni Room – it will be more of an alumni feature for Tech Shows.
  - Sign in:
    - Coming through the front door – is that the place for sign in and nametags?
    - Alumni and not alumni (parents, potential students)
    - Booster at front sign-in.
  - All girls rock band here, we could invite them.
  - Food trucks
  - Jeff/concessions as well?
  - Booster club, as well as student club representation.
  - Guided tours
  - DB will attend next site council meeting.
  - Principal Wilson will be around until about July 10<sup>th</sup>, so we can run ideas past him and the Boosters club.
  - RK – 3 class reunions – competition on who can donate more to scholarship committee?
  - 3 areas – rock band (The Radium Girls) in common area.
  - Think about recruiting volunteers – Boosters also need some help. Can we get students to help? We might be able to get them to fulfill their volunteer requirements.
- DB will follow up with these ideas at the May 29th Site Council meeting along with KC and JP.
- Will need to select a date for next year's in October.
- Site Council – KC:
  - Invite students who participated in Verselandia to be there and present.
  - Invites to Latin network, etc. Center for Black Student Excellence.
  - More ideas coming, like the history of the Radium Girls name selection, etc.
  - Promoting getting Performing Arts here.
- July/Aug meeting – RK:
  - RK moved that we skip our July meeting 2025.
  - RK moved that we move August 11 meeting to August 18, 2025.

- JP seconded, motions passed.
- **Tech show additional finances:**
  - **\$700 was authorized for expenses but we ran over. RK moved we authorize \$300 to cover additional expenses. DB seconded. Motion passed.**

### UPCOMING BUSINESS

- June 9, 2025 4:30PM Scholarship committee; 5:30 PM Board Meeting-Hybrid
- Aug 18, Sep 8, Oct 13, Nov 10<sup>th</sup> (annual)
- Tech show in 2026 is: April 16, 17<sup>th</sup>

Respectfully Submitted,

Maj Britt (Max) Baker  
Secretary  
BPHS Alumni Association



BUSINESS SAVINGS	BEGINNING BALANCE	TOTAL DEPOSITS	TOTAL WITHDRAWALS	ENDING BALANCE
BSAV00	\$3,456.10	\$0.09	-\$0.00	\$3,456.19
	YTD DIVIDENDS	YTD DIVIDENDS WITHHELD		
	\$0.35	\$0.00		
Actual	Effective	Transaction Description	Amount	Balance
04/30	04/30	Dividend Annual Percentage Yield Earned= 0.03% For 30 Days	0.09	3456.19

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	\$-30.00

BUSINESS FLEX CHCK	BEGINNING BALANCE	TOTAL DEPOSITS	TOTAL WITHDRAWALS	ENDING BALANCE
BFLX00	\$3,869.86	\$285.50	-\$459.00	\$3,696.36
	YTD DIVIDENDS	YTD DIVIDENDS WITHHELD		
	\$0.00	\$0.00		
Actual	Effective	Transaction Description	Amount	Balance
04/15	04/15	Deposit ACH PAYPAL*TRANSFER	136.50	4006.36
04/28	04/29	Deposit CUSC Trnsctn 04/28 - IQ CREDIT UNION - 615-A CHKALOV DR SUITE VANCOUVER WA	149.00	4155.36
04/29	04/28	Withdrawal Draft Clearing Check #241 - Withdrawal, Draft Clearing	-459.00	3696.36

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
241	04/28	459.00						