

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



Date: June 9, 2025
Starting Time: 5:34 pm
Ending Time: 7:30 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); Gerry Ochs (GO); Bob Trimble (BT); Jeff Strachan (JS); Rob Johns (RJ)

Online: Maj Britt (Max) Baker (MB); Mike Landstrom (ML); Dan Malone (DM), PPS

Guests: Dick Spies, former board member and alum (DS, online); Gregory Huntington, Teacher doing yearbook class; Ken Bakke (KB), alum and former board member; Kelly Janes, parent of a student and President of the Boosters club.

ABSENT: Anthony Reimer (AR)

BUSINESS

- Guest – Gregory Huntington
 - He is an English teacher by training. Before he took over, Yearbook was the hot potato project, but he found it is super fun. They have good student leadership.
 - He appreciates the Alumni ad and linking the graduates with the Association.
 - He's in the process of getting his CTE license for teaching journalism, and they restarted the newsletter, which has been dark since 2010, called the Orbit. There are 22 kids that forecasted for journalism class.
 - CTE license from a funding standpoint, is tapping into Federal dollars other programs also might use (Perkins, etc), so looking for some funding for simple, high quality, point and shoot cameras, they are about \$470. They have Cannon T9s, entry level, with interchangeable lenses. These are for kids that are confident, DMP majors or hobbyists. The other kids need these point and shoots.

- MB – FYI 1989 was the first year we did the yearbook on computer – Mac IIE.
- He will hear back soon from PPS re some funding answers, then will make an ask.
- Long term for journalism, they are hoping to have multi-media as well, bringing in KBPS, etc., but they are really excited about putting out a physical paper. They outsource everything to Pamplin, and it's expensive. It was about \$5-600 per run.
- The district is very supportive.
- Digitizing of the Tech Peps has been great. Nick, student, looked through a bunch of old copies and found there was a tradition to interview the outgoing senior class, and wanted to do it. He and another reporter went to graduation and interviewed people. Elizabeth wrote the article and Nick edited the video. It's the lead article on orbit.com.

The screenshot shows the Benson Orbit website. At the top is the Benson Orbit logo, which is a blue circle with an orange star and the text 'BENSON ORBIT'. Below the logo is a navigation bar with links: HOME, NEWS, SPORTS, CULTURE, STUDENT VOICES, and ABOUT. The main content area is divided into two columns. The left column features a large photo of graduates in blue caps and gowns, with a headline 'Benson's Grads of 2025 Look Back on High School Memories'. Below the photo is a sub-headline 'As Benson's Seniors graduated, we asked them to reflect upon their favorite memories from high school.' and the byline 'Elizabeth Larrison and Nick Oates • Jun 5, 2025'. The right column features a smaller article titled 'GSA Returns To Benson, But Students Didn't Return to GSA' with a sub-headline 'Marvin Kolbow • May 27, 2025'. Below this article is a crossword puzzle section titled 'Orbit Crossword' with a grid and clues.

- He expressed appreciation for the Alumni Association helping keep things moving forward, breathing life into the supportive community.
- RK: Note the yearbooks for us are in Dan's office. Greg said he may be doing another run and will get us one or two.
- Guest - Kelly Janes - Boosters:
 - Her son will be a senior next year.
 - Rachel McDonald is taking over Teacher Appreciation from Molly; and JP joined the board this year.
 - Came tonight to participate in discussion about September picnic.

- Dan Malone joined.
 - She has some thoughts about what we might be able to do.
 - Helpful to have as many groups as possible at the event. Example: friend's school didn't have a Jazz Band presence, and they wanted to talk to them.
 - Would love to have the athletics there with some kids in uniform if possible.
 - Food trucks, band playing?
 - The Alumni and robotics at Marshall was great! They really appreciated the tour.
 - DB - Principal Wilson was going to make major invites to incoming Freshman/etc.
 - RK – we will be inviting athletics and clubs to make a cohesive community presence.
 - Kelly is interested in selling Benson Tech gear; they do have some. There was a lot of interest in gear at the 8th grade info night. Incoming Freshmen will have demand. It aligns with the class competition fundraiser, so they will have a trophy there, so they will solicit donations.
- Kelly left the meeting.
- DM:
 - Things are moving along. People are cleaning rooms out.
 - He's one day a week next fall, will try and split this to 2 half days. Gone all October, gone mid April -> mid May. He'll miss Tech show as he'll be travelling.
 - Once the contractors leave, he'll be doing tours, etc.
 - Permanent decade photos going up soon, and shadow text.
 - KC – NW stairs (and terracotta) leading to Auditorium are damaged, possibly due to braces or scaffolding during reconstruction. Is that being fixed?
 - DM – those stairs might need to be redone, will be a new bid.
 - JP – weight rooms are open but there's fencing?
 - DM – that's Andersen and next week they will start downstairs and will be redoing all the phone and computer lines, so they left their stuff there.
 - RK – is that going to be done by the end of the summer? We were hoping to welcoming people on the south side.
 - DM will get back to us on timing.
 - The issue in the concession stand with water buildup – he has the answer and will let ML know.
 - Class of 66 tour tomorrow, at 10:30AM.
- DM left the meeting.
- Music club:
 - RJ – Heidi would have come to talk about music, but she was home ill today.

- JP: This all came together very quickly. We did have one meeting. 21 students met in the band room for pizza (6 pizzas!). Since Tech Show, class of 75 alumni (Dan Foster, also former staff) is donating his time, volunteer 2 afternoons a week, to lead the band club. Another retired music director, Gene Burton, will help. His wife is the director at Harriett Tubman, and heard from students there that they wanted to do music at Benson Tech. So it's really happening. Gene directs a few groups in Portland area. Because we don't have an FTE committed to music, we can't access the district instruments. They will work on that later, but for now, we are partnering the Warner Pacific group, who will loan instruments to our club kids. Beginner to Intermediate kids, but if there are kids that need an advanced opportunity, they can join with Warner Pacific. They will be in touch with the kids over the summer and then there might be incoming freshman as well. They may be 40-50 strong.
- Principal Wilson is supportive and has pushed the district. As soon as we can show a group playing a song, with parents that will advocate, this is a different story.
- We will start reaching out to the community: Beacock music etc. So we will know more in August.
- DB: Remember that Principal Wilson stated he will devote .5 FTE to this the year after this, but this is dependent on cuts as well. He thinks vocal might be easier (no instruments).
- Heidi is committed – time this summer and next year.
- It has been easier to schedule band as 0 period, lunch, or after school. So, we'll just have to see how this goes. Principal Wilson felt that Heidi needed to be physically present at every rehearsal. But we do know that the staff for robotics is not a current teacher and not present at each meeting. We basically must show longevity. Would like to put together a concert this year and build on it.
- RK: need to have alumni present as well to support.
- Warner Pacific has a library, then probably rentals from Beacock and Tigard music, and whatever donations/help they can give. We will reach out to alumni as well – any instruments? We are good on pianos and drum sets. Talked a bit about the cost of instruments. Having the music person run both choir and instrumental groups is not a stretch.
- ML – missing a pep band in the gym for sports!
- RK – between Greg and Heidi, it feels very hopeful with bringing things back to Benson Tech.
- JP – Cleveland just took 5th at State, it's their fourth time. Roosevelt placed in Jazz. The Portland Arts tax started when these kids were in kindergarten. We are seeing the fruits of this. Music in PPS is starting to flourish.

- Member Report (JP)
 - 95 paid members.
- Financial Report (BT)
 - PayPal: \$ 36.72
 - \$3456.28 in Savings
 - \$3507.75 in Checking
 - Some checks may not be reflected in this report.
- RoiSan Anderson retired a few weeks ago, and Shelly is retiring as well. We need to get the CUB in before she is gone.
 - Times for CUB – 12-4PM. Event ends at 3PM, we clean until 4PM.
 - We don't need community room. Commons, cafeteria, CTE courtyard.
- Prior Meeting Minutes Approval (MB)
 - May minutes, draft 2 was sent Sunday. JS moved and ML seconded accepting the amended minutes. Motion passed. MaxB will send out the final version.
- Sat Sept 13th Community Picnic – DB:
 - We want an event to celebrate the school. A few years ago, Principal Wilson thought it would be great to invite the incoming Freshman and families before school starts. This year it will move to September. He has access to all the PPS info about these students around the 1st of July, so he will invite them all. There will be other events in Aug/Sep, but this is where he wants them all to come and feel welcome, part of the community. Past and present and incoming students, Boosters, athletics and clubs. This is the inclusiveness we are trying to achieve.
 - Tours – multiple groups touring at the same time.
 - Class of 85, and simultaneously maybe incoming Freshman. A couple of students leading groups of 30 is better.
 - Alumni Association being Ambassadors.
 - RK: We want families to be able to talk with athletics and students and Boosters etc. to get a sense of what the school is now – keeping the energy in one location, rather than being everywhere. RK and JP walked the space and figured out where different groups could go.
 - Single point of entry in the SW, frees up the inner courtyard for one of the reunions, two reunions upstairs, all in the central location. Vibrant event, even if there isn't a huge turnout this year.
 - If there's a group that wanted a more isolated area, we could potentially offer the community room, but nothing outside of that.
 - Depending on how many groups we get, we could carve out an area in the commons area.
 - JS – Concession stand is by the gym, so I like the food trucks for the commons area activities. We could bring the popcorn machine and/or the hot dog machine – I can do that in the kitchen area.

- RK or JS will reach out to the few food trucks that were good to work with. BBQ/cake, Mexican, Soulfood.
- Identifying T-shirts for the Alumni Association. Discussion around self-funding or not. Will move forward with self-funding and RK will bring design at next meeting.
- Retiring teachers:
 - Amy Henry will become a counsellor at a school in Germany. At her retirement party, saw teacher Luke who was asking for money to support the cooking club to support construction.
 - TS talked about the competition a bit more.
 - RK competition in the courtyard is fun to watch, too.
 - Amy Henry has a named scholarship, we talked about publicizing this, and does the Alumni Association want to donate any money?
 - **JS moved that we donate \$250 to the Amy Henry scholarship fund in the name of the Alumni Association. TS seconded. Motion passed.**
 - JP will work with Bob on this donation.
 - RoiSan Anderson needs some recognition. She helped us in numerous ways.
 - MB: Perhaps a plaque? JS just needs a narrative and can work with the company. 8 ½ x 10 will be about \$70.
 - **JS moved that we authorize up to \$150 to be spent on 2 plaques honoring RoiSan. 1 for her, 1 to live at the school. RK seconded. Motion passed.**
- JS's son graduation as a Mechanical Engineer and needs a job. He is autistic. Let him know if you know of anything.
- JP: Tech show sheets info has been entered. Over 500 people signed in. Over half we didn't have info or haven't seen in a very long time. Very encouraging. The next emails we send will hit a lot of new people.
- JP: They asked for parent volunteers for PSU graduation. Just for about an hour to get people in. We should consider as a group to consider joining that group. We would have loved it. It would have been perfect. Let's put that on our calendars. The venue was great.

UPCOMING BUSINESS

- August 18, 2025 4:30PM Scholarship committee; 5:30 PM Board Meeting-Hybrid
- Next meetings after that: Sep 8, Oct 13, Nov 10th (annual)
- Tech show in 2026 is: April 16, 17th

Respectfully Submitted,

Maj Britt (Max) Baker
Secretary

BPHS Alumni Association



BUSINESS SAVINGS	BEGINNING BALANCE	TOTAL DEPOSITS	TOTAL WITHDRAWALS	ENDING BALANCE
BSAV00	\$3,456.19	\$0.09	-\$0.00	\$3,456.28
	YTD DIVIDENDS	YTD DIVIDENDS WITHHELD		
	\$0.44	\$0.00		
Actual	Effective	Transaction Description	Amount	Balance
05/31	05/31	Dividend Annual Percentage Yield Earned= 0.03% For 31 Days	0.09	3456.28

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	\$3,696.36	\$289.36	-\$477.98	\$3,507.74
	YTD DIVIDENDS	YTD DIVIDENDS WITHHELD		
	\$0.00	\$0.00		
Actual	Effective	Transaction Description	Amount	Balance
05/06	05/05	Withdrawal Draft Clearing Check #235 - Withdrawal, Draft Clearing	-62.32	3634.04
05/13	05/13	Deposit ACH PAYPAL*TRANSFER	289.36	3923.40
05/13	05/12	Withdrawal Draft Clearing Check #234 - Withdrawal, Draft Clearing	-415.66	3507.74

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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
234	05/12	415.66	235	05/05	62.32			