

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



Date: Sep 8, 2025
Starting Time: 5:36 pm
Ending Time: 7:31 pm
Hybrid meeting

ATTENDEES:

Board Members: Josh Piper (JP); Dale Bajema (DB), Roger Edwards (RE); Rachael Kuryanny (RK); Rob Johns (RJ); Jeff Strachan (JS); Bobbie (Rob) Walker (BW); Thomas Smith (TS); Kevin Clark (KC)

Online: Maj Britt (Max) Baker (MB); Mike Landstrom (ML); Bob Trimble (BT)

Guests: Dan Malone (DM), Jacob Patterson, KBPS teacher and bowling advisor.

ABSENT: Anthony Reimer (AR); Gerry Ochs (GO)

BUSINESS

- DM:
 - Photos will be up around the building by Saturday – pencil sketches from students, back in the day, original sketches of the building, etc. Hung starting Thursday.
 - DM will meet alumni on Saturday by 11AM at the back of the building.
 - JS said he'll have coffee going right away. (ML and MB will not be there on Sat)
 - Jamie Hurd is gone; Jen Sohms is at Ida B. Wells. Klein and Brice are there until Dec. Then it will just be DM.
 - School seems to be going well. Schedule seems to be working fine. First football game is Thursday.
 - RK: Is the communication in newsletters clear about the doors that will be open?
 - DM – yes, it's been printed like that every week, but I think people will still come to the front.
 - RK: I think we might need signs on the door.
 - DM – you might post a kid at the chair there to let people in – it's a long walk.
 - RJ: I got on the agenda for teachers tomorrow. Maybe we should bribe teachers, and students, with food! To come.
 - RK: We will give students free hotdogs/concessions for volunteering.

- RJ: Will talk to teachers about having a student in their space so they can talk to things during tours.
- KC: Benson Bucks could be incentive for kids.
- RJ: If we assume 12-20 kids, we could just reimburse for that.
- RK: Signs at the front of street on main: post signs to go to the other areas that are open.
- JP: I've been messaging the entrances on Facebook, and we'll email the map as well.
- RJ: I will email Principal Wilson to add RK's email to the principal's student/parent mailing list.
- RK: Class of '45 is wanting a 12:30PM tour.
- DM: I just need someone at the back pushing them along, because I can't stop the tour. Talked about the 5 or 6 areas to stop in.
- RK: Will have final tour schedule for groups on Friday.
- DM: I can't unlock areas and just walk away... The Gym can be open, auditorium. I think radio will be there, but I haven't talked to them.
- RK: I will reach out to Jacob and see if they will be there. He will be there noon to 4, some kids will be there, KPBS will be open.
- RK talked about who she has talked to / heard from: Track coach, someone from music club, Dance, girls' tennis, football. She will send out an email to the clubs on Wed that they need to bring their own signs.
- RJ: Robotics is doing ice cream again. There will be kids with robots there.
- DM: Don't lose my doorjamb!
- DM left the meeting at 5:57PM
- JP:
 - 62 kids indicated interest. 35 came last Wed, with many others stating why they couldn't arrive. Roundtable with intros, experience, who needs instruments, etc. The list of needed instruments was not long because a lot of kids have their own or were used to renting from Beacock or Tigard Music. The Directors already have this handful of instruments covered. Will meet every Wed 3:45 – 5PM, and flex days.
 - Several teachers came out that are interested in helping. They are deciding what that commitment looks like.
 - Concert Band – main group. But there's like 20 percussionists so they may have a bucket band/drum line. Might be small brass ensemble, maybe woodwind ensemble. It is a good initial spread of instruments. maybe strings/piano.
 - The band club itself has its own subaccount at the school, so that exists now and there's a link for folks to donate through schoolpay. It's new so we'll put this out on the Alumni site, it will go out in Principal's letter and be on the Benson Tech website.

- RJ: This should be listed in the 'list of needs' of the school, so that when people ask what the school needs, we can talk to this.
 - Tech Boosters – covers athletics, groups, etc.
 - Athletic or Club/Group that is present (list of RK's confirmed attendees)
 - Scholarship fund
 - Tech Foundation
- Discussion about who is announcing over the sound system in the commons, the Booster award for class that donated the most last year. JP will find out who/where to work the sound system. RK will MC.
 - About every 30 mins we can make announcements about what is happening around the building.
- Member Report (JP)
 - 105 paid members. We should see another bump because it's the anniversary of the Grand Opening, so we may see renewals.
- Financial Report (BT)
 - If someone wants to donate an instrument to the music group, I can go pick it up.
 - \$146 in PayPal
 - \$ 6333 in account. No checks last month.
 - 46 recurring members in annual payment.
 - Beard club -> BT growing his beard.
- Prior Meeting Minutes Approval (MB)
 - Aug minutes sent out Aug 19th, only minor typos and BT attendance, RK provided numbers on per class enrollment. JP moved we accept the minutes as corrected, ML seconded. Motion passed.
- Sat Sept 13th Community Event - RK:
 - Vendors:
 - Lola's Bussdown
 - Mexican Food truck.
 - Norma Jean's Soul Cuisine food truck; and orange/blue Bundt Cakes.
 - Concession stand:
 - Hot dogs, chips
 - Coffee, lemonade
 - Annika will bring cookies/tangerines – near AA table?
 - JP: student store will be open (staffed by Shelly the bookkeeper). If Boosters are near the student store – where?
 - RK: not tables in front of kitchen, not blocking traffic. We have 7 groups with tables and Robotics, so how do we want to place the tables?

- JP: Maybe it should be at the foot of the learning stairs by the doors to the outside. All the inputs for screen and speakers are right there.
 - Discussed that the girls' band is not coming.
 - RK hoping another few groups might show last minute.
 - 2 classes upstairs and an informal reunion downstairs.
 - Discussed the cornhole/Jenga games from construction.
 - Trying to make this about the school today, rather than the alumni association.
 - Will add an etc. table for any group that just is giving info/fliers.
- Newsletter - DB
 - Principal Curtis puts out a weekly newsletter every Monday. Upcoming stuff and short paragraphs of things that have occurred.
 - Could RJ and RK provide a press release/summary of the celebration for the one after the event? Thank the teachers, how many people were there, etc. Reinforcing the teacher/student/parent participation and the first of annual events. Getting it into the newsletter gives it importance from the Principal, and might encourage teachers and staff to attend.
 - Newsletter 150 copies, 8 pages. \$330.
 - **ML moved that we spend \$350 to print 150 copies of the newsletter. JP seconded. Motion passed.**
- Jacob Patterson from KBPS arrived at 6:39PM.
 - They are already pushing the event on KBPS.
 - I'll be there and KBPS will be open. Student will do some live broadcasting, will be able to help with tours.
 - He popped down to the band meeting last Wed but couldn't get any students to commit to live music at the event.
 - RK – I think we are good with just playing KBPS.
 - Jacob – it's a mix of old rock, etc. But it will be live so they can promote the event. I'll float between commons and the station.
 - RK – We'll want KBPS to plug some things.
 - Jacob – feel free to send anyone down to the studio. Any announcements you need you can send someone or text him.
- Bowling – Jacob Patterson
 - First bowling team practice/tryouts. Feeling confident that the boys' varsity team is a state champion contender. Communicating with the other PIL schools to try and establish more teams. There's a rule that says if the school doesn't have a team, you can go play with another team. Freshman coming from Ida B Wells to play on the team. He's trying to get into Benson Tech. One ringer, 3-4 others that are really good.
 - There are high quality teams from other areas: Medford, K Falls, etc.

- He'll see if he can find someone to come rep for bowling team. Radio Chief of Staff is also a bowler. He'll check – email RK. Can give fliers to RJ at the teacher's meeting tomorrow.
- The more bowlers the better!
- King Pins at 92nd and Powell is the closest place. Green line goes close.
- Jacob left at 6:50PM
- Site Council – DB:
 - Spent 5 meetings last year developing a vision statement for the school. In a nutshell, it's the Site Council's vision for the school: where do we want the school to be 25-30 years from now? It's a grand statement.
 - Lots of student and parental input. It's a nice statement. But if our vision is to be different from what we are today, aren't there things we can do now to get started to move toward it?
 - There is an accompanying School Mission Statement that is rather general, but Wilson views it as keeping Benson fully functioning through the full school year doing what it has been doing well.
 - Principal Curtis is great at keeping things going. He's figured out how to deal with the politics of the School Board, and how to deal with daily crisis. He's in a difficult spot and does well.
 - He has a few more years at the school and has specific goals he wants to accomplish.
 - Varsity football going strong.
 - Music program teacher funded by the district.
 - 1400 students at the school.
 - He's willing to review goals developed by the site council that could be accomplished in the next 2-3 years. The site council can advocate for these goals and speak up at board meetings about them.
 - He is interested in exploring ways that the school might increase its CTE offerings. Over the years we've talked about sustainable energy programs, fashion programs, drones, etc. Develop materials for the school to bring forward to the board in the future?
 - Site Council committee (subcommittee?) will probably kick off this fall with 5-7 members to study increasing Benson's CTE offerings. Other people are welcome to come to present their idea and facts. The completion of these goals involves a lot of documentation, since there are specs for each approved course in the State of Oregon. We do know there are high schools in Oregon that have aviation and robotics programs. The committee may visit some of the schools and see the programs and document what they are seeing. We may find classes or programs like what we want at Benson Tech.

- Looking for parent or teacher participation. We want this collaborative. Inviting the teachers will be important to overcome resistance to new CTE.
- RJ: There is a CTE coordinator – an FTE at the school. They often post jobs on Trivory. This would be an ideal candidate.
- KC: Funding difficulties and other factors producing a rapidly changing environment. An effort began a few years ago by the Oregon Department of Education to better standardize CTE requirements – not fitting what we do here at Benson Tech, but it helped other schools develop programs and classes. We know that as Benson Tech expands, we'll have FTE expansion, but how do we target that FTE? District control over student enrollment and program balancing, as well as financial shortfalls, present barriers, which is part of the issue with the music program (e.g., re-allocation of approved district monies for theater arts program). Control over spending allotments remain uncertain.
- RJ: We must figure out how much we as a group want to push back on this.
- DB: With additional students you also must keep adding sections of Math, English, etc.
- Discussion around staying proactive, focusing on state-of-the-art industry, and balance it with what the kids want, but kids don't always want the education they need. Drones and Robotics are a large growth sector right now. Robotics fits into every CTE program at Benson Tech, but we also need Teacher buy-in to that kind of core cross-disciplinary programming strategy.
 - Healthcare – diagnostic and therapeutic nanorobotics; surgical robots, etc.
 - Transportation and manufacturing robots, etc.
- Portland Parks/Buckman field: RJ
 - It's coming to a head – the field is not ready for Track and Field to use. Multi pathway building is blocking part of the field. Track is brand new, but the Benson Track kids have to go somewhere else.
 - \$70K is the number floating around. Haskins has given the green light that we can get loud as alumni if we wish to take this issue on.
 - KC: there have been problems with other schools that were modernized. Conflict between what the district and parks and recreation would pay for modernized facilities falling under shared use partnership agreements. It was an issue at Grant, for example. We were guaranteed certain upgrades. We could appeal the district's assessment for not being accurate and not meeting basic needs. I would link it to the BPHS modernization.
 - RJ: this is a school specific need. An injury on this would probably cost more than \$70K. The liability appears to be shared with PPS/Parks. Pole Vault has thick mats that need to be stored and hauled out (previously rats destroyed).

- Track coach will be there on Saturday.
- KC: There is going to be a new bid for some repair and unfinished work at BPHS, could it be added in as one package?
- RJ: I think a separate item. Refund from Andersen might be able to be used for this.
- JS: The fly in the ointment: we can't have a track meet here anyway, because the track is 1/3 of a mile.
- KC: These were almost heated discussions about the extent of Buckman Field renovations in the MPC/DAG process. This is about Portland Public Parks not willing to fund and develop the field as it should be for official competitive events. But we still need it for practicing.
- JS: PPS should be providing a location to the school that has a track and field area that can be used for meets. We made \$1800 in one day selling soda at the area where we had a track meet in Gresham. We should get a proposal to create a legitimate track and field facility.
- JP: Benson Tech uses it for a chunk of time, but (private) soccer organizations use it almost 24/7. Portland Parks gets a lot of money from that use. As a track and field parent, it's a terrible situation. Our own soccer teams don't get to practice here. Right now after school, football has one side and St. Mary's has the other side.
- JS: Every year we have kids in the state finals for track.
- RK: Girls won state every year for 6 years. Portland Parks will say – you still managed to have these state champions even though facilities were unsuitable. When Jay Miles was leading track and it was at Marshal, we were finally able to host the meet. Getting kids to another practice field is tough, particularly for BPHS.
- This might be a window into this larger situation. Educational equity, health and safety. Compared to Lincoln, Grant, etc.
- MB: Any contacts at local papers?
 - RJ: Willamette Weekly.
- RK: Benson Tech had to fight tooth and nail to get athletic programs to stay, and it's not equitable.
- BW: If we have any alums that own excavation equipment, they might donate it and bring the cost down, with a low bid.
- RK will bring the shirts for everyone.
- Tabling discussion about moving the Organ.

UPCOMING BUSINESS

- Next meetings: 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		\$3,456.46	\$0.09	-\$0.00	\$3,456.55	
		YTD DIVIDENDS	YTD DIVIDENDS WITHHELD			
		\$0.71	\$0.00			
Actual	Effective	Transaction Description			Amount	Balance
08/31	08/31	Dividend Annual Percentage Yield Earned= 0.03% For 31 Days			0.09	3456.55

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		\$2,780.03	\$94.05	-\$0.00	\$2,874.08	
		YTD DIVIDENDS	YTD DIVIDENDS WITHHELD			
		\$0.00				
Actual	Effective	Transaction Description			Amount	Balance
08/20	08/20	Deposit ACH PAYPAL*TRANSFER			94.05	2874.08

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

