

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



Date: Nov 10, 2025
Starting Time: 6:23 pm
Ending Time: 7:20pm
Hybrid meeting

ATTENDEES:

Board Members: Josh Piper (JP); Roger Edwards (RE); Rachael Kuryanny (RK); Thomas Smith (TS); Kevin Clark (KC); Maj Britt (Max) Baker (MB); Gerry Ochs (GO); Rob Johns (RJ); Mike Landstrom (ML); Christina White (CW); Alex Lamb (AL), class of 1980

Online: Bob Trimble (BT); Dale Bajema (DB)

Guests: Jacque Strong (online), Dan Malone (DM)

ABSENT: Jeff Strachan (JS); Bobbie (Rob) Walker (BW)

BUSINESS

- Membership – JP:
 - 112 paid members currently.
- Financial Report – BT
 - \$5890 in the credit union.
- Prior Meeting Minutes Approval -MB:
 - Correction of Torin's name only
 - ML moved, TS seconded to accept corrected minutes.
 - Motion passed.
- Newsletter – RE:
 - Electronic only: Probably 8 pages, lots of ideas.
 - Discussion about the importance of helping to organize reunions, and tie this to the school. This should be part of the newsletter.
- Site Council – JP
 - Principal Wilson talked about most of these issues.
 - It's an advisory group, does school planning. The principal is there but can't lead the group. It's an advisory group, does school planning. The principal is there but can't lead the group. State law requires one appointed school administrator and one each elected licensed and certified school employees. Council membership should also include student and parent representatives, without a majority of parents, and other stakeholders, such as

representatives from affinity groups, industry, etc. Administrators are not allowed to chair the Council. An open participation policy is observed, allowing public participation from individuals not directly associated with the school.

- Work with district and state to address school issues.
- Played a major role in bringing back football, and in the redesign of the school.
- Architecture is still on the list of majors to bring back. [Post meeting DB emailed: I can state from my past site council participation and conversations with Curtis that he and VP Sara Calle are not thinking of Architecture being above any other CTE addition or expansion.]
- Tech Show – RK
 - We will need to identify someone that will take over organizing Tech Show this next year. RK is stepping down.
 - Let's all think about this and make decisions next month.
- Community Picnic – RK
 - Last month's meeting ideas was great.
 - Date of Aug 22nd, 2026 selected to catch the teachers back but kids not back yet. We won't do so much clubs/extra curriculars, because they do a fair after school starts.
 - Hoping to have musical performances, and clubs that are fundraising.
 - Hard press on getting info out to the middle schools. RK sent info to Kelly Janes, head of Boosters, modified it and will print about 400 copies to give out at 8th grade info night.
 - Talked about printing up signs and putting them up around middle schools. (They learned about it late.) We can ask the schools to include them in their school newsletters.
 - **Motion to fund the flier printer costs, 400 fliers, approximately \$100:**
 - **RK Moved, ML seconded**
 - **Motion passed.**
- Tech Pep digitizing – RE:
 - We have all issues that we have scanned. Most are on the website. 1920-1958. Scanned ones went through 1960. There were some scattered ones. 1995-2010 are available. Missing 1949, and others.
 - In 1953 there was concern about safety in the school. A teacher and a student choreographed a school shooting as believed demonstration of possible health and safety risks on campus. The school shooting story appears on page 2 of the 15 Dec 1953 issue. It is the first article of the column at the top left of the page. The title section of the issue includes the statement, "The Nation's Foremost Technical School".
 - ML mentioned he heard that some tough kids had been sent to Benson at that time and later decades.

- ML and RJ expressed gratitude to RE for spending his own time and money to get the scanning done.
- Portland Parks/Buckman field – RJ:
 - RJ drafted a letter to Risk management that there were hazards in the long jump, pole vault and discus areas (too close to apartments/parking lot), and they were unsafe.
 - Risk Management came out and met with Jessica Russell, and DM talked to them as well. There's a team but not a manager right now.
 - RJ is following up with Jessica and Dan. Curtis Wilson was told there was no money but Alumni Association can go for it.
 - Discussion of no music stands:
 - KC said that Franklin's alumni bought theirs.
 - RJ – this would be a campaign. But there is the recent levy passed for more money for Parks/Rec.
- Moving the Organ – JP
 - Talked to band leader at Cleveland, who put him in touch with Columbia River Theatre Organ Society. They weren't concerned about the timeline. They have an idea of where it will go unless someone else makes a claim. They have a museum. Beyond the introduction email, there hasn't been further conversation.
 - JP is just concerned about raising money for it. The effort would need a champion.
 - RE contacted the Portland American Guild of Organists. And they said it's the Columbia River Guild that has responsibility. The Cleveland organ had an issue in 2016 when a steam pipe burst and ruined a bunch of things. They had weekly concerts there, and there is a lot of historical references. JP noted they held a concert last year as a fundraiser for maintenance.
 - They have fundraiser nights at the Hollywood theater where theirs plays for silent movies.
 - The organ moved after Principal Tom Parr retired and Principal O'Neil took over and sent it to Cleveland. Note that Columbia River Theater Organ Society looks after it at Cleveland.
 - KC asked if it would be functional at the museum, as it would probably not be operational if moved back to Benson Tech.
 - RE – I've also heard the organ may not still be at Cleveland. This might need to be an article in the newsletter.
- Alumni Association one-pager – RK
 - We will talk about this more in Dec.
 - Please edit/trim.
 - The idea is that this is an INTERNAL document.

[Post meeting:

- RK sent out the link to the google document that is the internal 'What does BPHSAA do?' document seeking comments before next meeting.

- RJ emailed on the minutes email chain asking why the Alumni Business Directory looked a little thin.
 - KC: Thomas is working on the Business Directory. I sent Thomas about 15 suggested entries obtained from various sources. Thomas received responses from a few interested business leaders from that list of suggestions, but I don't think many actually completed and submitted the Directory form. Other suggestions need better vetting. Perhaps we can form a discovery and outreach committee to support Thomas' efforts. Thomas would you have time and inclination to chair such a committee?
 - TS: Yes, as Kevin mentioned, we did get a little uptick in alumni business entries thanks to the sources that he reached out to. It's been several months now since the last entry we received, but we did get a nice little uptick. There were at least one or two folks that I personally reached out to (based on Kevin's recommendations) to include their businesses in the directory, but they never did respond or opt to have their businesses included. Kevin, I don't mind your idea of a discovery and outreach committee. At this stage though, I truly don't have the capacity to take on another task since my day job takes up so much of my time – especially when you throw in my business travel. Happy to participate any way that I can, but to chair this committee would likely be more than I can take on at the moment.
 - KC: I certainly understand your time limitations with job and personal commitments. If you, Bob, and other Directors have an interest to serve on a committee to further explore Business Directory and relations options, I can serve as Chair to move things forward or we can consider other choices for Chair. In any event, let's discuss the possibility further at the 2025 December BOD meeting.
 - BW: I don't think it should be up to you or us to contact business owners to get to be a part of our directory. Somehow we need to get more exposure for this and want to come to us. I like Dales idea for "testimonials" in future newsletters. We also need to get Alumni aware of the directory. I think this is a great and we could leverage as a benefit to all Alumni. I know I am looking for a body/paint business, someone to restore a car interior and a house painter

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UPCOMING BUSINESS

- Next meetings: Dec 8th, Jan 12th.
- 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		\$3,456.64	\$0.09	-\$0.00	\$3,456.73	
		YTD DIVIDENDS	YTD DIVIDENDS WITHHELD			
		\$0.89	\$0.00			
Actual	Effective	Transaction Description			Amount	Balance
10/31	10/31	Dividend Annual Percentage Yield Earned= 0.03% For 31 Days			0.09	3456.73

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	\$2,439.26	\$0.00	-\$0.00	\$2,439.26	
	YTD DIVIDENDS	YTD DIVIDENDS WITHHELD			
	\$0.00	\$0.00			
Actual	Effective	Transaction Description		Amount	Balance

TOTAL OVERDRAFT AND RETURNED ITEM FEES		
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Total Overdraft Fees	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Returned Items	\$0.00	\$0.00

