

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



Date: Dec 8, 2025
Starting Time: 5:32 pm
Ending Time: 7:40 pm
Hybrid meeting

ATTENDEES:

Board Members: Josh Piper (JP); Roger Edwards (RE); Rachael Kuryunny (RK); Thomas Smith (TS); Kevin Clark (KC); Maj Britt (Max) Baker (MB); Rob Johns (RJ); Christina White (CW); Alex Lamb (AL); Bobbie (Rob) Walker (BW); Jeff Strachan (JS)

Online: Gerry Ochs (GO); Bob Trimble (BT); Dale Bajema (DB)

Guests: Dan Malone (DM)

ABSENT: Mike Landstrom (ML)

BUSINESS

- DM:
 - 8th grade night went well
 - Auditorium was full – about 800. Lots of people don't bother come to the auditorium to listen to the presentation. We were probably maxed out with 1100 people
 - Application process:
 - Dec 12th is the application deadline.
 - Enrollment transfers will go out sometime in Jan.
 - Right around mid Feb the transfer letters will go out.
 - When kids come and fill out a schedule, that's their acceptance.
 - Then the school will send out another around 50 letters for those that didn't respond until total acceptance is about 330.
 - All of enrollment goes through Enrollment and Transfer, and **we still don't know their magic formula.**
 - Please encourage anyone with legacy – any ties to the school – they should include it in their application. We don't know if it has an effect.
 - RK: any idea about gender balance?
 - DM: nope. I'll send the current. Breakdown – it's about 60/40.

- RE: There were trivia questions about girls is in the Jan 2025 issue and includes graphs showing the rise and plateau of senior girls by year, and their percentage of total enrollment by year.
 - The new Freshman class of 330 will replace the graduating Senior class of 200 – that’s what happened this year. If we fill all slots, we may get another FTE. That would be enough to start the music program.
 - The district is facing a 55 million deficit.
 - Yearbook kids enjoyed touring the alumni space and may write an article.
 - 5 leaks appeared at the school today. Bryce and Mark just went around and fixed it.
 - At the PPS board meeting last week – new contract went to Presidio out of Texas. (See Oregonian article link and summary below. BT also emailed the board the downloaded PDF of the article during the meeting.) Bryce and Mark do not have a contract after the end of this month and there’s still 1 million left of work to do.
 - KC: Can we do anything?
 - DM wrote to the rep several weeks ago and hasn’t heard anything.
 - Still HVAC, parapet, small amount of work for heat sensors for Foundry.
 - Around spring break letters will go out to staff stating their approximate workloads.
- 5:45PM DM left the meeting
- Membership – JP:
 - Still 112 paid members.
 - Board members should pay dues before next Jan meeting.
 - Discussion about lifetime membership
 - How do we recruit? Most successful is F2F. There is a sticker for those that sign up, and we’ve tried different incentives. We do have emails and online presence at our website and FB, etc.
 - JS – I wear my Benson sweatshirt everywhere that generates a lot of discussion.
 - RK - We have business cards and postcards as well.
 - \$400 was thrown out for lifetime membership.
 - KC – we could consider Family memberships, too.
 - Keep to individual responsibility
 - Other incentives?
 - Beanies? Only if sign up at Tech Show.
 - **RK moved that we establish a lifetime membership \$200. JS seconded.**
 - **Motion passed.**

- JP will update the site.
- RK suggested we have a place on the website that recognizes lifetime members, as well as an “in memoriam” section for lifetime members.
- Financial Report – BT
 - Thank you to JS for spots at concession stand for the bowling club. They purchased t-shirts!
 - \$6013 in total in the bank.
 - 2 reimbursement checks sent out in the last few weeks.
 - In the next few months, it is anticipated that we’ll get a few thousand coming in for membership renewals.
 - DB: Could we have at Jan meeting the list income/expenditures? Looking for categorization by activity.
 - BT – year to date last month is in the minutes. We’ll also have a final year-end report in Jan, after the Dec statement is received.
 - MaxB turned in a visa statement from FM for \$107 for refreshments for the annual meeting, as she could not find the receipt. We need to vote to write the check back to her for \$100. This \$100 was already approved at the October meeting.
 - **RK moved that we write the check to Max for \$100 for the Nov annual meeting refreshments she purchased. JP seconded.**
 - **Motion passed.**
- Prior Meeting Minutes Approval (MB)
 - Corrected draft sent today, with all the edits submitted in the email thread.
 - **JS moved that we accept the minutes as corrected, JP seconded.**
 - **Motion passed.**
- Election of Officers – RJ
 - Because of term ends that became synchronized, and issues recruiting new members due to Covid, there was a previous vote to change the bylaws to say that if nobody else wants the positions, there is no term limit.
 - Terms for the four officers are coming up now, whereas in the past these were staggered term endings.
 - RK: ML put forward that if they needed someone to take on Treasurer, he would do it. BT confirmed he’s willing to continue.
 - Nominations and Voting:
 - Nominations open for the Treasurer position
 - current Treasurer is Bob Trimble.
 - JS nominated BT.
 - Nominations were closed.
 - Voting for Treasurer:

- JS moved that we vote for BT as Treasurer. RK seconded.
 - Motion passed.
 - Nominations open for the Secretary position
 - current Secretary is Max Baker.
 - TS nominated MB.
 - Nominations were closed.
 - Voting for Secretary:
 - TS moved that we vote for MB as Secretary. RK seconded.
 - Motion passed.
 - Nominations open for the Vice Chair position
 - current Vice Chair is Rachael Kuryunny.
 - TS nominated RK.
 - Nominations were closed.
 - Voting for Vice Chair:
 - TS moved and JS seconded RK's nomination.
 - Motion passed.
 - Chair position: current Chair is Rob Johns.
 - RK nominated RJ for the position of Chair
 - Nominations were closed.
 - Voting for Chair:
 - RK moved that we vote for RJ as Chair, and JP seconded.
 - Motion passed.
- Newsletter – DB:
 - DB send out the working list of articles suggested for the winter newsletter, and some need volunteers. (See list below)
 - We also could use other ideas. It's online only, so length is not a restriction.
 - Discussion for the new folks about how we put the newsletter together. Anyone can take on any article.
 - CW did some brainstorming about recruiting ideas, including a standard script we can put out quarterly on our own social media.
 - KC says he'd like an article about the budget crisis because we will be affected. Principal Wilson has already tightened the belt at Benson Tech, and it will probably next affect CTE. FTE info may not be ready until mid-March.
 - KC would also like some discussion about the BPHS modernization that remain uncompleted or that require repair and the district selection to use the contractor from Texas.
 - DB agrees we should include what we know in the Tech Show issue about the cuts.

- DB will reach out to CW about an article on what it means to be on the board for the Tech Show issue.
- Tech show issue will try and be limited to 8 pages due to cost.
- RK suggested that the new members provide a short bio and a photo (or perhaps just a group photo at Tech show)
- ML – RE talked at the last meeting about a quick blurb for the Architects and groups that won a historic preservation award. We want to recognize that.
 - KC: Please mention the Master Planning group and the DAG.
 - MB: KC can send his info, and we can work it into GO's article.
- RE suggested it could be appropriate to include mention in Dale's news briefs for classes planning reunions to piggyback their dates with the Tech Show or Community Celebration.
- Site Council – DB
 - DB is the Chair of the council.
 - There was a presentation/appeal to the Site Council from the Auto teacher. The program will be far more focused on students learning the basics to get a certification after graduation. The District and Curtis kicked in some school money, and the Tech Foundation provided the rest. She will purchase 5 or 6 kits of tools. This will provide a more solid footing for the program for next 5 years.
 - The music club (Benson Band) was talked into doing a performance at boys basketball in Jan, and at the girls' game in Feb.
- Scholarship Committee – DB
 - We sent an electronic appeal end of September/early Oct for donations, trying to get ahead of all the asks.
 - So far, we've taken in around \$10,000. 14 contributors with large donations, 13 donations from alumni, 2 from directors of alumni association.
 - There is one more month to go, so you can donate, min \$25. If you can and are willing, please contribute.
 - We had many worthy candidates apply this year, and it's been difficult to pick the 4 most qualified. The more money we have, the more we can do for the students.
 - There is a plan to send one more email reminder this week.
- Tech Show – RK
 - We need to identify someone that will take over organizing Tech Show this next year. RK is stepping down.
 - RK detailed what the job entails
 - As people talked, various people volunteered or were mentioned for different aspects:
 - Chairing the subcommittee - RJ
 - Volunteer schedule - RK

- Signage – RK
- Providing text copy to Josh for communication - CW
- Food and Drink
 - Food – MB
 - Water and lemonade/punch - MB
- Events/Programming – KC
 - There was some brainstorming:
 - Fake mimosa meeting?
 - Alumni Basketball game?
 - Alumni small business tables?
 - Class reunions?
 - RK: We had it this last year. There was only one class – 55? There were in the community room and DM worked with them and gave them a tour. DM won't be here this year, so we may think about how we could do this.
 - Often, classes just put out the word and gather somewhere in the school.
 - The older classes are often not email or social media savvy. But we are always happy to work with them.
- Setup
 - Coordination with faculty – KC
 - Yearbook setup – RK
- Subcommittee meeting at 4:30PM before our next board meeting. Everyone's input is welcome.
- Reunions – RK:
 - RK's sister's class has said they will have a reunion.
 - Class of 96 may have their reunion. They have tended to not have theirs on the 6 years.
 - If anyone has contacts in 86 or 76, please let RK know.
 - CW has a cousin in 86, so she'll reach out.
 - There will be notifications and RK will dig to see if she can find any 86 social media out there.
- Boosters – JS:
 - Shoutout to JP – main hallway has the senior athletic posters up – pic of the school with player superimposed on it. Beautiful. Right across from the main office. All the kids walk by and can celebrate the senior athletes.
 - This will possibly expand to club members as well.
 - Mr. Homberg does swag for Benson Tech with the kids. He funds the shop for the year during Tech Show. We're working together now – rolling metal closet now will sell this stuff at games and matches. Trying to get the kids more involved with it.

- Working with the band club. 18 people playing consistently. Heidi and Dan Foster have been doing a great job.
- Gave out \$3000 to the different clubs.
 - Over \$1000 went to Jacob Patterson. Those 2 Saturdays, he funded the team for 2 years. They have a candidate for the State Tournament, and now he will have a uniform.
- Jessica Russel, the Athletic Director, instituted weekend tournaments for Youth Basketball, and some high schools. It's about a 6-hour block. The concession stand has been clearing about \$100 an hour with concessions. It's a great way to get money to the kids.
 - KG: This would be a good time to promote Benson Tech to middle schoolers.
- There are 7 dates that we may need help with weekends. If the alumni association wants to volunteer at the booth for a Sat or two. There is now a waffle iron.
 - MB: Please email the board with dates you need help.
- Benson Tech Orbit (new tech pep) – RK:
 - There was an article last month where it had a lot of errors, but what it got right was the thanks and shout out to JS for supporting the concessions, as a way for clubs to get the money they need.
 - KC – it all started with the Boosters renewal, and JS has brought in a lot of money to the kids over the last few years with concessions.
 - RJ – it's fun to see the magic of JS working with the kids.
- Women's basketball – a sophomore is in the top 50 in the state – it's going to be a great season.
- BT – the Bowling club didn't submit any invoices for balls. Balls were supplied near the beginning of the year. The money from the concessions dedicated to the bowling team has been going to entry fees.
 - There are some great players this year.
 - Jacob will leave some bottle/can donation bags, and it goes right to their account.
 - He's hitting the 20 kids limit soon. Benson is bowling on Saturdays and running into other youth teams and recruiting them.
- Tech Pep digitizing – RE:
 - It's a delight to look through those old issues. Growing concerned that the only place the archives are mentioned on the website, is after you log in and go back to members area. We need a blurb on the main page that says – archived newsletters are available to view once you are a member, etc.
 - Found an article about Darrel Austin, talking about his life. He learned to box at the Knott Street gym, which is still training boxers.

He graduated in 1925 and signed up for classes on drawing at Lincoln. He was listed as a cartoonist (on staff) for the Tech Pep in 1922-23. He has a logo for one of the editor's columns. In Jan 2023 Polytech, he has a drawing signed D. Austin. RE sent that to a guy in Florida that writes about his paintings, and this might be the earliest signed drawing by him.

- What Does the Alumni Association Do? – RK:
 - Helpful handout, living document, that is for the board to reference.
 - We do more than the Community Picnic and Tech Show.
 - Can be used to create other external documents, fliers, handouts.
 - We can use this to create some things for Tech Show
 - Trifold
 - Poster Board with 5 bullets
 - Short videos with board members
- Portland Parks/Buckman field – RJ:
 - RJ is following up with Jessica and Dan.
- RE suggested to hold a picnic for our July meeting at the Simon Benson plot in Riverview Cemetery.

UPCOMING BUSINESS

- Next meetings: Jan 12th, Feb 9th
- Tech show in 2026 is: April 16, 17th

Respectfully Submitted,

Maj Britt (Max) Baker
Secretary
BPHS Alumni Association

From DB - Winter Newsletter – Working List of Content as of 12/7/2025

- 2026 Tech Show Coming --- Concise, article, maybe front page, dates, plans for,
- availability of “official gear” in Commons, etc [DB..... w/new lead TS person]
- Wrap on 9/13 Celebration plus date and preparation for 2026's [DB ... w/ RK]
- Update on Benson's band club [DB w/ JP/H.Goerntzen]
- Highlights of Fall Sports [J. Russell]
- Possible reprint of Orbit's interview of the Football Coach [DB]
- Orbit goes monthly Including how to subscribe [DB]
- Time capsule about to be sealed [Volunteer ?????]
- The Next Chapter for Benson's former organ [RE or Volunteer ???????]

- Restoration Celebration [GO]
- In Brief [DB]
- Recent election of Directors and Officers
- 2025 Scholarship donation
- Update re Accessing the Digitized Yearbooks
- Benson's current and projected enrollment, 8 th grade info night, applications for
- 2026-27, 2026-27 budget "woes", etc.
- "Boxed" listing of BPHSAA's Officers, Officers, etc. [DB.... Mar]
- Tech Pep Digitation project [RE]
- Update re Directory of Benson Tech Graduates'-owned Businesses [??????]
- [Form to have a business listed could be included]
- Benson Tech Boosters News [DBK.Janes]
- Benson Tech Triva [RE]

Oregonian Article

<https://www.oregonlive.com/opinion/2025/12/editorial-a-pps-board-breakdown-signals-bad-news-for-the-public.html>)

- "Wang and others objected to board member Stephanie Engelsman's asking questions about a whopping \$61.5 million construction management contract. Instead of allowing her to get answers, he ended debate and pushed through the contract's approval after only 45 minutes of board discussion – even though the [board did not receive the contract](#) for review until the afternoon before Thanksgiving."
- "...doesn't even mention the [significant concerns](#) about the contract itself – a five-year agreement with Texas-based Procedeo to manage PPS' Jefferson, Cleveland and Ida B. Wells high school modernizations and the renovation of the Center for Black Student Excellence. The contract's price tag – roughly a maximum of \$1 million a month – includes bonuses of nearly \$6 million to Procedeo for simply meeting the contract's deadlines to open the buildings on time. Notably, there are no penalties for missing the deadlines."
- "As [The Oregonian/OregonLive's Julia Silverman wrote](#), the \$61.5 million is a maximum award and will be reduced by the PPS-paid salaries of district employees who continue to work on the projects. But the arrangement arguably sets up a perverse incentive to cut PPS staff to increase the pay Procedeo receives – an [issue Engelsman raised but was chided by Wang](#) for asking. Yet, already, the district's chief operating officer has sent an email to employees in the school modernization office warning that some of their positions may be eliminated, a PPS spokeswoman confirmed."
- "It's disappointing that the board majority and PPS administration did not embrace board member Virginia La Forte's request for a cost-analysis of the contract. Nor did they accept the offer from the chair of the district's Bond Accountability Committee – a team of experienced volunteers that helps build

public confidence in the district's bond program –for the committee to review the contract. Both would have been responsible, reasonable steps that would not take an excessive amount of time. This money, after all, is coming out of the pocket of Portland taxpayers. Board members, as the elected representatives of those same taxpayers, have a fundamental obligation to show the public they've vetted the agreement.”



BUSINESS SAVINGS	BEGINNING BALANCE	TOTAL DEPOSITS	TOTAL WITHDRAWALS	ENDING BALANCE
	\$3,456.73	\$0.09	-\$0.00	\$3,456.82
BSAV00	YTD DIVIDENDS	YTD DIVIDENDS WITHHELD		
	\$0.98	\$0.00		
Actual	Effective	Transaction Description	Amount	Balance
11/30	11/30	Dividend Annual Percentage Yield Earned= 0.03% For 30 Days	0.09	3456.82

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
	\$2,439.26	\$117.71	-\$0.00	\$2,556.97
BFLX00	YTD DIVIDENDS	YTD DIVIDENDS WITHHELD		
	\$0.00	\$0.00		
Actual	Effective	Transaction Description	Amount	Balance
11/12	11/12	Deposit ACH PAYPAL*TRANSFER	117.71	2556.97

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