

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



Date: Jan 12, 2026  
Starting Time: 5:30 pm  
Ending Time: 6:47 pm  
Hybrid meeting

### **ATTENDEES:**

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

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

Guests: Dan Malone (DM); Auto instructor Taylor Casteline; Dick Spies (DS), former board member; Ken Bakke (KB), former board member; Melody Haller, grandparent of current student and environmental tech enthusiast.

ABSENT: Dale Bajema (DB); Jeff Strachan (JS); Gerry Ochs (GO)

### **BUSINESS**

- Guest:
  - Taylor
    - Revamp entry level auto. Fresh/Soph: taste of everything, but also
    - How to own and maintain a car:
      - Jumpstart
      - Change tires
      - Change oil
      - Change headlight
    - Sophomore year: learn more broadly how a car works.
    - Junior – less structured, starting with teaching employability skills.
      - Some kids have technical knowledge but haven't done the work – not a lot of hands on.
      - Right now learning about how to write good work orders.
      - Learned earlier how to use the tire machine
      - Learning how to do a full loop service.

- ASE is the nationally recognized certification service. Entry level for maintenance and light repair. I use this as the guide.
      - Charging breaks
      - Transmission flush
      - Etc.
    - Now there are 8/9 tests to become a master technician, so prepping for this.
      - Students that don't want to go into the industry will do projects they are interested in. Senior year more in depth.
      - Shortage in auto entry work. Most kids are going into computers or nursing now.
      - Most of the trade schools are for profit now. (UTI) – employers know these techs are book smart but have no hands on.
      - Service Writer, Digital Media – there's a lot of different ways you can go in the industry.
- Taylor was excused.
  - Melody –
    - Grandson in Auto program
    - PR firm at San Francisco focused on emerging technology.
    - Since 2003, turned her 40 employees toward renewable energy.
    - Knowledge is: people don't realize that renewable energy is taking over the world, because we don't hear about it in the U.S. Wind/water/solar/batteries: WWSB.
    - Idea is for a speaker program to open minds to jobs that kids could be shooting for. Various groups in the school are interested. Sustainability club is taking this over. They have money \$2500 to spread the word. They want to involve other high schools, have a streaming podcast, etc.
    - First talk will be Feb 5<sup>th</sup>: a person that manages 5 investment funds. WWSB talk, 10 careers you never knew about. 3 more speakers are lined up.
    - 2 minutes what you do, 10 minutes how you got there and how students might get there, and 20 minutes to interact with kids.
    - First idea was curriculum, but that was a roadblock.
    - Another idea is to match teacher with speaker, then teacher can get the speaker in to talk as part of their curriculum.
    - Jacob Patterson says he knows some big names as well.
    - Focusing on what is the pathway to a career?
    - Send any contacts to RJ and he'll get them to Melody.
    - Met Susan Kenniston who will create a map of education skills - > workforce training -> jobs for Oregon's Prosperity

- Plan. There may be ways to get grants for curriculum at Benson Tech
  - She ended stating it's obvious how much the alumni group has done for this school.
- Melody was excused.
  - DM:
    - March 4<sup>th</sup>
    - March 7-12<sup>th</sup> tournament
    - Letters sent out next week for incoming Freshman. They don't tell us the numbers.
    - Only high school in the nation that has LEED Platinum status for Building Efficiency. It's the top certification.
    - By spring break, someone else will do leader board every week.
    - Gone during mid-April -> May on a trip.
    - We got two people to extend for 6 months – Bryce and Mark – to oversee the last million dollars of work.
    - Foundry is now open. This was part a design flaw, and part engineer approval. Mark did a tremendous amount of work to get this done. All the leaks seem plugged.
    - The last batch of work went out for bid, contracts about to be signed. Some of it is punch list, some of it was 'not going to do that' or things left out of the design. Some closets that need to be behind a cage, or staircases that kids should not have access to.
- DM was excused.
- Membership – JP:
  - 29 paid members.
  - Website issue for registration that he is trying to figure out. (Works for some and not others.), causing problems for Board members to pay dues before the Jan meeting.
  - Site was updated with lifetime membership option.
- Financial Report – BT
  - \$5438.79 in the bank.
  - 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.
- Prior Meeting Minutes Approval (MB)
  - Corrected draft sent today, with all the edits submitted in the email thread.
    - **We will wait and vote on this next month.**

- Newsletter – RE:
  - DE is out today. There are lots of articles to send over to Connie. If you have things to turn in, please do.
- Band Club – JP
  - Good instrument coverage.
  - Coming soon – playing at basketball games. The teams are excited.
  - The band played a small concert in the commons on the learning stairs before winter break. JP's daughter said she thought it sounded good.
  - It's coming along well.
- Site Council – JP
  - Short 50 million for next year, so it's not great.
  - Principal Wilson is keeping his eyes on it, hoping that increase in Enrollment might offset cuts.
  - This might not help with the music club moving to an official program.
  - KC – District spent the money they allocated for our performing arts program.
  - Some students are excited about culinary becoming a class, but the shared kitchen is too small, and the kitchen would be busy making lunch. Culinary club is going strong – someone pulls up a recipe, they get ingredients, and they all make it, then hand it out.
  - Automotive instructor came through with tool request.
  - RK – Any discussion about how redrawing Jefferson boundaries would affect Benson Tech's enrollment.
    - We might see more applicants.
    - Discussion about how the district DOES limit the number of students that can apply, but as we know they keep the formulas secret.
    - KC: Overall enrollment is going down everywhere. PPS officials are using the argument that Jefferson needs to be a neighborhood comprehensive school vs comprehensive focus option school to retain enrollment. But the District seems reluctant to mention how enrollment caps set on Jefferson hurt student body population numbers, curricular programming, and race/ethnicity-related cultural sustainability.
- Reunions – RK:
  - Class of 2006 reunion will line up with the picnic.
    - There will also be a lot of incoming families coming this year.
  - Class of 96 reunion coming.
  - Class of 86 – she's tried once by FB and once by email, and nothing back.
  - Anyone know about class of 76?

- JP made a FB group and has been pulling folks in. 17 accepted.
  - RK wants to be at the sign in table during Tech Show to focus on getting people talking about reunions.
- Discussion about game concessions and that JS does a great job involving all the clubs.
- Tech Pep digitizing – RE:
  - Everything has been scanned. Only goes up to May 1958 on the website.
  - RJ thanked RE for all the work and contributions.
  - Question asked in the paper: could a woman paint a barn with the lipstick they wear over the period of a year? Ended with probably one side of the barn. It was a long back and forth about it.
  - There is a mention in the upcoming newsletter asking folks for copies of their papers.
  - The digitized Tech Pep issues from 1995 to 2010 are complete.
  - RK – there are many people that kept the final year copy because it had senior wills in it. She'll ask around.

#### **UPCOMING BUSINESS**

- Next meetings: Feb 9<sup>th</sup>, March 9<sup>th</sup>
- Tech show in 2026 is: April 16, 17<sup>th</sup>

Respectfully Submitted,

Maj Britt (Max) Baker  
Secretary  
BPHS Alumni Association



CLEARED CHECKS - BUSINESS FLEX CHCK								
CHECK #	DATE PAID	AMOUNT	CHECK #	DATE PAID	AMOUNT	CHECK #	DATE PAID	AMOUNT
242	12/08	142.00	243	12/08	171.88	244	12/12	153.60
245	12/19	107.61						

BUSINESS SAVINGS	BEGINNING BALANCE	TOTAL DEPOSITS	TOTAL WITHDRAWALS	ENDING BALANCE
BSAV00	\$3,456.82	\$0.09	-\$0.00	\$3,456.91
	YTD DIVIDENDS	YTD DIVIDENDS WITHHELD		
	\$1.07	\$0.00		
Actual Effective	Transaction Description	Amount	Balance	
12/31	12/31	Dividend Annual Percentage Yield Earned= 0.03% For 31 Days	0.09	3456.91

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	\$2,556.97	\$0.00	-\$575.09	\$1,981.88
	YTD DIVIDENDS	YTD DIVIDENDS WITHHELD		
	\$0.00	\$0.00		
Actual Effective	Transaction Description	Amount	Balance	
12/09	12/08	Withdrawal Draft Clearing Check #243 - Withdrawal, Draft Clearing	-171.88	2385.09
12/09	12/08	Withdrawal Draft Clearing Check #242 - Withdrawal, Draft Clearing	-142.00	2243.09
12/15	12/12	Withdrawal Draft Clearing Check #244 - Withdrawal, Draft Clearing	-153.60	2089.49
12/22	12/19	Withdrawal Draft Clearing Check #245 - Withdrawal, Draft Clearing	-107.61	1981.88

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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