

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



Date: Mar 9, 2026
Starting Time: 5:35 pm
Ending Time: 7:12 pm
Hybrid meeting

ATTENDEES:

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

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

Guests: Dan Malone (DM)

ABSENT: Christina White (CW); Dale Bajema (DB); Jeff Strachan (JS)

BUSINESS

- RJ presented concerns on behalf of current students re the Maker Space being closed due to PPS FTE reductions.
 - It's an open tech space where kids can work on projects and create.
 - Most kids use it during lunch or flex periods.
 - Some classes use the space for certain projects.
 - Some kids are not in technical tracks, but they also need a space to do this work.
 - Dan Menche oversees the Maker Space.
- [After the meeting, RE noted that concerns may have been brought forward because our Alumni Association meeting was listed amongst upcoming events displayed on the sign board outside the school. This also tells passersby of the school that there IS an Alumni Association, which is beneficial for all. RJ commented this is thanks to Dan.]
- PPS Budget issues - RJ:
 - There is an immediate 2026 midyear gap that needs to be filled. \$10M to \$14M.
 - Some teachers/staff will move from FTE to .75 time
 - PPS proposed 2-4 furlough days for staff. PAT is negotiating to avoid immediate layoffs.
 - 2026-27 Deficit is anticipated at \$50 million.
 - There may be other measures, like increasing student-to-staff ratios, etc.

- WW article shared earlier by email:
<https://www.wweek.com/news/schools/2026/02/27/pps-offers-unions-furloughs-or-layoffs-to-patch-10-million-mid-year-budget-gap/>
- PPS: <https://www.pps.net/about/2026-27-budget-process/2026-27-budget-process>
- Membership: JP
 - 49 paid members
- Financial Report – BT
 - \$5201.95 in Savings
 - \$2534.47 in Checking
 - RJ notes that Rick is going to help us with newsletter printing costs.
- Prior Meeting Minutes Approval (MB)
 - Draft 2 sent out last wed, no further edits.
 - KC moved we accept the corrected minutes. Motion passed.
- BOD announcement – RJ:
 - JS is resigning from Boosters and won't be running concessions after the end of the year.
 - At the last women's basketball game, he was recognized by the team for his contributions to Benson.
- Tech Show planning – RJ
 - RK: Need 7 tables upstairs (use 4 of CH's tables) so only need to ask for 1 upstairs; 10 tables downstairs (includes 2 for class reunion in the alcove).
 - 2 tables for class reunion in the alcove.
 - At sign-in, try to probe to find a BAT advisor.
 - Discussed getting badges made for those that don't have them.
 - Discussed wearing the alumni board shirts.
 - Re food (cakes), there are 5 reunions planned, so even if attendance would drop because it's the second year in the new building, the reunions will probably make up for it.
 - Food:
 - **AL moved that we approve up to \$500 for food for Tech Show (cakes, cookies, etc.) This is in line with what was spent last year. GO seconded. Motion passed.**
 - Signage:
 - JP said that Hamburg's class can create vinyl signs, so this may be a possibility in the future, just need to get our projects into their queue.
 - Making a sign that promotes donating to the scholarship fund. Connie and Friend are designing it. Vinyl. 3 signs desired.
 - **RK moved \$150 for 3 large vinyl signs for Scholarship Fund donation promotion. ML seconded. Motion passed.**

- Other signs needed stating where Alumni are. JP and RK designing it. Alumni meeting in room 213 by the auditorium facing 12th. This was brought up by DB earlier because
 - **RK moved for \$175 for 3 large vinyl signs to find Alumni and purchase hooks for walls. TS seconded. Motion passed.**
 - Last October we talked about lawn signs to put near middle schools started in May. Benson Tech Community celebration. August date: tour the school! Middle school families welcome, etc. This is a recruitment tool.
 - **RK moved that we spend \$30 on a few lawn signs for student recruitment. JP seconded. Motion passed.**
- DM joined remotely.
 - Need new side banners for the tent. We'll check with Hamburg to see if this can be done at Benson.
- Guest DM:
 - 290 in the incoming class.
 - They sent out that 100 are avail.
 - 80 applications from Cleveland 8th graders.
 - Probably top out at 350. This still means cutting a few FTE. We need to add Gen Ed teachers in English, Math, etc.
 - Boys and Girls Basketball teams are both in the tournament.
 - 60 items on the punch list.
 - HVAC valve replacement. (Alumni room temp is brisk!)
 - Safety items: On/Off switches for audio system in the auditorium – needs gates. Water shut on/off.
 - We are good with the two guys slated to continue to finish the list by June.
 - Cleveland and Ida B Wells will be rough with less staff.
 - Hamburg is printing the description of the pictures on the decades wall. YAY!
 - Newspaper is out! <https://bensonorbit.com/> Nice segments/articles:
 - <https://www.wweek.com/news/schools/2026/03/08/the-student-newspaper-is-back-at-benson-polytechnic-high-school/>
 - <https://www.kgw.com/article/news/local/benson-polytechnic-high-school-newspaper-print-back-revive-student/283-ea19e6fa-d05e-487e-bbf1-32a77fb62ccc>
 - <https://www.facebook.com/bensonorbit/>
 - Talked about RJ and MB getting tour training with DM. We need a few more dry runs. This is primarily for the Aug 22nd Community Picnic.
 - If you read about Benson Tech being part of the shortfall this year.. HVAC, guardrails, etc. that is all coming out of the bond, so not part of the shortfall.
- DM left the meeting.

- Will have another meeting 4:30 before our April board meeting.
- Community Celebration – RK
 - Discussion of alumni leading tours specifically during the event.
 - Multiple tours probably every 45 minutes.
 - RJ said he would reach out re getting teachers to give us any highlights they want us to mention during the tours.
 - Need another walkthrough/training in May.
 - Reminder – no CUB fee since it's a school activity. 😊
- Newsletter – DB:
 - Planning for pre-Tech show newsletter. Articles due April 1st
 - RK reached out to reunion reps to see if they want to put anything in the newsletter, stating the deadline is March 25th.
- Boosters – JP:
 - President Kelly is trying to find a replacement but may stay on. There is one new parent that might be interested.
 - With the announcement of JS leaving, they need to focus on increasing membership.
- Celebrations – RJ
 - Thinking about ways to honor JS. Little plaque in the concession stand? RJ will check with Principal Wilson and the BB coach? To see if he can get a good picture.
 - RK thinking about a cake at June mtg? If he can't make June let's do May.
 - RK moved spending up to \$100 for a cake. JP seconded. Motion passed.
- Robotics – RJ
 - RJ had forwarded Matt Pellico's writeup of the Oregon State Championships (see below).
 - In the final ranking (a combination of performance and awards), team 267 ended 12th in the state of Oregon.
 - This is an improvement from last year but misses the team's target of advancing to the World Championships.
 - What do they need? Parts.
- Site Council – JP:
 - Talked about FTE situation. Principal Wilson had to make up around 5 FTE. He made it up in part by several staff electing to move to .75FTE, keeping insurance.
 - He needed English, Math, etc. teachers.
 - He sounded nervous about next year because there is nowhere else left to cut. Might cut a major if another large deficit exists.
 - Another year of growing, but then we'll reach equilibrium in numbers.
 - How can a school cut 15 FTE?
 - Cleveland is losing kids since they don't want to head to Marshall.
 - KC: Recent policy decisions are really preventing the community as a whole to help solve problems: developing partnerships (donations

-- technology, services, money, etc.). The district needs to rethink some of these policies. They should organize strategies to lobby the state for more funding. The current board seems not as effective in advocating for state funding/lowering tax kickbacks, etc.

- RJ: Closing MLC was walked back.
- RK: My friend does natural disaster planning for a living. The wealthier schools got the money for seismic retrofitting, and they assigned this before deciding which schools would close.
- Discussion about the district not communicating well.

UPCOMING BUSINESS

- Next meetings: April 13th, May 11th
- Tech show in 2026 is: April 16 and 17th
- Graduation: Sunday, May 31, 2026

Respectfully Submitted,

Maj Britt (Max) Baker
Secretary
BPHS Alumni Association



BUSINESS SAVINGS	BEGINNING BALANCE	TOTAL DEPOSITS	TOTAL WITHDRAWALS	ENDING BALANCE
BSAV00	\$4,777.01	\$424.94	-\$0.00	\$5,201.95
	YTD DIVIDENDS	YTD DIVIDENDS WITHHELD		
	\$0.21	\$0.00		
Actual	Effective	Transaction Description	Amount	Balance
02/18	02/18	Deposit Internet From Mobile Deposit	20.00	4797.01
02/18	02/18	Deposit Internet From Mobile Deposit	200.00	4997.01
02/18	02/18	Deposit Internet From Mobile Deposit	204.83	5201.84
02/28	02/28	Dividend Annual Percentage Yield Earned= 0.03% For 28 Days	0.11	5201.95

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

BUSINESS FLEX CHCK	BEGINNING BALANCE	TOTAL DEPOSITS	TOTAL WITHDRAWALS	ENDING BALANCE
BFLX00	\$1,984.55	\$549.92	-\$0.00	\$2,534.47
	YTD DIVIDENDS	YTD DIVIDENDS WITHHELD		
	\$0.00	\$0.00		
Actual	Effective	Transaction Description	Amount	Balance
02/10	02/10	Deposit ACH PAYPAL*TRANSFER	549.92	2534.47

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

Date: 03/05/2026 4:27 PM PST
Subject: Team 267 at Robotics State Championships

This last weekend team 267 EMP competed in the Oregon State Championships. The event was held at Liberty HS in Hillsboro.

This year 48 teams competed in two divisions, and they vied for 6 spots to the World Championships.

Team 267 built on the strength of last season with a core group of returning juniors and seniors. This group likes to take on the most difficult challenges of the game. In this year's challenge, Decode, the normal 18-inch cube size limit needed to be adhered to for the first 2 minutes and 10 seconds of the match. Then in the final 20 seconds, robots are allowed to expand vertically, so that two robots could park simultaneously in a designated 18-inch square. Team 267 designed and built a 4-stage linear slide that, elevated the entire robot about 19 inches into the air. Then a partnered robot could park directly below. In the latest posted statistics, we were **ranked third in the world** for scoring with this maneuver.

In the seven round robin matches team 267 had a couple difficulties with their driver controller in the early rounds. Team Nautilus Tech (23139) generously loaned us a spare controller for the remaining matches. Our team record of 4-3 should have been 5-2 or better. Nonetheless, during tournament alliance selection other teams recognized our strengths. We were selected by team 23664 Eagle Tech from Harrisburg OR as the third

seeded alliance into the double elimination tournament. In the tournament, we won two and lost two, eventually falling to the championship team just before the finals.

In the final ranking (a combination of performance and awards), **team 267 ended 12th in the state of Oregon**. This is an improvement from last year but misses the team's target of advancing to the World Championships. This year 6 teams from the region will advance to the Worlds. Looking at the 11 teams ranked above us, we feel satisfied with our final ranking position. Overall, it has been a very successful season.

The team was anticipating winning the Innovate award but were surprised that we instead won the **second place Control Award**. This award celebrates a team that uses sensors and software to enhance the robot's functionality. This team demonstrates innovative thinking in the control system to solve game challenges such as autonomous operation, enhancing mechanical systems with intelligent control, or using sensors.

The four seniors are leaving the team in capable hands for next year. Grady Morgan, Baxter Ward - lead builder, Jacob Powell - driver, and Desmond Butzeby - primary coder will all be missed next season.

We are currently negotiating with ORTOP to host the 2026-27 First Tech Challenge kick off next September. We also would like to be considered for the host site of the Rose City League. We believe that the newly remodeled building is well suited for a host site, plus being a host would help us toward the goal of winning the Inspire award in the coming season.

Thanks to everyone who supported us this season.
Matt Pellico