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

Date: Oct 12, 2026
Starting Time: 5:33 pm
Ending Time: 7:08 pm
Hybrid meeting

ATTENDEES:

Board Members: Rob Johns (RJ); Thomas Smith (TS); Kevin Clark (KC); Roger Edwards (RE); Josh Piper (JP); Bobbie (Rob) Walker (BW); Christina White (CW); Francis (Joe) Putnam (FP)

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

ABSENT: Rachael Kurynny (RK); Alex Lamb (AL); Dale Bajema (DB)

Guest: Dan Harrison, Manufacturing teacher.

BUSINESS

- Guest: Dan Harrison
  - Head manufacturing instruction. Jake Foster also works with the program. It's growing. Challenges:
    - In the metals world, the cost of doing metal work is outpacing any other form of inflation (60% in some cases), while the budget from PPS is shrinking.
  - Thank you from the kids and Jake and himself re all the help previously given. This has allowed them to move forward with ideas, plans, dynamic projects.
  - Sending out letters to industry folks to get sustainable help/partners. Students are leading small scale fundraising efforts: making things to sell at Tech Show, bake sales, etc. It's slow moving.
  - RJ: The foundation agreed to donate $5000.
  - 12 kids in the program in 2020. My mission was to build it back up. Sophomore: 160-180 kids; Freshman is everyone
  - Metalwork elective – about 200 a year
  - Senior capstone: design and build custom bicycle frame. Technically difficult.
  - Junior year we were doing gas powered go-carts, now moving into EV go-cart. Lots of engineering, machining.

    - Freshman do the screwdriver. Handle is made out of plastic now – recycling the old bathroom stall walls. Machine some aluminum, brass and steel.
    - Jake Foster does the forge.
    - Last year they made a big pulse jet. But they haven't gotten any real pushback. We do what the kids want to do.
    - There are internships. Bridge City Still, Portland Pattern Inc.
    - No ongoing website or social media presence.
    - RE: In the 70s they were putting ads in the classified re 'lots of good workers at Benson Tech'. [RE stated in email after the meeting that the Ads are in the archive files in a folder for "Benson Clippings" in an Alumni Room cabinet.
    - RJ will get the information, and the media piece around to the board.
    - [After the meeting, the support information re Manufacturing budget/needs was provided for the notes.]
- Dan Harrison left.
- Membership: JP
    - 127 members.
- Financial Report – BT
    - PointWest: $8057
- Minutes – MB
    - Aug draft 2 minutes sent again Sep 14th.
        - BW moved and FP seconded that minutes be accepted as amended. Motion passed.
    - Sept draft minutes sent Sep 14th.
        - JP moved and FP seconded that minutes be accepted as amended. Motion passed.
- Boosters: JP
    - Ready! Set! Go TECH!! fundraised hasn't done as well as hoped. $4614 in last email. As deadline approaches, some money is coming in.
    - Communication is ramping up. Putting out requests for certain activities, and able to get some parents to volunteer. Set of parents are following. Still trying to build momentum.
    - Concessions going well. We've raised over $3K that goes to the kids. Football has been wild. Crowds are still there. Routinely sell over $1K at each game. JP has been coordinating to start, but has brought in 5 or 6 folks that come to all the games. Some have been willing to come to volleyball games. There's only room for one adult and two kids. At the football games you need at least 6 folks.
    - Soccer moved out to Delta. For winter we won't be at Marshall at all. Spring they will do girls flag football as a sport.
    - Smaller portable Simon Benson has been found (in student store) and will start making appearances.
- Tech Tuesday:

    - FP created a calendar and will promote it next month.
- Football:
    - JV games cancelled. Number of folks out due to injuries.
    - Varsity games continue, they have lost all the games. 32 folks on the varsity team. 4 Freshman playing. Scored first touchdown at vs Roosevelt with seconds left. Scored 2 against McDaniels. The kids are excited they scored.
    - CW says they talk about it at site council. Suggesting they wear their jerseys to school on game day.
    - Homecoming would be a good time to reach out to alumni. It's vs Lincoln at Marshall. Cheer has invited alumni cheerleaders to come cheer. Talked about inviting football players as well. Would be nice to invite the band to play the fight song, too.
    - Discussion about incentives to be involved. Team dinner, etc. Orange Crush everyone wears orange, or letterman's jackets.
    - JP: publish update on Homecoming to alumni.
    - **October 23rd vs Lincoln at Marshall.**
- Newsletter – DB [list of articles sent to MB]
    - Winter Newsletter – Working List of Content as of 1/14 PM
    - 2026 Tech Show Coming --- [DB and RJ]
    - BATS tour addition
    - Wrap on 9/13 Celebration plus date and preparation for 2026's [DB … w/ RK]
    - 2025 Reunions Wrap-up [RK]
    - Update on Benson's band club [DB/JP]
    - Highlights of Fall Sports ……. [J. Russell]
    - Reprint of Orbit's interview of the Football Coach [DB] … We have been given permission
    - Orbit goes monthly ……. Including how to subscribe [DB]
    - Restoration Celebration [GO]
    - add-on re MPC & DAG [DB]
    - BTF Fills the Gap [DB with RJ]
    - A New Vision for Benson's Automotive Program [DB/Taylor Casteline]
    - Benson Alumni Association [CW]
    - What's on the Alumni Webpage [DB/JP]
    - "Boxed" listing of BPHSAA's Officers, Officers, etc. [DB]
    - In Brief [DB]
    - Recent election of Directors and Officers
    - 2025 Scholarship donations
    - Update re Accessing the Digitized Yearbooks
    - Lifetime Memberships Are Now Available
    - Tech Pep Digitation project [RE]
    - "Boxed" notice re Directory of Benson Tech Graduates'-owned Businesses] [DB/BW]

    - Benson's current enrollment, etc …… 2026-27 budget "woes", etc. [DB]
    - Benson Tech Boosters News [DB/JP]
    - Benson Tech Triva [RE]
    - Addendum to Trivia Answers [DB/RE]
    - List of 2025 Donors to the Scholarship Fund [DB]
    - Credits
    - materials due November 30th / other December 11th
- Scholarship Committee – RJ presenting for DB
    - DB will reach out to donors that have donated before. He did have good response.
    - FP sent out a reminder last week. Confirmation from some board members that it was received.
    - Please vet anything you are sending out through CW, FP. We need to check for typos, that links are correct, branding is correct, correct list is used, that it goes through MailChimp, etc.
- Communication:
    - RJ: I think we need to create a Thank You for donors. Two of the lifetime folks, donation for electrical (this may be better coming from the Electrical kids…).
    - KC: It would be good to have a consistent, streamlined process for this – not just acknowledgement in the newsletter. We should have criteria for identifying these, either donations of time, items, or money. It would be good to bring the teachers in for this.
    - RJ: Discussed a previous $20,000 Electrical donation. Donors like to hear from the teachers and how their items/money were utilized.
    - Discussed: online site listing tiers of donation; wall plaques; partner night at Tech Show. It's a barrier to integrate with the school or district. We can do our own donors. Disclaimer on notice that we're trying to better, but we may miss a few – please let us know. Also include the alumni businesses. It might be worth spending a little money to get more alumni data for a targeted ask, too.
    - Maybe meetup on Tech Tuesday for Communication Subcommittee.
    - We will come back to this in December, starting with our own data.
- Site Council
    - Kevin, Christina, Dale and Josh were in attendance
    - Main topic was discussion around September incident at Benson
    - Band may play at the upcoming Pep Assembly
    - Tech Show 2028 is in question due to instructional hour and teacher pay conflict
    - There will opportunity to engage with PPS to help them understand the value of Tech Show both for Benson and PPS.
    - Ideally, we would like to have data on post-graduation effects on students
        - No data seems to exist

- KC: PPS doesn't seem interested in collecting or sharing this type of information. It is very frustrating.

UPCOMING BUSINESS

- Next meetings: November 9th: 5:30, hybrid; Dec14th at 5:30PM (headshots)
- Third Tues at Kenton Station: October 20th.
- Monday Nov 9th will be our Annual Meeting pre or post the normal meeting.
- Holdover: KC Discussed need for new Board Member Booklet and reviewing the by-laws.
    - Keep this on the agenda.

Respectfully Submitted,

Maj Britt (Max) Baker
Secretary
BPHS Alumni Association



BUSINESS SAVINGS	BEGINNING BALANCE	TOTAL DEPOSITS	TOTAL WITHDRAWALS	ENDING BALANCE
BSAV00	$6,007.74	$0.15	-$.00	$6,007.89
	YTD DIVIDENDS	YTD DIVIDENDS WITHHELD		
	$1.15	$0.00		

Actual	Effective	Transaction Description	Amount	Balance
10/01	09/30	Dividend Annual Percentage Yield Earned= 0.03% For 30 Days	0.15	6007.89

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	$1,784.50	$263.34	-$.00	$2,047.84
	YTD DIVIDENDS	YTD DIVIDENDS WITHHELD		
	$0.00	$0.00		

Actual	Effective	Transaction Description	Amount	Balance
09/15	09/15	Deposit ACH PAYPAL*TRANSFER	263.34	2047.84

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

Manufacturing CTE, Annual Operating Cost

Benson Polytechnic High School, 2026 to 2027

Line Item	Unit Cost	Annual Total	Share	Note
SENIOR CAPSTONE, STEEL BICYCLE FRAMEBUILDING				
Frame tubing	$233.00	$5,592		
Frame hardware	$106.00	$2,544		
Fork blades, crown, and steerer	-	-		
Per frame consumables	$54.00	$1,296		
Finish and decals	$77.00	$1,848		
Freight, contingency, scrap allowance	$144.85	$3,476		*8% freight, 12% contingency, 15% scrap and remake*
Framebuilding capstone total		**$14,756**	28.2%	*One frame and fork per senior*
JUNIOR CAPSTONE, ELECTRIC GO KART				
Chassis and structure	$414.20	$3,314		
Rolling chassis	$774.00	$6,192		
Electric powertrain	$747.00	$5,976		
Safety and finish	$100.00	$800		
Freight and contingency	$407.04	$3,256		*8% freight, 12% contingency*
EV kart capstone total		**$19,538**	37.4%	*Eight karts per year, four each semester*
ALL OTHER PROJECT MATERIALS				
Flathead screwdriver	$3.60	$1,449		
Fire piston	$11.40	$1,888		
Sheet metal die	$8.40	$1,391		
Aluminum sand casting	$7.80	$395		
Machinist's hammer	$10.20	$516		
Frame design and CAD	$6.40	$177		
Ball peen hammer	$9.50	$393		
Elective casting projects	$7.80	$323		
Rebar exercises	$5.56	$230		
Other project materials total		**$6,762**	12.9%	*Includes 15% scrap and remake allowance*
RECURRING SHOP CONSUMABLES AND PPE				
Welding and cutting consumables		$4,296		
Machining consumables		$1,700		
Foundry		$1,040		
Student PPE		$1,440		
Recurring shop overhead total		**$8,851**	16.9%	*Consumed and replaced every year*
ONE TIME SETUP				
EV battery and charging safety		$2,370		*Charging cabinet, lithium extinguishers, insulated tools, meters*
One time setup total		**$2,370**	4.5%	*Capital, not consumable.*
TOTAL PROGRAM REQUEST		**$52,277**		
Recurring annual cost, year two forward		$49,907		*Total less the one time EV safety setup*

THE PROGRAM

594 students, two capstone builds, one shop

594
students served across four grade levels

20
senior frames this year, about 40 from next year

8
electric go-karts, four each semester

$87
material cost per student served

Every student in the pathway makes something out of metal. Freshmen forge a screwdriver. Sophomores build a fire piston and a sheet-metal die. Juniors cast aluminum and build an EV kart in teams. Seniors design and TIG-weld a chromoly bicycle frame and fork — individually, start to finish.

None of that has changed since 2020. What changed is what the metal costs.

Per-student figure is total program material cost ÷ students served.

THE CORE PROBLEM

This shop's materials rose four times faster than what schools are budgeted for

+15%
Educational supplies
What school budgets track

+29%
All consumer prices
General inflation

+59%
This shop's materials
Steel tube, sheet, argon, filler rod, abrasives

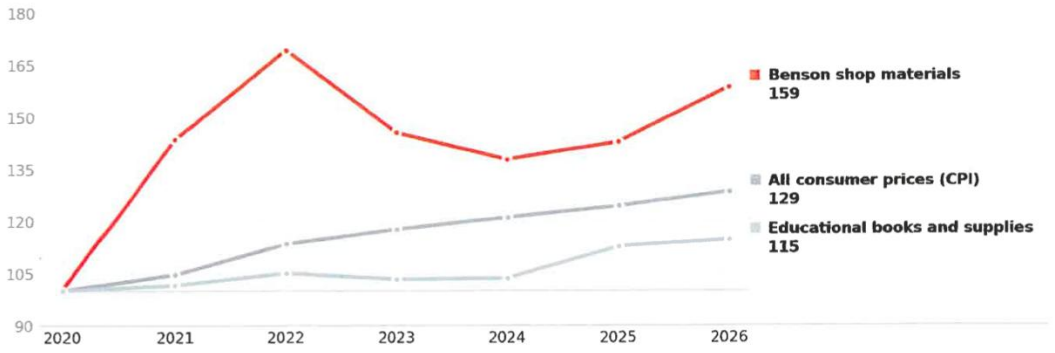
$15,234 of this year's request is metal and welding stock. At 2020 prices that same list ran $9,579. Had it tracked general inflation it would be $12,318 today; at the rate educational supplies rose, $10,991.

The $2,916 gap is not more students or more projects. It is the price of being a metal shop.

2020 to July 2026. Educational supplies = BLS CPI for educational books and supplies; all consumer prices = CPI-U. Shop materials is the weighted index on the next slide.

THE TREND

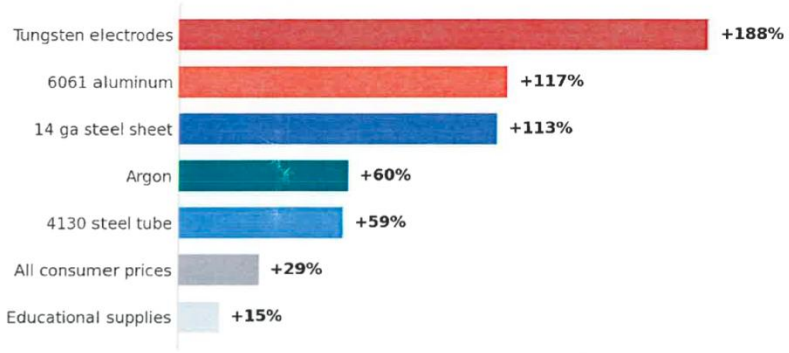
Six years of divergence, 2020 = 100



Benson shop materials is a fixed-weight index of this program's actual purchases — 4130 and mild steel tube, cold-rolled sheet, aluminum, argon, filler rod, abrasives and torch consumables — weighted by 2026–27 spend and priced with the matching BLS producer price indexes. Tungsten, up 188%, is left out of the index because no published series covers it, so the line understates the real increase. 2026 point is July.

ITEM BY ITEM

Every material this shop runs on, 2020 to today



2×

Sheet metal and aluminum have both more than doubled since 2020.

$237

for one 14 ga 4×8 sheet today. In 2020 it was $111.

Commodity changes from BLS producer price indexes, 2020 annual average to July 2026: steel pipe & tube (WPU101706), cold-rolled steel sheet (WPU101707), aluminum mill shapes (WPU102501), industrial gas (PCU325120325120). Tungsten from retail listings. Benchmarks are CPI-U and CPI educational books and supplies.

AT THE COUNTER

The same shop order, six years apart

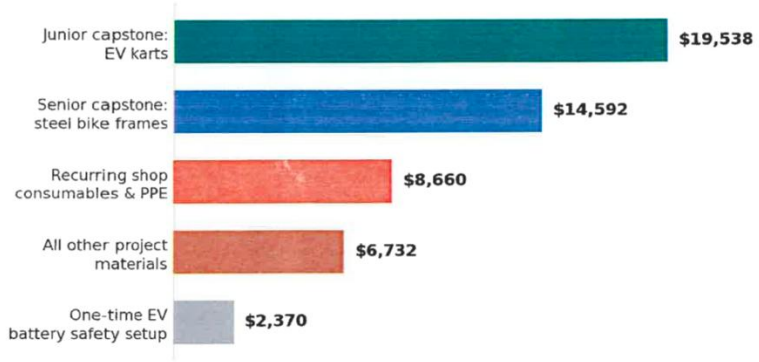
Typical shop order	2020	Aug 2026	Change
14 ga cold-rolled sheet, 4 ft × 8 ft	$111	$237	+113%
40 ft — 4130 round tube, 1" × .065	$134	$212	+59%
12 ft — 6061 round bar, 1¼"	$60	$130	+117%
4 × 125 cf argon refill	$187	$300	+60%
10 lb ER70S-2 steel TIG rod	$33	$53	+59%
10 lb ER4043 aluminum TIG rod	$50	$109	+117%
2% lanthanated tungsten, 3/32", 10-pack	$33	$95	+188%
Same seven items	**$608**	**$1,136**	**+87%**

A $608 order in 2020 is $1,136 today. General inflation over the same six years would have made it $782.

August 2026 figures are live retail list prices — Online Metals (sheet, tube), Wicks Aircraft (4130), Speedy Metals (6061), Arc-Zone (filler rod), CK Worldwide (tungsten), mid-range regional argon refill. 2020 figures restate those same items with the matching BLS producer price indexes: close estimates, not quotes. Percentages come from those indexes, so they can differ a point from the rounded dollar columns.

THE REQUEST

Where the 2026–27 request goes



$51,892

this year, with 20 seniors. Net of the $5,800 CTE consumables allocation, the ask is $46,092.

≈ $64,300

gross, next year and beyond — the senior cohort doubles to about 40 and the one-time safety setup drops off. Per student: $105.

Senior enrollment is 20 this year and is expected to roughly double from 2027-28 forward. The framebuilding capstone scales one-to-one with it: each additional senior adds about $737 to the total, $730 of that a frame and fork. This year is the low-water mark, not the norm. The next-year figure holds today's prices constant.

THE PRICE GAP

$15,234 of this request is metal and welding

The same material list, priced four ways:



$2,916
above what general inflation explains

$4,243
above the rate school supplies rose

Each line restated to 2020 with the index that actually drives it, steel pipe & tube, cold-rolled sheet, aluminum mill shapes, industrial gas, tungsten retail, or CPI for general shop supplies. At 40 seniors next year the same subset runs about $22,700. Each senior adds roughly $372 of metal and welding, the rest of the $730 frame being hardware, finish and allowances.

BEFORE YOU ASK

Three things worth knowing about this number

$0

Framebuilding tooling

Fixtures, alignment table, reamers, facers, taps and the purge manifold are already in the shop. The capital is spent. This request is only what gets consumed.

$2,370

EV safety setup

A lithium charging cabinet, lithium-rated extinguishers and insulated tools. Capital safety, not supplies.

$960

Estimates now below market

Tungsten, steel filler and aluminum filler are priced in the workbook below what they cost today.

In short: the tooling is already bought, the safety gear is not optional, and if anything the estimates are light — not padded.

The owned-tooling line is carried at zero on purpose — it shows the framebuilding capital already invested in this pathway.

WHAT I'M ASKING

Same program. Same projects. A different price of metal.

- Read this as a materials budget, not a wish list. Every line is something students consume and turn into a finished part.
- This year is $51,892 with 20 seniors, or $46,092 net of the $5,800 CTE allocation. Budget about $64,300 gross from next year forward **AS THE SENIOR COHORT ROUGHLY DOUBLES**.
- The $5,800 consumables allocation has not moved while the materials it buys are up 59%. That gap is the whole conversation.
- Keep the $2,370 EV battery safety setup as a separate capital line so it survives a supply-budget trim.

Detail behind every figure: Benson_CTE_Program_Cost_2026-27.xlsx