

**Benson Polytechnic High School Alumni Association  
Board of Directors Meeting – Official Minutes**



Date: May 10th, 2012

Starting Time: 5:30 pm Ending Time: 7:45 pm

Location: Benson High School Library Conference Room

**ATTENDEES:**

Dale Bajema (DB), Dick Spies (DS), Ken Bakke (KB), Joanne Stainbrook (JS), Josh Piper (JP), Rob Johns (RJ), Max Baker (MB)

**MI NUTES:**

- DB provided update on the May Site Council Meeting.
- Robotics club event in May is indefinitely postponed.
- Benson originated scholarships – the most of any H.S. in the city.
- School proposal – city council votes soon, teachers union will vote for it. Out of original; 110 cut, Benson cuts 9. This was talked down to 6. Not sure if funding partially restored; how many of the 6 we get back. Carol not eliminating any CTE programs or majors. 1 secretary won't be replaced. No full time librarian or radio manager.
- Carol will start the construction design program. We might be able to help with that. 270 students have requested construction design for next year. Can't accommodate them all. Tony Francesconi to teach. Very thin in math and science. Barely enough class openings for 4 years to get credits for college.
- Expecting 260 freshman and is expecting to be able to backfill with a waiting list. 920 will be the enrollment if everyone shows. We expect about 850. Could be to our advantage, because staffing is based on 850.
- Carol continues to talk with people and businesses around town. PWA job fair, etc. Networking with Schnitzer Steele, etc.
- Blount Industries is offering internships, partly because of Tech Show contact.
- PWA breakfast – Columbia Iron, Hoffington Construction – networking.
- Opportunities for support:
  - Alt. Energy automotive initiative
  - Math mentoring
  - Radio station
  - How do we keep freshmen all 4 years?
- Minutes from the April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2012 meeting were discussed and approved.
- KB reported balance \$3399.80. There is a small discrepancy between the bank statements and the books. He is investigating. MB has two receipts to turn in: one for the park rental and one for the helium tank for the Tech Show.
- JP reported 165 new members.
- RJ: thoughts to recruit:
  - Dig deeper into matches of people with majors. Mission based approach to recruiting.

- Start with communication about supporting the station. Rob will draft and send to Dale and Josh, for showing to Carol for approval.
- Benson House May 21<sup>st</sup> 1-7PM. Media and Dignitaries. Launching pad for construction design class. Tribune will have someone there. Carol trying to use that to also get Oregonian there. Cooking group from Benson providing food. 5:30PM. 3PM teachers meeting rescheduled, they are bringing all the teachers there. Guest sign in book for the database. Ken Bode is a friend of basketball coaches, so he would be a good contact. Josh recalls there is a young female reporter at Ch. 6 that was Benson alum. He will try and find out who.
- Basetti Architecture program at Jefferson last year? Glen Hack? Benson grad from the 90s. Dale to send name and email to Joanne and Dick. Dick is interested in helping design lectures for the curriculum.
- Facilities Planning – Dick. 40 people on committee. Report is finalized and to the board any moment. Board to make decisions over the next few weeks.
  - When/What will be the bond measure? PAC trying to figure out how to configure and implement a bond measure for the November ballot. Last night, next Wed. meetings, and there will be more over the next 2-4 weeks.
  - Tri-school proposal: Lincoln (urban network), Roosevelt (partnerships in industrial peninsula), Benson. Trying to convince school board to embrace this. And to understand the value of CTE vs. pure academics.
  - Creating an economic viability structure – an income stream – with partnerships so that you can offer those same basic courses/electives.
  - OTT partnerships at Benson; could lease space. This could help pay for teachers – facilities sharing.
  - Changing the focus from the number of students in a school to which schools will have to shut down into how can we utilize partnerships and keep the programming and uniqueness with smaller # of students.
- Picnic:
  - MB will create half sheets of information for teacher boxes about picnic.
  - How can we get more teachers to attend? Recent graduates look for teachers.
  - Free raffle ticket for teachers?
  - Note: Marathon that day – might want to take Sandy.
  - MB will email the board with what is needed.
- 1962 reunion is June 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>. Planning summer fundraiser for the school. Some energetic folks in the group. They are planning a tour of the building on the 8<sup>th</sup>.
- Class of 1992 is doing something at Blue lake the same day as the picnic.
- MB is having her 40<sup>th</sup> birthday party and ALS Association fundraiser on Sat. September 1<sup>st</sup> at the Bagdad Theater, noon to 4PM. She will mention the Alumni Association and has spread the word that this is a way the class of 1990 can celebrate their collective 40<sup>th</sup> birthdays. Save the date.
- RJ – Outreach
  - OSU not reaching back yet. U of O is waiting on the results of their program with Jefferson.
  - OIT/Oregon Tech presents a unique opportunity. Entry level is 3.0 GPA, so it's opening up opportunities. Also has health component. They wanted to do something a few years back. Rob's reached out to them: Marla is the

partnership organizer. Meeting with Dick, Dale on Monday. Then they will schedule a meeting with Carol. Rob will invite Marla to the Benson Open House.

- JS remarked that OIT is very progressive on technology – really prepares students for jobs. Wind turbine engineers etc. They place 95% of grads. Pipe technicians are needed.
- Can we get summer school programs or weekend seminars so kids can get an idea of what it's like? Scholarships to summer workshops?
- JP contacted scholarship committee about the scholarship presentations. May 25<sup>th</sup> 10:55AM at Benson Auditorium. There will be a mixer in the library.
- Opportunities for alums to help:
  - JS – There is a health Corps program funded by Dr. Oz. This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> year. Coordinator on campus is doing things to keep kids healthy, does classroom stretching, yoga during study hall, etc. She could use more support. Materials, time, garden.
  - JP – does internship framework exist? Dale: PWA does the internships. They present a framework with commitments to businesses, so they can evaluate it annually.
- Foundation:
  - Carol and Health Occ. Shop teachers were gungho about it. HO excited about partners that would be interested.
  - Dale: everyone is expecting a negative reaction to this idea.
  - Our best avenue is strictly for CTE at Benson.
  - Dale and others will meet to create Mission statement and bylaws, etc.
  - Dale still trying to meet with the District Foundation. You have to submit a meeting proposal before getting a meeting.
  - Neal's comments on the draft proposal were agreed upon.
  - Dale would like to have it by the first of the year. Ken is interested and will be included in the email distribution on meetings.
- Kern cleanup – about 60 people helped. It was a good networking opportunity. NW Tree Specialists – Trevor – donated the chips. RJ will send JP an email with the donor information.
- Don Wear – Youth Ambassador Program.
  - In 2010, 6-8 kids from Jefferson got full scholarships. Don is interested in having Benson High School create an event trailer to be used by an Ambassador Program.
  - He has companies lined up to donate all the materials, and the police are behind the idea.
  - The 16 foot trailer would be a year-long project for Benson students – good publicity for the school and the program.
  - To be part of an event, a child must be 16. For other activities, 14 years old. Ambassadors have roles like big/little sister – can take other kids on trips after training.
  - Kids receive several benefits from participating:
    - Kids involved in community service stay out of gangs, finish school, get scholarships.

- They learn life skills that help them deal with their trauma as well as negative conflict.
- After they do training and perform community service, they get a letter of recommendation for scholarship forms, get a tuxedo, and a letter in school colors.
- After the trailer is built and equipped to run in events, it could be rented out for street events for about ½ the cost of renting barricades. Money would go to school funds – like student body event funds, etc.
  - Traffic Management/barricades
  - 1<sup>st</sup> aid station
  - Garbage/recycling
- If it goes well, could consider a second trailer for multiple events.
- The Youth Ambassador program would be run by the student body with an Adult Director. Eventually it could be run by the school district and connect schools in a network. Whichever school has the most participation gets the trailer for the next year.
- Friends of Last Thursday (FOLT) would be owners and operators, holding it in trust for the Youth Ambassador program. PAL could also be a program sponsor.
- JS commented that this would be a good project to keep kids going during lulls in house construction, etc.
- This could be used as a good prototype, with a different project each year – a yearlong curriculum.
- Don is looking for the support of the Alumni Association - helping Don contact the teachers, principal, etc.
- We've asked Don for a one page summary of the proposal to present to Carol.
- Teachers are going to create plates that say 'Made by Benson Students' for all previous Benson Houses.
- Robotics Club presentation has been indefinitely postponed.
- Descendents of Benson alumni donated old patches and letters, etc. JP reports that there is more memorabilia in the back room where the yearbooks are stored. We need to think about how we can preserve this history.

#### OLD BUSINESS

- Drafting tables for the new construction drawing class?
- Band uniform ideas: vest?
- Band information needs to be in the welcome packet for next year:
  - Should we be a band club? Spanish teacher adviser. This may solve contacting the kids issue for reminders about practices, etc,
  - What information: meeting times and place, possible events
- We need a plan for collecting info about alumni job skills/employers, as a way to find new business partners for Benson.
- We need a plan for communication to talk with political figures at all levels: mayor, county, state. Lay out our vision of mixed use development and business partnerships.

- We should formalize a liaison to the PTSA.
- Ray to help coordinate PR releases to the Portland Tribune, Willamette Week and the Oregonian about what is currently going on at Benson.
- The scholarship fund is currently called the “Reunion Scholarship Fund”. Josh will find out what is involved in changing the name of the fund.
- Max will provide laminated name tags to the board in time for the picnic.
- Ideas of alumni support:
  - Ben Fleske OMSI – Josh to contact
  - OSU Extension – 4H support – Rob to contact
  - NASA space camp scholarship for two students? Max to investigate
- Benson and the State of Oregon received the sustainable program grant and they've been working on the study for two years but haven't finalized it. Dale to contact Tom Thompson with the Oregon State Department of Education and Reese Lord, who was working for the Mayor but is now at Systems, a private group of Educational Consultants.
- RJ: Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation has a grant we could go after. Kyle Cold at OSU Extension could help us write the grant and submit it.
  - Science Connections – having Benson students visit some nights and days at OSU for programs. Pam Doles on the board – program for steps into college for targeted individuals.
- The Google groups list is working, so please use it for board correspondence.
- Once the Foundation has 501C3 status:
  - We could ask that it be listed as a flight miles donation option at various airline websites.
  - instrument and cash donations to the band will be tax deductible
- Picnic details:
  - Blue Lake for sites 18A and 18B for Saturday August 4<sup>th</sup>. \$130.00. 9:30 AM to start setup.
  - Board discussed and decided to do:
    - 50/50 raffle
    - Benson band will play
    - Band information
    - Free dogs, burgers and punch
    - Potluck table
    - Publicity! – PTSA, school email newsletters, school incoming student packet.
    - Chuck will see about getting better audio support.
    - Chuck will invite the PTSA.
- The meeting dates for the rest of the year are scheduled for 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursdays 5:30 – 7:30PM.
  - At Benson library:
    - May 10<sup>th</sup>

- At Dick's work:  
Group MacKenzie  
1515 SE Water Ave. Suite 100 (by OMSI)  
(Doors locked by 5PM; be ready to wave at the window and have a phone number handy)
  - June 14<sup>th</sup>
  - July 12<sup>th</sup>
  - August 9<sup>th</sup> (consider that the picnic is Aug 4<sup>th</sup>, with annual meeting and board elections. may want to reschedule or cancel)
  - September 13<sup>th</sup>
- At Benson library:
  - October 11<sup>th</sup>
  - November 8<sup>th</sup>
  - December 13<sup>th</sup>

Respectfully Submitted,

Maj Britt (Max) Baker  
Secretary  
BPHS Alumni Association