

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



Date: July 12th, 2012

Starting Time: 5:30 pm Ending Time: 7:15 pm

Location: Group MacKenzie

**ATTENDEES:**

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

**MINUTES:**

- Four years to the day, the Benson Alumni Assoc was created. Dale discussed accomplishments- alumni picnic, long term planning, instrumental in helping to keep Benson open, engaging teachers to get involved with the school, helped to keep PTSA alive, Pep Band formation, and energized relations with the principal.
- The minutes from June were approved as amended and will be emailed out by MB.
- Upcoming Picnic:
  - Blue Lake for sites 18A and 18B for Saturday August 4<sup>th</sup>. \$130.00. 9:30 AM to start setup.
  - MB would like to meet with volunteers to discuss picnic details. NG and Don Wear volunteered to meet with her. They will confirm time/place via email.
  - Dale to put together the newsletter: Benson House, etc.
  - MB moved that we authorize spending up to \$75 for the newsletter and postage for the upcoming picnic. JS seconded. All voted in favor. Motion passed.
  - Carol will attend and speak about her 12-13 goals for Benson.
  - DS will speak about the bond measure and long range planning for Benson.
  - DB will lead the meeting, including a bit of history, board nominations and votes, and other items.
  - JS spoke about the class of 92 reunion, which is Aug 4th at Pier park. She will be there rather than at our picnic, so she would like some information and materials to hand out. She said they will collect email addresses and share with us.
  - JP moved we authorize expenditures up to \$300 for picnic food and other expenses, NG seconded, all voted in favor. Motion passed.
- Board Members:
  - DB emailed the three members that have not been active. He received a nice email from Kyle, who asked to keep involved and work with Dick in planning. He did not receive answers from the other two.
  - RJ moved that we accept Kyle's resignation, KB seconded. All voted in favor. Motion passed.
  - JS moved that we remove the two absentee board members from the board, RJ seconded. All voted in favor. Motion passed.

- DB will notify them of their removal from the board.
- Nominating committee: RJ says no headway yet. 6 vacancies to fill. DS will contact a few men. JS and MB can renew their terms. Don Wear would like to be on the board. Josh suggested contacting Dominic Merriweather. He was VP at Umpqua Bank at the time. He'll look for his information and RJ will contact.
- Annual Meeting, agenda items:
  - Accomplishments: Cleanup success and signup sheet.
  - Financial report
  - Membership report
  - Dick's remarks about the future - PAC and long range facility planning
  - Reminder about Tech Show not in April
  - Carol speak
  - Wayne remarks about band - Max to talk to Wayne about talking with Carol and the Spanish teacher about setting up the band club so we can control contact information about practices etc.
  - Benson CTE Foundation RJ to talk
- Foundation:
  - It was discussed that there was an email vote to authorize the \$50 expenditure to file with the state for creating the Foundation. There were no objections and everyone agreed the motion had passed.
  - We have filed with the state. An EIN number was assigned. We need response from the state on approval for incorporation before filing with IRS for tax exempt status. Working on bylaws. Obstacles raised last Feb: should touch base with All Hands Raised. Samantha Lopez, manager of the Portland Schools Foundation also met with them. Once explained that focus was on CTE as opposed to hiring teachers, they were very supportive. PSF sent us to talk to district folks. Meeting scheduled with Andre Jackson, head of community partnerships next week. They do not expect any obstacles. It was nice to hear from Dan Ryan, who said he was a big Benson Supporter - with All Hands Raised. Has spoken at several Benson commencements. Said thanks for the transparency.
  - There is a \$750 fee for filing with the IRS: form 1023 IRS form: determining if you are a public charity for 5013C charity.
  - We are 90% done with the bylaws draft.
  - DS moved that we approve spending \$750 to file with the IRS. KB seconded. Discussion? All voted in favor. Motion passed.
  - JS: What will the fiscal year be? Oct 1st to Sept 30th, to try and have the annual meeting right when teachers start. It's also good for quarterly thinking.
- District Bond Measure: DS:
  - There will be money for a new middle school near Concordia, with partnership money. Money for seismic improvements.
  - Once the school district announces the bond measure, they are not allowed to promote it. There is a PAC that DS is part of that will help promote it.
  - The schools selected for the 1st round are Roosevelt, Grant and Franklin. Trying to get those built out first and the plan is within four years they will

come out with another bond measure for the inner city schools: Benson, Cleveland and Lincoln, with high participation in partnerships, Get OMSI involved, etc.

- The PAC will put some of the partnerships together. DS is also part of a group doing presentations to groups like the Pearl Rotary Club. Showed them the Benson, Lincoln, and Roosevelt stories with how they can be built up with partnership moneys, becoming community centers. There has been a lot of enthusiastic response.
- They are continuing with outreach efforts, including neighborhood associations. Passage of the bond in November is key, then getting Benson on the docket for the next one. We had been hoping for planning money, but that didn't happen, however, there may be grants we can get for that. DS is very optimistic, that we could be on the way to getting a new school in five years.
- Timing on the second round? It's about 3 billion to build out all new schools. First round is half the money per household than the one that almost passed last year. The next one would be in four years, when this one expires. Theoretically in 8 years, you have 6 of the 9 high schools built out, then another bond measure for the last three, assuming they follow the original plan.
- There is some flexibility where some of the money could go toward programming. They would have the ability to modify the seismic upgrade or ADA access problem to include elements of redesign for better learning.
- It's not a perfect bond measure, but better than the last go-round. **It's incredibly important to pass this first round so we can get to the second one and focus on Benson. We can use that time to build the support for partnerships we need.**
- Carol's building alliances, PWA working on the contacts also. The district has come around to the idea of Benson as a magnet with partnerships.
- JS: Have they noticed the uptick in students?
- DS: The forecast from Portland State says historically inner city schools suffered from decline in enrollment. Predictions are that more families are moving to the inner city and want to be close to where they work and schools. 20% increase in urban school population is expected.
- DW: Kids are not buying cars, looking for close communities: bus, bike, walk to store/work etc. Looking for community living.
- Construction Design program: DS:
  - Building permit is here so we can start building in the fall. We'll start looking for donations and getting the energy trust ratings, etc. Sale of last house: \$320,000. Where does the money go? To the district. The next lot is already purchased. The lot after that, they don't know. Sue Managin taught the class before Tammy Hite. DS told her to speak to Carol. DS thinks perhaps having the district provide money for the lot and the permits, even if the money goes back to the district, because the publicity is good.
  - KB: We might think about the Foundation funding this, putting the profits back into the school/program. Worth looking into. DS will do some research on that.

- KBPS: RJ:
  - Off the air on July 1st, organizing for being back on-air in the fall. RJ asked what the real problem is. Is it money for the General Manager? Or something else? We need to know if there is something we can do.
  - Dale and Rob met with All Hands Raised.
  - There's a \$40,000 grant Philip Knight had given last year for KBPS. Ken: Do they sell ads? Rob doesn't know. Could be a program: radio advertising. USA Skills award girls: won award based on their presentation on what KBPS has done for them. Rob will stay in touch with Carol.
- Events trailer and Ambassador program: Don Wear:
  - Last Thursday DW met with Sam Adams. Don has money to finish barricades and to build the trailer. He expects a letter of support from the city council. It will be 16 feet and the bugs are being worked out.
  - How much does it cost to rent the trailer? Depends on the event: barricades: \$2, large ones \$5. Depends on the size of the event, which is gauged for about a 20 block event.
  - Youth Ambassador Program: nothing is written up. Last month he stepped in to lead the program. So next August he will come in with the written program: lesson plan, etc. NE Coalition of Neighborhoods speaking, etc. RJ suggests that he connect with the Boys and Girls Club this or next week, because there are teens looking for activities.
- Dale and JP to meet on ideas to build out the alumni DB on skills and employers. DS: try and hook up with advisory boards for the CTE programs, which exist but are ad hoc. Graphics instructor said she had the advisory board but she was possessive about it. DS: If we go through Carol, then we could act as intermediaries.
- JS met with a class of 2012 transfer student, who said he transferred out because they lost the architecture program. Said he would be interested in telling his story of missed opportunities. He was doing an office tour.
- Sustainable program grant: DS says Tom Thompson still working on it. Still needs to be finished.

## OLD BUSINESS

- 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.

- 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.
- Ray to help coordinate PR releases to the Portland Tribune, Willamette Week and the Oregonian about what is currently going on at Benson.
- 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.
- The scholarship fund is currently called the “Reunion Scholarship Fund”. Josh will find out what is involved in changing the name of the fund.
- 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.
- The Google groups list is working, so please use it for board correspondence.
- We need to formalize the role of PTSA liaison.
- 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
  - we can consider going for the Bill and Melinda Gates grants
- 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: 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.
- Outreach and Partnerships - RJ
  - OSU not reaching back yet. U of O is waiting on the results of their program with Jefferson.
  - OIT/Oregon Tech

- The meeting dates for the rest of the year are scheduled for 2nd Thursdays 5:30 – 7:30PM.
  - 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)
    - August 9<sup>th</sup>
    - 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