

Benson Polytechnic High School Alumni Association Board of Director Meeting—Official Minutes

Date: Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Starting Time: 5:05pm Ending Time: 7:15pm

Location: Benson Polytechnic H.S. Library Classroom

ATTENDEES:

Dale Bajema, Neal Galash, Paul Benninghoff, Josh Piper, Chuck Heil, Don La Barre, Richard Spies, Joanne Stainbrook and Tammy Hite.

Guests: Cathy Skach, Bob Hoff ('55), Franklin Johnson ('64), and Dominique Merriweather ('93)

MINUTES:

Note: Items may not be in the exact order in which they were discussed. If any corrections or additions need to be made, please forward them to Tammy Hite.

- Opening statement from Dale which summarized the recent activities the association has either hosted or participated in.
 - Dick gave his presentation to the school site council back in November.
 - Alumni reception on November 19th where Dick gave his presentation and a check was accepted to the Scholarship Committee from the class of '58.
 - Table at the Parent / Teacher conference on November 24th and 25th.
- Cathy Skach confirmed that she will be sitting on the Transfer/Enrollment Committee and High School Re-Design Committee the school district is creating.
- Minutes approved from November meeting.
- Scholarship Committee Report
 - Check for \$1285.00 was received from the fund leftover from the class of 1958's reunion.
 - Cost of the November mailing was over \$1400.00. Fund yet to be collected from the alumni association include \$269 for letters and \$219 for the applications.
 - Only about \$200 has actually been sent in by those who received the letters.
 - The scholarship committee will now be the responsibility of the alumni association.
- Membership Count
 - 59 Total Members; 53 are paid memberships, 2 are retired teachers and 4 are from class of 2008.
- Treasury balance: \$810.00
- Site Council Report
 - The overall reaction to Dick's presentation was positive.
 - The council has drafted a letter to the district stating that they support "Option B" of the CTE report that was issued in June 2008.
 - Cathy is setting up a tour of Rosa Parks Elementary for the council.
- Parent / Teacher Conferences Recap

- People seem interested in the boards and members of alumni association BOD were there to answer questions.
- November 19th Reception Recap
 - A notice was placed in the scholarship committee mailing, but it didn't get to the alumni until the day of or after the reception date.
 - There is some concern that many of the alumni are still not "on-line" and don't have email addresses, but Chuck stated that more than ½ of his graduating class is.
 - Chuck suggested sending ¼ sheet postcards for those without internet.
 - Question asked about the type of Bulk Mail Permit the PTSA has and whether we should get one of our own.
 - ♦ Could be just a permit for a non-profit.
 - ♦ Don will verify.
- Membership Committee
 - Definition of committees functions suggested by Dale
 - ♦ Contact and Recruit
 - ♦ Records
 - ♦ Contact class representatives
 - Tammy asked if association events where to be included in the committee or made into a separate one.
 - Chuck suggested that "Schemes for contacting" should come under the functions.
 - The question was asked, "How do you qualify to be on a committee?"
 - ♦ The answer is anyone can be on a committee.
 - Question asked, how was the current database built
 - ♦ Answer: It was built from various sources including the information cards gathered from Tech Show.
 - Database proposal
 - ♦ Josh has spoken to a website that specializes in building alumni databases, but we would have to give up our website which is a few steps above the site the company is offering.
 - ♦ Josh will ask if we can come up with a deal that we will supply updated information in exchange for information from them
 - Chuck found the disk of alumni information that he had from the purchase of the 2007 alumni directory.
- LTD Committee—Hand out given. See Attachment "A"
 - Long-term goal: A world class four year career prep school focused on the new green economy.
 - Short-term goals: We need to get a broad base of support if we want to see "Option B" of the CTE report adopted by PPS within the next 6 to 8 weeks.
 - ♦ Quick summary of the options was given.
 - Dick has contacted Nancy S. and Matt Sinclair with OMSI about a possible partnership for the school. They seem excited.
 - Next meeting of the committee will happen on Wednesday, January 7th @ Benson. Cathy Skach attended the Career and Technical Education Conference in North Carolina.
 - ♦ Handed out a copy of a report from the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) which shows that the integration technical and academic work improves test scores, curriculum retention and grades.
 - ♦ www.sreb.org
 - ♦ Verifies the importance of focused study vs. just "grazing" a subject.
 - If Benson becomes a skill center students will lose the in-depth study currently offered in the majors. The first half of a junior year will be spent teaching students the basics they

would have learned their freshman and sophomore years. How will this affect students who wish to change majors?

- ♦ The Benson Electrical teacher also attended the conference and has now started to develop curriculum with one of the math teachers.
 - ♦ Jeanette Pelster, a new communications teacher at Benson and alumnae, is having her students develop ways to change the current public perception of Benson.
 - One of the key reasons the SREB is succeeding is because of the support they are getting at the state, local and district levels.
 - Question asked if the new principal for Benson has been selected.
 - ♦ Answer is “no”. That will most likely happen in late spring due to district timelines.
 - It was pointed out that for Obama’s new stimulus package, 1.8 million construction workers will be needed.
 - Franklin Johnson suggested that our group should lobby individuals before presenting to groups of people. We should learn “their” interests.
 - Dale called for a motion to send a letter to the district stating that the association supports “Option B” of the CTE report.
 - ♦ Motion passes.
 - ♦ Letter to be sent by the next meeting.
 - Cathy suggests contacting the local papers again, but Dick prefers we hold off until we can talk to the district administration to avoid putting them on the defense.
 - Chuck feels that we have a 3-tiered issue to address:
 - ♦ 1. What will it take to keep Benson open?
 - ♦ 2. New curriculum
 - ♦ 3. Implementing Dick’s vision
 - Cathy believes it is critical to get a new principal that supports the school.
 - Question: What is the timeline? What needs to happen?
 - ♦ District has to make a commitment
 - ♦ Bond measure as early as 2010
 - ♦ Fundraising needs to be constant.
 - ♦ If the district plans to shutdown or change Benson this year, they have to announce by end of January.
 - Suggests for the presentation
 - ♦ Incorporate images of students in shops and classrooms.
 - ♦ Use the “home grown” angle
 - ♦ Try to anticipate the questions that will arise before they do
 - ♦ Continue to get feedback from supporters.
 - ♦ Keep the vision “open”.
 - ♦ Add the other high schools to the vision so it is more likely to be accepted.
- Meeting adjourned @ 7:30pm.

Attachments: Benson High School Long Term Development Committee