

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



Date: May 13, 2013

Starting Time: 5:35 pm Ending Time: approximately 7:40 pm

Benson Polytechnic High School – Library

ATTENDEES:

Rob Johns (RJ), Josh Piper (JP), Ken Bakke (KB), Dale Bajema (DB), Joanne Stainbrook (JS), Chuck Heil (CH), Don Wear (DW), Dick Spies (DS), Max Baker (MB), Neal Galash (NG), guests: Roger Edwards class of 1963; Guest Amy Henry, Counselor: amyhenry@pps.net; Carol Campbell, Principal.

MINUTES:

- Guest speakers
 - Amy Henry
 - See handout attachment.
- DB talked about Carol's presentation on Benson to the school board and the five year plan:
 - The superintendent seemed puzzled, surprised, and pleased.
 - Several board members mentioned they liked the 5 year plan after the presentation.
 - He thinks Carol and Trip are interested in hearing more.
 - Site Council is going to be meeting weekly through May to finish the five year plan, including steps to accomplish goals by 12/15. They will present to the teachers in June. Carol will pass out copies and let them think on it and submit comments over the summer. They will also present to Kevin in PWA. They would like to present to the Alumni Association in July. They would also like to present to PTSA, possibly September/Oct. They want it finalized by end of September. They expect it would need yearly tweaks.
 - Note: Benson had 6 Gates Foundation finalists, 2 winners.
- Carol Campbell popped in to the meeting to say hi on her way to an athletic scholars event.
 - The district is allocating 58 additional teachers to the high schools to restore the opportunity for all students to have 8 classes a day. Carol had rearranged the schedules so that kids were coming late or leaving early instead of stuck in study halls for long blocks of time. Most seniors here have to take CTE and Senior English and Government but that's all - they might opt out of the electives. Carol is looking at doing some interesting things: elective Robotics, 2nd year computers, another engineering class, etc.
 - It looks like there will be 4-5 youth apprenticeships this coming year. Blount 2 or 3, Vigor 1, Chris King (bicycle part manufacturing) 1-2. Benson is one of two high schools that have an apprentice program.
 - The Corps of Army Engineer guy came in off the street to ask what they could do for Benson. Carol is excited about it.
 - Dick will pass on contact with Northwest Natural on to Kevin at PWA.

- The facilities people said the contractors hired to rebuild the schools with bond money need to offer some kind of opportunities to students. **Dick and Dale to see what wording would be in the contracts.**
 - CH: Carol (superintendent) talked about the opportunities for juniors/seniors coming over to spend time in CTE at Benson.
 - Carol: I think it's an option, but we don't know how it works. Might open the door to a 2 year school. Lose the integrated curriculum and exploration in Freshman and Sophomore years. Benefits vs risk. Could increase staffing for Junior/Senior classes. She is open to it, while still being opposed to Benson turning into a 2 year skill center.
- DB: Another idea of 5 year plan was connecting with more business partners. Presentations in school, field trips, etc. Mayor and Smith got 50 or so business leaders to meet with principals to see what the needs were and how they could fill them. DB talked with Kevin (PWA) about having another event next fall to kick off another round of this. We'll probably have to put it together and take the lead. Have it late enough you could do a tour and see the kids doing things. PTSA also involved.
 - DS: Lincoln also trying to find partners, it also ties into the bond measure. We could perhaps coordinate this through the long term development committee.
 - RJ: BizConnect was the phrase Sam Adams had, office of development coordinated it. We might want to approach the city of portland.
 - DS: Mayor Hales should be involved. Reece Lord would be good to contact, find out who in the current mayor's office is the education champion.
 - **RJ: We will add this to next meeting agenda. DB/RJ to meet with Kevin and talk some more about this.**
 - DS: We can chase down alums that are owners of businesses for donations of goods.
- March and April minutes were discussed with some corrections supplied. DS moved to accept March minutes with corrections, JP seconded. The motion passed. April minutes were discussed with some corrections supplied. DS moved to accept the April minutes with corrections, DW seconded. The motion passed. MB will correct the March minutes and JS will correct the April minutes and both will send final minutes to the board.
- Membership: JP:
 - There are 88 paid members, 4 new since last week.
- Scholarship: JP:
 - We received the account statement. The Fund as of Dec 31st: \$78,050.75. Statement of donations this past year: \$1272.00.
 - They sent the list of donors. Josh will add the information to the DB.
 - Two Fridays from now they will award \$3437.00 in scholarships.
- Finance: KB:
 - 3149.75 in the bank. That includes the 4 new members.
 - There are no outstanding bills.
 - RJ: no-one approached us about money to help kids get to Kfalls, and there's still lawn mower money in there.
- PTSA update: CH:

- Kerns Neighborhood Cleanup: Successful cleanup activity. PTSA and Alumni Association had lots of representatives. Radios worked good this year. Talked about getting a drop box at the school next year. We wasted a lot of time waiting in line to unload yard debris, when a 20 yard box could just be dropped the day before and then picked up Sat afternoon. We should check with alumni to see if anyone has access/can donate. Don might know someone. Amy needs one on June 24th.
 - JP: Did anyone get pictures of the cleanup? Tammy's sister did - lots of before and after photos. Chuck: well attended - lots of kids there.
 - DS: It builds a strong connection with the neighborhood association.
- PTSA will have election of officers at the next meeting. They have been a bit laid back this year- need to stir up some interest in leadership. Usually have 6-8 people show. Their exec board will meet during the summer. Chuck would like to take the idea that they should be involved in the 5 year plan next week. Dale will send Chuck some information on that.
- Did Bob Brown's email address get on our circulation list? Josh will put him on the mailing list (not the board or participants list).
- The feedback from PTSA on the Alumni Community picnic is that people don't want to pay \$5 and wait in line to get in to the park. Would like to push it closer to home.
- Let Chuck know if there is anything you want him to take back to PTSA.
- Discussion about Alumni activities:
- Memorabilia committee: CH:
 - Lisa has been doing cataloging. Will use MS Access for the DB. She's taking pictures of what she is cataloging. She's visited other schools to see what they are doing: Sellwood this week. Some have done good work, so she's getting ideas and making connections.
- Centennial class - CH:
 - 2017 is our year. Are we going to call kids who graduate that year or enter that year as the Centennial class? Can we have a reception for them when they register - make a big deal out of it, attract attention in the city?
 - PTSA is very interested.
 - RJ: let's get a formal agreement on it from Carol and move together on it.
- Lawn Committee: KB and CH:
 - Talking with Carol about when to do the lawn again. Someone with a weed-eater to get around the poles. Need a place to dump the grass.
- Band: Friday night - Benson Band in the Norse Hall parade: 5PM there, starts at 5:30PM.
- LTDP: DS:
 - Had meeting April 22nd. Want to get more people involved.
 - Meeting next Monday meeting with Lincoln High School to coordinate strategies. Encourage anyone to make written or phone/email messages to DS on the rough draft of the vision statement (part of April notes). Want to finalize it and use it as a framework and dovetail into the 5 year plan. DB and DS to get together and discuss.

- Carol and Kathy Skatch were in the meeting and on board. Want to get Kevin Troung involved too. Roosevelt would like help coordinating their CTE efforts. CJ Sylvester invited him to apply for advisory committee for Roosevelt. Connecting the Benson story to other schools helps. Continuing to build partnerships - early next year school district will start thinking about it - the more we have by then is good. **Send feedback to DS.**
 - We're encouraging the district to take a global approach to how the programs are housed. Focus on partnerships - ones that would influence the curriculum, which would then influence the facilities. For instance, if some curriculum is taught offsite, that influences the facilities' needs. We can build a case for being a central facility that can serve a broad base.
 - At Roosevelt, consultants have been hired to develop an Ed Spec. It will happen at Lincoln and Benson, but we want to inform our Ed Specs with the opinions of the stakeholders on what they need - helping form the curriculum.
 - **Dick will email information about the meetings.**
- Foundation 501C-3 update - RJ:
 - No change with the IRS. Have to figure out who to talk to.
- RJ: Senate bill 498 - RJ:
 - This bill was a proposal from Brad Avakian: 20 million with 12 million earmarked for community colleges.
 - **RJ will meet with Tom Goodhue** on how can we engage the Unions, propose industry partnerships for having that money create a CTE training center for teachers. This is the most likely place money would come from. RJ presented to the school board that we need this - 3-5 years CTE teachers retiring - need replacements. We need fast work for this. RJ contacted Connie Mar (alumn) to write for this.
 - DW: should contact Kathy Skatch also. We need outreach to unions and businesses to find teachers that have been in the industry around 10 years.
 - RJ: When the bill gets passed, we have to be right there applying for money. There are forms from last year that RJ got to Connie. DW will email Donna ___?__ to find information about where the bill is at.
 - General question: Should we be writing letters and asking others to do so? We need to get the full 20 million.
 - DS: Rob, send a copy of your letter and who you sent to, to the board. We can get the key points and write our own letters.
 - DB: is there a companion bill in the house? Senate passed it, and it's in the house. So, there's no real opposition, it's just the amount.
 - RJ: Brad is looking for someone to put forward an idea that is self-perpetuating, promoting partnerships and apprenticeships. The 501C3 status doesn't matter because there's no tax break.
 - **DS will reach out to Concordia.**
- Benson House – DS
 - Are we having a sign? Ran it past Rich Webber and he pointed out it's close to Jefferson High School they are afraid it might get tagged, so no.
 - Construction moving along well, framing progressing. SIPs contractor lined up for the roof.

- We are not doing walls with SIP panels because we'd be turning the major construction over to contractors. Kids are getting all the main beams in place.
- Picnic - MB:
 - Sat 8/17 - Blue Park, Multnomah B shelter. 11 - 4PM.
 - Class of 93 is interested in meeting at the same time, interested in helping.
 - 63 reunion will also be there.
 - CH will not be there this year. Chuck will make the equipment available.
 - MB will send out information and sign-up sheets, and bring to next meeting.
- PR Question – KB:
 - We have good news to share - scholarships, new programs, etc. We need an alumni with PR experience - need to contact the papers. Study just done by some institute confirming how many kids should not go to college - see more and more of that, and we need to get the word out. John Stewart is talking about it too.
 - DS will talk to Kathy Skatch about it, get the students involved, meeting local media reps.
 - KB: Can we support a scholarship for apprentice programs? An alumni scholarship is geared toward this.
 - RJ will contact Rob Manning at OPB about the scholarship winners, etc. The dichotomy of supporting kids going into jobs and kids going into college is an important part of the Benson story.
 - DB: Every schools is trying to get information into the media. Who is the audience? Business partners, prospective students, etc. We need a portfolio that has all these stories, press releases, so we can show them off.
- DB: City Club Education Committee – Bobby Regan was forward thinking about this concept: School is not a production center – it's a learning center. To produce, you are on a contractor's timeline. Learning has a different timeline. There is sometimes a disconnect - it's not about turning out product - it's about learning skills.
- SKILLS USA fundraiser:
 - \$100 contribution: moved by DS, DW seconded, all approved.
 - DS is donating \$500 and RJ is also donating. The challenge is out: donate what you can.
- There's a link on our website.
- CH: Let's think about what we can do about Benson's windows. They are all rotted - need to be replaced. And the faucets - most of the outside faucets do not work.
- DS: the problem is endemic - virtually all the schools need to be replaced.
- We did make Carol's email out, picnic info is out there.
- RJ will email later about money for Amy's needs for the counselling center.

OLD BUSINESS

- What to do with postcards from Tech Show?
- Did we get the letter from Dale Lawrence Jensen (1945 graduate) up on the website?

- How can we support Carol's goals:
 - Five year plan for Benson. With limiting funding, how can we continue to build the school?
 - Instruction, community, growth.
 - partnerships, community, students and family
 - growth: growing numbers, growing programs.
 - Making the connection between career and college.
 - Growing in the relevancy, changing instruction to fit industry.
- Committee for lawn mowing? Schedule and duties.
- Can we get a video for PR for the new construction design class?
- Formalize Benson tours for industry and others. Each room to have a student ambassador? RJ to talk to Carol. Kathy Skatch is the communications teacher.
- RJ to follow up with Carol about \$250 matching travel funds for kids to take the train to Kfalls for OIT open house.
- RJ to set up a meeting with the Labor Commissioner and DW about rules that would apply to Benson students trying to get internships.
- Interview Miranda Ryan, jobs coordinator, and put it up on the website? Video? Student project? CH will talk to Kathy Skatch about having students do that kind of thing, getting us the video to post on the website.
- Connie is working on marketing materials for the Foundation.
 - Who are we and what are our intentions? Trifold.
 - Carol can have it on her desk - we can all have it to carry it around and hand out.
 - We need to put some things on the website also.
- We need two "Stay tuned for opportunities to participate." letters:
 - Portland Business community - businesses that have indicated interest in Benson.
 - Alumni.
 - We might be able to use some senior students in English or Communications to try and create the documents. A senior project?
- Can we pursue more one on one meetings with school board members?
 - CTE programs require more staffing - if you want us to be 850 kids, that's fine but we need more staff - not staffing at a conventional high school level. 5-18 students in a class for CTE is what is needed. Now it's 25-30.
 - Carol is also going to push for nationwide searches for CTE staff"
 - We need to write the basic requirements for getting TSPC licensure. Basically about 18 hours schooling, and probably some hours of on the job training. You have 3 years to do it, and get funds to cover 6 hours per year.
 - CTE enhances and promotes academic the core: student see algebra, pre-calculus, writing and reading being used in CTE classes.
- 100 year celebration: September 2017:
 - What is the district doing? What is the school doing? What are we doing?
 - Good opportunity for publicity - community, Simon Benson etc. CH: There aren't many other HS that have the community connection.

- Get the grandkids involved: Chet and Darcy.
 - JS: Can we cast a new bubbler? Original molds somewhere? RJ will send a note to Carol.
 - CH: The College I went to just celebrated the 100 year anniversary. DVD narrative. (Reed) He will try and get ahold of it - very interesting and informative. JS: i think one of my neighbors helped with the research on that.
 - Oregonian retrospective?
- Plans to communicate with students:
 - Utilize KBPS.
 - Can we get info into PTSA newsletters to parents? - end of year one would be great: don't lose contact, sign up now.
 - Could we even enter the classrooms in the last month of school? or pep rally to promote it, even maybe collecting email addresses.
 - Can we get senior class president to come to our meetings?
 - How do we talk to the lower classes?
 - Helping with student registration is a good start.
 - Can we get a few minutes in front of a pep rally?
 - Older generation had more insecurity about our personal information. This generation is more open - Facebook, etc. They will be more likely to provide us their email addresses etc.
 - Make sure the email address and website is at the bottom of the newspaper, principal's letter. etc.
 - Video reader board around the school, where kids could see announcements and information. Carol seems very supportive of that idea. We might be helpful in that area and get some promotion.
- Band ideas:
 - Carol is interested in getting a music program going. Who will meet with her to talk about what they can do to get more student involvement?
 - 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
 - JP: also could record practice tapes.
 - JP: would the club status give us access to district instruments or music stands? Should check.
 - Give cheerleaders a tape and words for Benson Fight song, so they can learn a routine.
 - Need a base drum.
- We need a plan for collecting info about alumni job skills/employers, as a way to find new business partners for Benson:
 - DB 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.

- Langley associates is property management group for properties in the Lloyd district. Dick has convinced them there is a strong relationship between what happens at Benson and their properties. They are excited about being involved, and can be a link to their tenants - other partners.
 - PGE is already helping with the technical drawing class curriculum.
- 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.
 - Can we get the new Mayor interested in Benson?
 - Can we get industry to write a letter to the school board campaign?
- How can we make our board more diverse?
- How can we get Benson staff that are alumni involved with the board?
- Memorabilia: If the bond measure passes, a room or plan for what to do with this stuff should be part of that planning.
 - RJ: Senior projects - building display cases now to peak people's interest for long term plan.
- Need help coordinating PR releases to the Portland Tribune, Willamette Week and the Oregonian about what is currently going on at Benson.
 - 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.
- Opportunities for alums to help:
 - Counselling center: volunteer to help kids with scholarship applications and essays, etc.
 - JS – There is a health Corps program funded by Dr. Oz. This is the 2nd 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.
- 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.
 - 7/2012: Sustainable program grant: DS says Tom Thompson still working on it. Still needs to be finished.
- 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
- we could consider moving from the district funding the Benson house construction to the Foundation, that way profits from sale would be reinvested in the school itself.
- RJ: thoughts to recruit Alumni association members:
 - Dig deeper into matches of people with majors. Mission based approach to recruiting.
 - Engage with KBPS about getting alumni association information out there.
- Outreach and Partnerships - RJ
 - OSU not reaching back yet.
 - U of O is waiting on the results of their program with Jefferson.

Next meeting at Benson library:

June 10th

Respectfully Submitted,

Maj Britt (Max) Baker
Secretary
BPHS Alumni Association