

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



Date: March 10, 2014

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

Benson Band Room/Benson Library

ATTENDEES:

Josh Piper (JP), Ken Bakke (KB), Don Wear (DW), Wayne DeVore (WD), Mike Landstrom (ML), Max Baker (MB), Neal Galash (NG), RE (rodger Edwards), Dale Bajema (DB), Dick Spies (DS)

Guests: John Delacey class of 1966. Coach, Robotics team. johncdelacey@gmail.com
Student representatives of robotics club: Bronson Y. Kim, bknosnorb@gmail.com, 503-333-4051; Keala Cottrell, lollipop.cottrell@gmail.com; Gavin Beck, gavinmnbeck@gmail.com, 360-550-3065

MINUTES:

- Presentation of Robotics club:
 - Travelling to regionals next week. Massive fundraising event. He passed out flyers.
 - Benson Robotics club has four teams that compete in the tournament.
 - 267 team is going on to super regional tournament. Will compete against teams across the west coast. Trying to get the word out and raise money.
 - If win regional, then state, then world.
 - They have raised \$1000 out of the \$4000 they need. Working with James Littlejohn at Kenton Station. This Thurs 13th of march, between 3 and 11PM, if you mention Benson Robotics club they donate 15% to the club. They will have a robot with a donation jar making rounds there. Hollywood Theater might also do a fundraiser on a night with a certain percentage.
 - DW: get ahold of Merkely's office say you've talked to DW and would like to talk with Ed Hall about fundraising. He'll be at the Barge Launch on Sat, as well as a rep from Merkley's office.
 - The robotics club excused themselves.
- Barge Launch: Gunderson factory launching a barge on Sat. The kids said there are at least 10 kids coming. The kids will contact DW with a final number Friday so he can order pizza. He'll also be bringing Krispy Cream donuts.
- 5:45PM: Official meeting. Quorum is attained.
- Donation to Robotics team:
 - ML moved to donate \$300 to the robotics team, JP seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Ken will take the check to Kenton Station on Thurs.
- Minutes:
 - MB moved to postpone the approval of the minutes of the annual meeting and February until they have been emailed. Motion passed.
- Finance
 - Total paypal is \$578.85. Ken: \$3331.92

- Still need to find out who to give check to for athletic hall of fame, another check for football association.
 - Note: Max has receipts for about \$200 from Tech Show that need to be turned in. NG has receipts for about \$25 to turn in.
- Membership: JP: up to 118 members.
- Scholarship: no new news.
- State of School and PTSA meeting:
 - This was before the march on PPS, so there was a lot of discussion about sports.
 - The PTSA wanted to know if we could come to the PTSA meeting on the cleanup, who and what equipment we could bring. Don Wear will be the liaison on that. Max will email Don a reminder about that.
- Picnic – MB:
 - August on 16th. Dick needs to talk to Franklin.
- Open board positions: Dick was going to talk to Franklin.
 - Neal and Don made the last Kenton Station meeting but the last meeting there were only folks from far away.
 - We can fill open positions at any time, so let's continue to search for people we think would be great members.
- CEIC – RJ:
 - Rob took an email vote and the motion passed, so he has paid the \$125.00 for membership.
 - KB moved we reimburse him, DW seconded.
 - Discussion: WD: I don't like the fact that we have to pay to have school representation. MB: It's possible we could pay one year and make connections/relationships enough that we won't have to continue membership.
 - The motion passed unanimously.
- Dues discussion:
 - Idea about raising dues to \$20, and giving recent grads free membership for X number years. NG: should we do a poll to get people's opinions? JP: We could. KB: I think we should just do it. RE: what is the benefit to the recent grads, even if free, why should they join? MB: I think we build on this - give them a free window cling when they join, then create more of a networking, connections program for recent grads. DW: They might be looking for mentors. ML: and getting them to start thinking about what they can give back to the school. NG: we need people to come and fill our roles. If we can get a few hooked and helping right away they will be long term members and advocates.
 - WD: I move we raise the dues to \$20 and give recent grads free membership for 4 years. KB: seconded. Discussion: WD: If it's truly a hardship we hope they let us know and we could consider extending it.
 - Motion passed unanimously. This will take effect in Jan 2015.
- Joanne emailed saying she couldn't make this meeting but will be catching up with us soon.
- Athletics at Benson - DB:
 - There will be no changes for the next year.

- Haskins wants to meet with the Benson community soon to discuss his ideas and address questions. He has indicated he wanted to meet with the chairperson of the Alumni Association, the PTSA and the Site Council. DB set up the meeting for Wed at 5PM. Think it will be a dress rehearsal. RJ is not going to be back. Max will be there representing the Alumni Association, Lisa Wilke will represent the Site Council, Dale will be there. Max and Dale will let everyone know what is discussed. Haskins claims he was misunderstood. Late this week he will probably schedule a meeting for the community.
- DB: There seems to be a concern in the district that Benson has had poor sports turnout for the last few years, not good turnout and parent support. John Slaughter did a great job leading the fight to keep Benson sports. I think we need to work with the school to see how we can help support sports teams, like a picnic per team or something. We might want to form a committee to work with John Slaughter and Curtis to look for ways to support the teams.
- WD: I will talk to John Slaughter about ideas on how to increase turnout for sports.
- DB: Please suggest he come to the next board meeting.
- ML: I think we should be careful about leading this effort, help PTSA and principal and athletic director to drive it.
- JP: I agree we can't take over the responsibility, but alumni have a different role. There's an ecosystem in the game - the band/cheerleaders get people excited, team plays, fans need to be there. Alumni aren't there. On the whole I think alumni are looking for more social events.
- KB: It would be helpful if we knew when the games were. Think we need more publicity.
- JP: we could get the word out to alumni, maybe a game a month - we need to organize and plan this.
- Max had to leave the meeting
- Picnic
 - Follow up with Curtis about CUB
 - Think about contingency plans for adverse weather and such
 - Recruit athletic teams to help with labor
 - Think about increased costs and logistics prior to event
 - We need buy-in from other parts of the Benson Community, both monetary and labor
- Athletics
 - Wayne to talk with John Slaughter about thoughts on how to increase student participation.
 - Mike mentioned that we shouldn't try to take over AA functions. PTSA should shoulder that.
 - Should we reach out to Student Body President about how we might be able to help with student involvement at games?
- Lottery/Enrollment
 - CC used to screen applications before lottery to look for completeness. Not sure if Curtis has the same ability/interest in doing so.

- DB is looking for alumni to help out at June new student welcome event (tentatively some night on the second week of June)
- DW – Can we help with retention of 9th graders by helping students bring their basic skills up to a point where they can be successfully at Benson?
- Curtis is gung ho about having the Benson Community Picnic on the front lawn, as part of a larger kickoff to the new school year (including new student welcome party in June and registration)
- OIT Visitation
 - Rob is putting together a visitation event for parents and students
 - Can the BPHSAA provide drivers to shuttle parents and students down to Kalamath Falls
- Benson Tech Foundation
 - Rob & Dale replied to the IRS’ three questions they had about our applications. We are awaiting a response from the IRS.
 - The foundation does exist as a formal body. It just doesn’t have tax exempt status yet.
- Mentoring
 - DW is working with the Oregon Railway Museum to get students to help rebuild steam engines.
 - Working with unions to create some type of work-related experience that can be gleaned from the work so that students can list it as formal work experience on their resumes.
 - Working with Ed Hall, Technical Training Director with Sen. Merkley.
 - A different representative from Sen. Merkley’s office will be at the barge launch
 - DW wants \$50 for pizza to feed kids after the barge launch. WD moves that up to \$100 be available for pizza for the kids. ML seconded the motion. The motion passes.
- Design advisory group
 - Just had their 2nd initial meeting
 - Generating more interested in the idea of a comprehensive design center at Benson
 - Short-term vision
 - CTE teachers need help putting together wish lists for their programs
 - Some concern over the administration’s support for some of the necessary components of the design center such as AutoCAD classes
 - Advisory group will meet with Principal Wilson on Wednesday to help work out the kinks.
 - Long-term vision
 - Looking for other examples of interesting CTE programs that we can use as templates for a future Benson Tech.
 - Possible middle-school component?
 - Next meeting scheduled for 3/20 at 5:30pm in library classroom
 - KB needs to invite members of the CEIC to join the design center advisory group.
- Big versus Great?

- Has the CTE battle we've been fighting over the past 3-5 years been won? CTE is growing in popularity quickly now and money is flowing its direction.
- Maybe we need to spend less time championing CTE citywide and focus now more on how CTE is working at Benson. Make Benson's programs great and the enrollment issue will fix itself.
- Enrollment alone might not be enough to make CTE work at Benson. Making sure that PPS sees the need to fund CTE classrooms differently than regular classroom.
- Adjourned at 7:42pm

OLD BUSINESS

- Bylaws amended from Aug 2013 meeting re moving annual meeting?
- 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 Curtis Wilson'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 Curtis. Kathy Skatch is the communications teacher.
- RJ to follow up with Curtis 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.
 - Curtis Wilson can have it on his 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.
 - Is Curtis 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.
 - 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.
- Band ideas:
 - Is Curtis 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 meetings at Benson Library:

[April 14, 2014]

Respectfully Submitted,

Maj Britt (Max) Baker
Secretary
BPHS Alumni Association