

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



Date: May 12, 2014  
Starting Time: 5:30 pm Ending Time: 7:30 pm  
Benson Band Room/Benson Library

**ATTENDEES:**

Josh Piper (JP), Ken Bakke (KB), Neal Galash (NG), RE (rodger Edwards), Joanne Stainbrook (JS), ~~Diek Spies (DS)~~, Don Wear (DW), Max Baker (MB), Rob Johns (RJ), guest Eloise Curler, representative of Saturday Academy

Dale Bajema (DB),

**MINUTES:**

- WD has resigned via email, expressing some frustration with trying to get the band program going.
- Eloise Curler spoke:
  - Director of the classes program. The mission is to engage kids in whatever makes them curious. We hire community experts to come in and teach: professors at PSU, doctors at OHSU, lots of people from Hillsboro that teach computer classes. Before and after school, sat, breaks etc.
  - Eloise's roll is recruiting and training instructors. Works with a team for location negotiation. **Saturday Academy** has been around for 30 years, hard time getting into PPS buildings on the weekend. Janitorial staff cost issue. nonprofit, can pay sites, but not a lot.
  - RJ: the nice thing about here is that Benson is open in the summer and nights right now. We think the opportunity is in getting the back shops opened up.
  - DW: Discussing how to get the wings rebuilt with corporation sponsors, would work in tandem with keeping the space occupied.
  - Eloise: have been told no before
  - RJ: since the school is already open, that shouldn't be a problem.
  - Eloise: we do carry our own insurance, it's a negotiation. This summer we're out at Glencoe, and Beaverton High School.
  - RJ: At rotary meeting two weeks ago, and president of sat academy was there, they don't turn anyone away. There will be a higher level of social need in Portland. If tuition is not an obstacle, then that's more of a plus.
  - RJ: we have some names to give you, contacts that might be helpful. We are also trying to build up this school as a place to do practicums. There are lots of sources for instructors.
- Finance:
  - KB: Balance is \$3224.62
  - Merchandise check from tech show, some expenses.
  - ~~Took out~~ hall of fame and football donations **have been directed to the proper accounts.**
- Membership:

- JP: Picked up a member every month. 164 people.
- PayPal is \$34.05, going into checking.
- Anyone that registered at Tech Show is counted as a new member.
- JS: any outstanding bills?
  - We do have \$200 we were donating to the June 3rd event.
  - Kevin Flink asked if we were going to donate \$500 to the summer **KPBS radio** station program.
    - NG: Move we donate \$500 to **KBPS-Kevin**. KB: Seconded. Motion passed.
    - Ken wrote the checks for KBPS and the June 3rd picnic.
  - We will have about \$250 **in costs** for the janitorial staff for the picnic.
- Discussion about the august picnic and how we would charge, complications of ~~the classes~~ **Class Reunions** etc.
  - Discussion about: bring your own food or purchase ticket \$5 each. We can give free tickets to incoming freshmen, members.
  - Max will create a flyer and send it to the board.
- Health Clinic update.
  - RJ: This is the only high school that has no mental health services. Amy Henry couldn't get help from the district on a Kaiser grant, so she found someone to fill out the application. PPS said ~~they could~~ **should** go back to their neighborhood school for health services. It's an effort. **See OregonLive article from** last week, **and print addition** ~~published paper~~ today. They are always looking for help at the counseling center.
  - NG: I get notices from Grant's counseling center, and there was one about apprenticeships with Gunderson for diesel education. Rob: they want people to be trained to be welders, not internships. Peterson/Caterpillar has a website up about partnership with PCC.
  - RJ: Anderson says he has more jobs than he has kids to place.
  - DW: instructors tell me kids are not ready to go to work because they don't have the skills. The kids want to learn, we need a more comprehensive program.
  - NG: I will just forward these to Rob and Don so they can check with the counselling center to see if they are doing something similar.
- Athletics update:
  - DB:
    - In response to the march on the office, John Issacs was assigned to get things under control. Haskins came to speak to a small group of representatives, followed by the forum in the gymnasium. The reaction was that every time Haskins speaks, the answers are slightly different. We needed written materials to examine and disseminate so we all understand the same thing.
    - In response, John Issacs and Trip Goodall met with the site council and said they agree. ~~You tell us your~~ **They would like our** concerns in writing and ~~we will respond with written answers~~. We would like to have ~~a~~ structured, moderated meetings. He's co-opted the site council to be sponsors of the meeting with the community. This week they are coming

to talk about how to structure the meeting for May 21st, location not confirmed, then we'll need to get the word out. It will be very important to have people show up. Partly because the district judges the concern of the community by how many people show up. Students as well as parents, etc.

- We've submitted 11 questions, which have been sent to the board. We have not seen any answers yet. We are anticipating a need for more written questions after the meeting on the 21st. We think we'll have rebuttal questions and may need to make counter proposals. The hint is that they are not going to make decisions until late fall.
- The PIL Fan Base is made up of representatives from different schools. Benson has three people, but only one is active. They tried to get answers from Haskins, but it took 12 weeks and only after special appeal to Carol Smith. We're preparing ourselves for a long time frame.
- The feeling is that we have to have students and parents ramped up now. We could win the paper war but if we don't have supporters out there, the district could still say we don't have enough support.
- Coaches were nudged into freshman forecasting, to talk to the kids about turning out for sports in the fall. Practice begins 18th of August. Coaches are hopefully showing up for June 3rd picnic, which is a second attempt to engage freshmen. Benson football schedule for fall was finally worked out.
- Current athletic director: Rachael Draper: is leaving to take full time job at Franklin. We don't know who the athletic director is next year. There is only one in school coach, all the others are contract, part-time coaches. They aren't here to contact kids during the year, etc. It's different bonding. This can't be quickly or easily remedied.
- PPS **has** contracted with Portland Parks **for Buckman Field**, they arranged for Benson to have access until 6PM Mon through Thurs. That's limited time for practice. The boys' soccer team has to practice somewhere else. Grant, in contrast, they have access beyond 6PM. These are just some of the issues Benson has that require attention.
- Haskins sent out the minimum number of students per program - you have to have 25 players on a football team. You don't have to have four teams, but two teams. 25 players means 3 paid coaches. Dale had handout of minimums.
- JP: The cost is \$175 per sport per student; \$350 cap per student per year, \$700 per family per year. Financial assistance waivers granted as directed by the principal. Must be student initiated.
- Might be something to discuss at the picnic.
- RJ: June picnic is a better time for that.
- Maybe we could get someone dedicated to walking the kids through the waiver process.
- DW: people don't look at the emotional cost of this. Too scared of being put down to work through the waiver process.
- DB: Haskins threw out the idea that kids could play at their neighborhood school instead of the community school. The OSAA allows for that for

private/home school kids. They allow it if a school has no sports at all. So the only way Benson students could play at a neighborhood school is if we had no sports whatsoever, or if PPS petitions OSAA to make exceptions. The likelihood of this happening is small and would take a few years to work out. We're trying to make the district to admit this is not an option on the table.

- We need Benson to proceed with creating a Boosters club. There are a lot of things we can do as an alumni group, but the Boosters club can focus on athletics. It would be a good show of faith if that club could get going.
- I move that the board creates an ad-hoc committee to help with establishing a Boosters club. No financial support. NG - seconded. Discussion: we need someone to start the discussion in the Benson community started - anyone interested in forming a Boosters club come her at this time and place. Get the group started.
- NG: The PTSA isn't functioning well. But we need some direction in establishing a 501C-3 for Boosters or PTSA.
- Vote: all in favor, motion passes.
- Who would like to be on the committee:
  - JP, KB, NG, DB chairman.
- RJ: we should call out to alum athletes. Looking to start the boosters club, please come help.
- MB: You could try contacting Bob Brown, Benson parent and former PTSA member. ~~again. If he doesn't have to work with the district, he might be willing to help.~~
- JP: I think there's definitely a group that's been waiting for this opportunity.
- What sports are at Benson, what's going to happen to sports this fall: kids have to make decisions early. June 3rd, presenting opportunities.
- There is momentum for hiring a teacher for the Drafting Program. Tammy Hite is interested in the position.
- Max will get all previous minutes out. If there are no corrections by the 23<sup>rd</sup>, they will stand as sent.
- Max will check for a meeting date with Rob to discuss picnic planning, will email the board the date.
- Daimler's diesel shop:
  - Don wants to get going for next school year.
  - Daimler is interested in working with Benson to upgrade the ~~asked for Anderson's phone number, as they want to build diesel shop.~~ We would like to use this - businesses stepping forward to show support - to get legislation passed for sustained funding.
  - Talked about canopy between radio building and portable.
  - If we can get that and diesel shop done, there is a lot of momentum. Boeing was interested in aviation program. Stopped these talks to get ~~Anderson and~~ teachers and ~~Principal Wilson~~ Curtis on board.
  - ~~Need Hutchin's phone number.~~

- ~~RJ: Because Anderson's in charge of the program, he has to be on board with anything. Curtis will look to Anderson.~~
- DW: Getting the cover over the buildings would show good faith, would create space for Tim/Amy.
- GeoTech:
  - RJ: Amy Slaughter has given notice. Amy and Tim were the folks that created geotech **program**. It used part of the body shop which created tension. Came to a head in the last 30 days. Tim's home is in electrical 80 percent of the time, they wanted to move the program to construction. Talk to Rich about it. So much of it is teacher based, if you find someone you can work with, it's good.
  - DW: I will talk with Barth and Amanda.
  - RJ: See if they can go to the railroad museum and see the work you're talking about.
- 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 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.
- 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 location, date, time TBD.

Respectfully Submitted,

Maj Britt (Max) Baker  
Secretary  
BPHS Alumni Association