

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



Date: Dec 14, 2015  
Starting Time: 5:00 pm Ending Time: 7:02pm  
Benson Library

**ATTENDEES:**

Roger Edwards (RE), Wes Soderback (WS), Dale Bajema (DB), Mike Landstrom (ML), Rob Johns (RJ), Max Baker (MB), Josh Piper (JP), Annika Johnson (AJ). Guest Tammy Hite

**MINUTES:**

- Tammy Hite:
  - Shared architects are engaged with CTE instructors; construction, electrical, transportation, and Health Occupation and working together for rebuild.
  - School 12th St. and C & E wings will be part of the Historical portion which need to remain during the remodel.
  - Centennial committee meeting January 2016, hopeful of what to do with centennial celebration.
    - Button machine not working for 18 months. Will inquire if can be fixed. Xxx shared he would be willing to fix.
  - Talked about Perkins grant (Federal grant) for equipment. Went to PPS to be distributed...
  - CTE programs within PPS has tripled over the last 2 years.
  - Architecture class going well. Students' skills in getting homework done has improved. Presentation to architecture firm soon, 2 week project.
  - Thinking of how to protect plaques and flags and things, where to place them. Her kids will be involved and hoping to get other majors involved when the remodel happens.
  - The medical clinic is under construction, tearing up concrete. Much stuff that was in the alumni hall of fame room needs to be gone through.
  - We were talking about an accurate history of Benson, we have tech peeps from the 20s and such bound in a book but they are very frail.
    - Tammy to contact the person on the Historical Society to see if she knows. If she can't get anywhere she'll contact Roger who will ask his genealogical contact.
- MB arrived 5:49PM
- Benson 2020 - RJ:
  - Discussion with Paul Anthony: Next three schools will cost 670 million dollars – the number added to tax bill is too significant and they think it will fail. The pullback becomes to do the basic upgrades, not a new rebuild. Benson has more history – more likely to want to not take everything down.

- Tammy – school needs ADA access. Any remodel needs to have it, 25% of the budget. There are classrooms and locker rooms you can't access in a wheelchair.
- And seismic concerns.
- When we did have 1600 students, the classrooms above automotive were filled with academic classes, and they are not accessible.
- Financial report:
  - Transferred \$800 from OnPoint to PointWest as we continue to transition. Still need to order checks. Continuing this account until PayPal money is done transferring, then we will roll it all over by the end of January.
  - \$2383.26 at OnPoint.
  - Check to JP for \$225.25 to cover postage for Yearbook mailing.
  - \$2158.01 will be the balance.
  - We need to think about the budget for the next year. Let's plan to have this done by Feb
    - Fall back to school for teachers
    - Tech Show
    - Picnic
    - One more activity for alumni/teachers?
      - MB - Sporting event with free something for alums/staff that wear Blue and Orange?
      - RE - Incoming freshman welcome was good last year.
      - WS - discussion about creating event committee to funnel event ideas and special event committees.
- Membership – JP
  - No change. 140 overall members, 68 paid members.
  - It's time for annual dues.
  - JP will update the website to say 2016.
  - Needs \$40 in postage to do the mailings.
    - JP moved for the money
    - ML seconded
    - Motion passed.
  - PayPal balance is \$342.40
  - Grossed \$1300 in yearbook sales. Sold about \$50. Tammy hasn't invoiced us yet.
- Updates to website discussion
  - Ken still listed as treasurer
  - Agenda and minutes not up to date:
    - AJ volunteered to help.
  - Termed positions: WS electing to move to be re-elected if necessary next year. It wasn't clear during election. Discussion ensued and it was agreed we would make it clear in the meeting what term length the positions held.
- Clarification of rules for membership – WS
  - Members have to fill out an application and pay dues.

- Our recent graduated do fill out the application if they want to join. Dues are waived. As long as they know what they are signing up for, that is good.
- If you belong you have a right to access the membership roster and their addresses? MB will research with a lawyer.
- Sports – DB
  - Last Feb when Curtis made decision with Sanjay and others to step back from varsity football, rebuild the program etc. At that time they said at the end of the season they would revisit the decision. Committee was appointed to review the program.
  - The committee met in November: Curtis, football coach, track coach who runs the weight program for athletes, former Benson AD, Marshall Haskins, DB. 2 hour meeting with 3 options on the table: continue JV, move up, or play independent schedule.
  - There are 39 players returning, including 15 seniors. Lots of enthusiasm. Coach is a team builder, thinks kids are really talented. The coach took all the kids that were seniors last year around to other colleges, to boost them as potential applicants for those schools.
  - The meeting was very good – adult conversations.
    - Marshall had a lot of concern that the kids are still undersized and would get creamed. We ended up making a decision but were all sworn to secrecy. Marshall had to take recommendation through 2 or 3 layers of central district office and it might get derailed. Outcome might have to be cleared with state athletic committees.
    - Curtis was concerned that about continuing at JV level. Last year the seniors got waivers to play JV, and the school can give them varsity letters. But he was concerned to go to 15 juniors and their parents and convincing them to play JV.
    - Left the meeting before Thanksgiving. After 10 days went by and there was no word, he got the feeling that Haskins might have changed his mind about the recommendation. Curtis has scheduled a meeting with the district to get it back on track.
    - JP – Tribune reported Varsity Independent was the selected option for two years. But the article only quotes the coach and doesn't mention anything about the district, so perhaps that's not the final word.
    - Discussion about how the independent team schedule might work with surrounding areas and schools of the same size.
- Site Council – DB:
  - Past site council, Barry Phillips (VP at Benson Tech) and Curtis introduced a new initiative that district is rolling out. School climate plan, on how to deal with discipline issues. There is a lot of disparity, especially among races. Not sure how it's going to work yet – forming teams in each school to do a review of practices. Teams composed of parents, students, teachers, administrators. Philosophical discussions about including victim feedback allowed in the process.

- DB: When Steve O was here Benson Tech was doing pretty well, not sure how it is now.
- Don Wear might be interested on being on one of those teams.
- Minutes – MB:
  - There were no corrections.
  - ML moved we accept the minutes. DB seconded. Motion passed.
- Merchandise – JP:
  - We are stocked well. Might consider some other merchandise.
  - JP talked to auto guy (Tim Hryciw) about Benson Alum license plate covers. He'll talk about that.
  - Discussion about Tech Foundation metal paperweights?
- RJ:
  - The Youth Entrepreneurial Program is going to receive laptops. These were the sophomore Tech Algebra kids. They've already been doing West Side schools on the weekends.
- Next meeting Jan 11<sup>th</sup> at the Benson Tech library.

OLD BUSINESS – things to keep in mind

- Plan for merchandise?
- Archiving location and cataloguing

Respectfully Submitted,

Maj Britt (Max) Baker  
Secretary  
BPHS Alumni Association