

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



Date: May 9, 2016

Starting Time: 5:39 pm Ending Time: 7:37pm

Benson Library

**ATTENDEES:**

Don Wear (DW), Ken Bakke (KB), Neal Galash (NG), Roger Edwards (RE), Max Baker (MB), Annika Johnson (AJ), Rob Johns (RJ), Josh Piper (JP), Dale Bajema (DB), Dick Spies (DS), Gerry Ochs (GO); Guests: Kevin Clark (master planning group), Bob Trimble (class of 1977, long range planning), Rachael Kuryunny (graduate), Paul Anthony (parent of Benson student and PPS School Board).

**MINUTES:**

- Tammy Hite:
  - Five students from Benson in April won gold at Skills USA. There is a GoFundMe account to help get them to nationals. Skills USA is the old VICA. Leadership club that is associated with vocational and technical education. They compete in their skills area. Not all students are required to join, most join in April for the competition. They are also reaching out to industry partners. It's set for \$9000 that was to send 2 instructors as well. Cathy Skatch is retiring this year, so there are 2 staff sharing the position.
- Paul Anthony:
  - Many years ago, state wanted to start a charter school. ACE school was created. Putting along doing reasonably well for four districts. Three years ago they got a new director who is phenomenal. They just lost their lease. Two months ago, they had to vote to close.
  - It either moves to Benson or it dies. Looked at lots of options. For next year, the students who want to, which would probably be 45, will transfer as seniors into Benson. We'll see how much of ACE's faculty we can bring over, as well as equipment. They have full AutoCAD for their students. Long term, we talk about forming business partnerships, and they have many great ones. Those industries have been pouring money into ACE for decades. We're going to save their program. What we would like to do with this is to reposition Benson as the regional center for CTE that it once was, recreating the relationship with East Multnomah County the way ACE was running. Carol Smith and others have been supporting this. Financially, this is a good way to position Benson for CTE funding and grants. We'll know by the end of the week how many kids are coming. If 45 come, we may get 2 more FTE.
  - New positions that will open with increased enrollment next fall:
    - Advanced Math
    - Electric

- Biology
  - Science, Physics and Chemistry
  - 2 Digital Media
  - Health Occupations
  - Architecture
- The district right now has made it difficult to transfer kids around. They are thinking about running the school as a district charter instead of an independent charter. Different budget for working with the transfer kids.
- Their English teacher focuses on technical writing, so it would be great to work that in. They don't let kids graduate without being able to write a winning grant proposal.
- We'd get many construction kids in, which we need.
- Complications:
  - If we get more than 12 additional incoming seniors, we're going to have to move one of the alternate programs out of the building. The administration has agreed to work with us.
  - Up front and graceful with the staff. The attempt to bring ACE in many years ago still sits in some people's mouths. Curtis has been good at discussions.
- Last year carpenters' union took 7 of their kids into their apprenticeship program. We've usually been only 1 or 2 a year.
- This would jump start the engineering program, and help bolster robotics.
- Carol Campbell is moving to college and career readiness position.
- Mt. Hood Community college is looking to start a narrow focus engineering program running, if they get that before PPS has a regional center, the money will flow there instead. PCC is also looking to start something.
- Do we want CTE opportunities to move from the high school to the college level? We don't think so.
- There are a few people running for election that are on board with CTE:
  - Stuart Emmons
  - Roberta Phillip-Robins
- DS: Are they thinking about altering the master planning plans?
- Paul: No. It's unlikely we'd be able to attract that many more kids out of East County. They'll have other options.
- DS: 1700 and 1825 is a difference... any discussion about that?
- Paul: no. Once we get to the design phase, it will need to be revisited.
- Looked at doing expedited approval of their charter, seeing if we could run it this coming year as a district charter that is basically invisible to all except bookkeepers. They will be working that through this coming year. The DAG will also be working on the charter.
- There are many ideas about how to move people around during the school rebuild. The Blanchard building has room for construction and automotive.
- Lots of talk about the Bond Measure. Looking at dropping a high school, phasing in work over multiple bonds, extending timeline for repaying the

bond, scaling back work, retaining existing theaters. Benson, Madison, Lincoln are the three schools.

- ML couldn't make it, treasurer's report next time.
- Membership – JP
  - No changes
- Non-Partisan Discussion for Alumni – DB
  - How involved can the alumni association be (and should they be) in political issues like the Bond Measure? Statement passed out:
  - Be it resolved, consistent with its By-laws and stated mission to support Benson Polytechnic High School, the BPHSAA and its officers may publically support local, state and federal measures, rules, and/or legislation concerning education, school levies, school bonds and grants and may otherwise seek money, other resources, policies and rules on behalf of Benson from Portland Public School District and its elected and non-elected officials. However, it may not spend Association money to do so beyond limited administrative supplies, or endorse or support partisan efforts or individuals running for public office or seeking a non-political appointment.
  - Discussion about the statement ensued. RJ advocated for why it was written the way it was.
  - DS: This is very timely. Urge to vote today to pass it. We need to support this bond measure. The district will not be able to promote the bond measure – it's up to groups and individuals. Our association should be able to stand up for the measure. When the public asks us what the bond measure means, we need to answer. I agree with not supporting individuals. I fully support this statement.
  - GO: I agree 100%. Always pushing for the betterment of the school.
  - NG: Agree. Some of it is clearly outside our scope, some is borderline, and some is clearly within scope. I am comfortable with the wording for this. We aren't a 501C-3 but we should act like one, because we probably will be someday.
  - Kevin – What's written is suitable, but I would recommend that in future we should become a 501C-3 and it will become clearer what is suitable. You still have PAC influence, you can sponsor or be associated with a PAC, but not contribute more than 10% income. Etc.
  - KB – Is this a proposed amendment to the by-laws? If it's not in the bylaws it might not have any teeth.
  - DB – We'd have to lay this out and vote on it next time. This is proposed as a binding resolution.
  - JR – We could certainly propose this as a bylaws amendment.
  - DW – Asking individuals to sign for IB65 – this is good guidance as we move forward.
  - Rachael – would the association consider buying a space in the voter's guide? For instance in support of the bond measure. Discussion indicated that the board would not be comfortable at this time spending money on

- that. Paul suggested an Op-Ed with a few names and the Association name would have great effect.
- Discussion about the meaning of partisanship. Suggestion to change words to support multi-partisan efforts.
  - The draft will be sent out in the meeting minutes. All members can send comments back to DB at dalebajema@comcast.net
  - Centennial Reunion – DB:
    - Curtis likes the idea of kicking off the centennial. Tammy is heading up the committee for the school. The August picnic will be the first splash. Would like a big banner.
      - Paul: Let’s ask Tim Hryciw if they can do it. RJ will contact him.
      - GO will call and ask Elmer’s Banners what they do there.
    - Car decals to sell at cost, student group could continue to sell them.
    - Reunion in June of 2017 is the end cap event.
    - Kevin volunteered to help with PR.
    - Rachael volunteered to help on planning committee.
  - Booster/Site/Sports – DB
    - Booster club is done.
    - Varsity football is back next year as an independent team. Most of the schedule is worked out.
    - Paul – I am leaning on the district to do away with athletic fees this year. They do have reduced fees if you are on economic hardship. It could dramatically increase participation. Athletics involvement keeps students engaged and in school.
    - Nothing new on Site Council.
  - Design Committee/Bond Measure – RJ
    - Thursday at 8PM is the design meeting, room 125 (old band room).
    - Please note: in this phase, it’s not really important where majors are located. It will become important in the design phase.
    - It’s been outstanding to hear the students speak at the meetings open to the public.
  - Freshman picnic is June 1<sup>st</sup>. 5:30 to 8PM. Curtis would love it if the alumni were there.
  - RJ will check with Curtis about the Alumni picnic date – concern that the school listed it as the 13<sup>th</sup> instead of the 20<sup>th</sup>.
  - RJ led a tour from Austin Entrepreneur School. They funded the majority of a bus with 45 kids and lunch to OSU. Algebra Tech kids, but also open to any students. They are going this Friday.
    - Kevin – do you have contact with STEM academy? No.
  - OIT offers summer courses at a discount to Benson students.
  - Paul’s daughter got an internship with Bonneville. PPS and Benson puts almost no kids into these internship opportunities. They are brokered by Saturday Academy. It’s the kids from private schools getting these opportunities. Benson needs to be pushing kids into these opportunities.

- Next meeting June 13th at the Benson Tech library at 5:30PM.

OLD BUSINESS – things to keep in mind

- Plan for merchandise?
- Archiving location and cataloguing

Respectfully Submitted,

Maj Britt (Max) Baker  
Secretary  
BPHS Alumni Association