

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



Date: Aug 8, 2016  
Starting Time: 5:40 pm  
Ending Time: 7:40pm  
Mackenzie Group (M Group)

**ATTENDEES:**

Rob Johns (RJ), Josh Piper (JP), Dale Bajema (DB), Gerry Ochs (GO), Roger Edwards (RE), Mike Landstrom (ML), Neal Galash (NG), Ken Bakke (KB), Dick Spies (DS),  
Guests: Kevin Clark (master planning group), Bob Trimble (class of 1977, long range planning), Rachael Kuryunny (graduate), Ed Wagner (graduate, 1959).

**MINUTES:**

- Correspondence - ML:
  - Obituary of an alum was sent by the deceased's wife to include on the website.
- Treasurer's Report – ML:
  - \$3797.12 current balance.
  - \$288 check was cut for janitorial services for the picnic on the 20<sup>th</sup>.
- Membership - JP:
  - 51 paid members
  - Board members should pay dues if they have not.
- Bond Measure – RJ:
  - Op-ed in Oregonian this last Sunday. People at Lincoln are advocating for the bond to be on the November ballot instead of waiting for May.
  - If we want to push for that, the school board would have to make a reversal.
  - At the July 25<sup>th</sup> meeting, where I was part of the public testimony, the school board voted to delay until May 2017, because they needed to spend their energies to find a new superintendent.
  - There had been nobody from Madison or Lincoln there. Only 4 pro-Benson speakers.
  - Bond committee had met on Sat to reduce all schools by 20%. That was the request made. However, school board members had a call from a pollster saying the bond would not pass in November.
  - Discussion took place about changes to the remodel plans.
  - DS – the district only has so much capacity. They can't do a full scale remodel of all three schools simultaneously. They are thinking they need to spread these out over more time, incrementally.
  - Ed: what about the lead in the water?
  - DS – earlier they identified the amount that the community would support. After the lead information, they decided to take some of that money and use it for remediation. Our position is always that Benson, being the oldest

- school, would need to be done first. Lincoln partnering with Portland State, seemed to be getting the attention.
- RJ – meeting the week of the 15<sup>th</sup>. We'll know more then.
  - Community Picnic – MB:
    - RJ: We will have Credit Union tents. Previously we had researched cost of larger tents and it was prohibitive.
    - RJ: Grill is now at the school. I'll talk to Curtis.
    - RJ will ask Curtis about tours.
    - We'll update the picnic flyer to include info on the centennial celebration.
    - DB: we think it would be great to fund a banner about the centennial for the picnic and other events: first day of school, homecoming, tech show etc. We've talked about a birthday sign that everyone could sign as well. Curtis has agreed to give us some display cases and RE has agreed to keep those rotating.
    - MB to procure birthday cakes for the picnic.
    - Information about the grand reunion in 2017 should be available at the front table.
    - KB and NG to man the grill.
    - ML moved we have up to \$400 spent on the picnic. KB seconded. Motion passed
    - RJ will go to Franz and get the buns.
    - We'll have water and soda.
    - See you on the 20<sup>th</sup>.
  - Teacher's BBQ – RJ:
    - Points West is our partner on this. They accept liability for alcohol.
    - Aug 23<sup>rd</sup> is the date, around 3-6PM. Before kids are in school.
    - We provide food and refreshment.
    - The date may move to the 30<sup>th</sup>. RJ to clarify the date.
    - Alums can come and meet and talk to the teachers. Casual event for them also to get to know each other.
  - DB: Note there is a new Vice Principle. Tanya Mjelde.
  - Centennial celebration – DB:
    - Banner – GO has a friend that can do it at Elmer's Flag and Banner. 40 ft. by 5 ft. Basic design: Benson Tech; Century of Excellence. It will be \$600 with the friend discount. We'll get signoff from Curtis by tomorrow afternoon.
    - DB moved that we spend up to \$600 on a banner observing 100+ years for the school. KB seconded. Motion passed.
    - Rachel: may want to include the website.
    - Discussion about materials – need it to last.
    - Discussion about including our alumni website – it was agreed it was a good idea.
    - RE is taking the lead to fill the display cases that Curtis ok'd for the alumni for centennial. If anyone would like to help, please contact him. This will be coordinated with Tammy Hite.

- Benson football schedule will permit homecoming on the 21<sup>st</sup> of October. Tammy and the school will be working out the details. We may want to make a contribution as that comes closer.
- Next centennial meeting September 6<sup>th</sup> at the school at 3:30PM, probably the library classroom.
- The centennial committee will NOT meet on the 20<sup>th</sup>, the day of the picnic.
- Timing discussion: DB
  - The previous date we thought about falls on father's day, which is also Pride weekend. But there is something going on every weekend.
  - Pros and Cons to each time. RJ suggests the weekend of the 10th, rather than father's day – come to do our stuff and rose festival in the same weekend.
  - There will be Fri, Sat, Sunday events. Friday Norse Hall, Sat is the community picnic at the school with tours. Sat event: Oregon Historical Society. RJ spoke with the director and they are willing to allow us to use our own caterers, June 10<sup>th</sup>. 5PM cash bar, 6PM to 10PM? Thinking about speakers and items we could display. Would be great to get media students involved.
  - Sunday – golf tournament 10AM – 2PM. GO talked to them, can also do cruise-in. They are remodeling and will have a picnic pavilion. Coldwood. 9 hole, par 3 course. We can take the whole course. 36-45 golfers. He reserved the 11<sup>th</sup>. They also have soccer golf – we'd have to find out interest to see if we could make both work. Might be able to do that on Sat the day before. We can have them cater or they can purchase the drinks/food from there.
  - KB – Broadmore is also available. \$24 lunch. Alternative for non golfers.
  - Rachel – more likely to have happy teacher's since school is out on the 9<sup>th</sup>.
  - ML: NECC: the director said she would provide a night of daycare for \$500.
  - It was agreed that the weekend before father's day is better.
- Previous minutes were discussed. Final draft will be sent. Please read it over and send comments to MB.
- DB moved that the changes proposed to the bylaws at the previous meeting be approved. GO seconded. Motion passed.
- Board Nominations:
  - Rachael Kuryunny, Kevin Clark, and Bob Trimble have been nominated. Two positions end Feb 2017. Kevin Clark declined the nomination, but will still attend meetings.
  - ML moves that Rachael and Bob be appointed to the vacant board positions. KB seconded. Motion passed.
- RE: feedback on Freshman picnic?
  - The three alums there said it was an amazing success!

- Ed: Wanted to say feel very comfortable here, because we all have a passion for supporting the school. The reason I came today after chatting with DS, was because of the article in the paper on Sunday. There are many forces that you will contend with regarding the bond measure.
  - Discussion ensued, led by RJ, about bringing in our business partners to help with keeping Benson at the top of the bond measure. Latino Network is also a great partner. We're at about 28% Latino population right now. Four neighborhood business councils. We're doing what we can to build a base of support. One of the obstacles is that PPS has historically been a bad business partner. We have to get past previous bad experiences to get those businesses back on board.
  - Discussion about including the arts community in the bond discussions. Making partnerships with theaters to rent/lease the auditorium space, as spaces are disappearing.
  - DB: Drama club re-invigorated last year and there is a 3 year agreement with Oregon Shakespeare Company to do Shakespeare in the school. English teachers will be introducing Shakespeare in support of the program.
  - Bob: There is ample evidence that the arts keeps students engaged in school.
  - RJ: Taking away the arts with the district's push.
  - Racheal: Arts has gotten greater focus even in stem schools. It is best practice.
  - Bob: STEM has turned into STEAM to include the arts.
- RJ: Thanks to everyone. Good discussions.
- Next meeting is September 12<sup>th</sup> at the high school.

OLD BUSINESS – things to keep in mind

- Plan for merchandise?
- Archiving location and cataloguing

Respectfully Submitted,

Maj Britt (Max) Baker  
Secretary  
BPHS Alumni Association