

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



Date: Nov 14, 2016  
Starting Time: 5:30 pm  
Ending Time: 7:40 pm  
Benson Tech library

**ATTENDEES:**

Rob Johns (RJ), Ken Bakke (KB), Josh Piper (JP), Neal Galash (NG), Rachael Kuryunny (RK), Annika Johnson (AJ), Max Baker (MB), Bob Trimble (BT), Roger Edwards (RE), Mike Landstrom (ML), Gerry Ochs (GO); Guests: Kevin Clark, Curtis Wilson (Principal)

**MINUTES:**

- Guest Speakers
- Curtis:
  - Discussion of the walk out and group of students that came to the school.
  - Measure 98
    - Expecting about 10 million for PPS high schools – how that will be divided is TBD.
  - 8<sup>th</sup> grade visit night tomorrow night. Please come if you would like to.
  - Application for high schools deadline:
    - Principals of neighborhood schools have a hard time knowing when kids are coming, so they pushed for earlier deadline. Feb 1<sup>st</sup> through 22<sup>nd</sup> this year, as before. Tech Show will be the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>. It will move depending on when the application deadline is.
    - District decided to move it the year after to Dec/Jan.
    - The kids can actually wait until the first day of school to decide what school to go to. It's hard for us as well. About 25 kids never show up to Benson Tech each year and then we're trying to backfill those spaces.
  - Football team had 3 victories. This season is the last season as independent. We'll have another meeting to see where the team goes. Coach believes they are ready.
  - We're on our 3<sup>rd</sup> architect group – Basetti Architects talked about listening to staff, being on site, etc. Very impressed. 4 to 6 year process. They are going to be with us for quite a while. They are currently interviewing each staff member for what their visions are for their classrooms. The architects came in to speak to the staff again said that they will be building for 1750 Benson students.
  - Curtis will be checking with students and staff to see if there is student interest and staffing for other majors coming back.
  - There will be 65 more kids next year – 2 to 3 more teachers and classrooms, and we don't have space. Teachers will probably have to share rooms.

- District is saying PISA is going away. They use 1 ½ classrooms and some space above the auditorium. The space above the auditorium is going to still be used by the district.
- PISA, DART, step down, Pioneer, Alliance, reconnection, evening scholars, summer school.
- Lots of discussion about what the school could look like if the programs moved, history of how they got here.
- Loved the hiring this summer – young, experienced former Benson students, minorities, excited to be teaching.
- Staff meetings every Monday 3:30 to 5PM – open door invitation.
- Tech geo just finished 4 tiny houses. They'll paint them then call the media and donate them to the city – city will give them to some homeless people.
- Benson House trying to get ready for selling at Christmas Break.
- District has 3 lots – they gave us one to build a house.
- Treasurer's report: ML
  - \$2668.87
- Membership: JP
  - 2 new members gained. 54 current.
  - Sold a few yearbooks.
  - \$129.88 balance in PayPal. Will transfer it end of week.
- Reunion update: RK
  - JP is getting her a BPHSAA account to send an email to the class contacts about the reunion in about a week.
  - Trying to chase down the contact at Norse Hall. DB contacted David, but he was not responsive. RK contacted the rental coordinator: Whit Draper. He got back to her almost immediately. She forwarded the email from DB with the information about our event to Whit. He forwarded it to the board. David got back to RK right before the meeting and said they rejected special pricing for us, but RK believes the decision was made without all the information. It would cost \$2000 for the rental.
  - David is going back to the board to see if RK's class contract could be used to push the idea.
  - Discussion about not doing Norse Hall and channeling money and energy to other events. Maybe we could speak in front of their board.
  - Food and decorations would be above \$2000, drinks would be a cash bar.
  - Archiving group to pull things from Oregon Historical Society:
    - AJ, RK.
- Discussion about the walk outs today.
- Renovation update – Master Planning: RJ, BT, Kevin:
  - Last Thursday convened again. Discussion was around a general outline of what to expect in the coming months, forming subcommittees. Just a rehash of what we'd already discussed. There was a good turnout. It's a public forum – the public is invited to attend.
  - Smaller group meeting this Thursday.

- Next meeting Dec 8<sup>th</sup> here at Benson 6 to 8PM., probably in the band room.
- We're trying to build better contingency plans. There was lack of continuity and miscommunications the last year. Hoping that this new process will be better.
- Budget is the issue – PPS needs to accept the recommendations of the committee for a building for 1750 students.
- Discussion between Kevin and RJ about how to convince everyone what Benson's needs are. We need to develop proposals to make Business partnerships.
- Invitation from RJ:
  - Open to family and friends. There will wine and appetizers. Cellar 55 in Vancouver. Friday Dec 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- Minutes:
  - MB received corrections from JP and Kevin. Incorporated those changes in to the minutes.
  - ML: move to accept corrected meeting minutes from Oct. if no other corrections received by Friday the 18<sup>th</sup>.
  - Seconded by NG.
  - All voted in favor.
- 95.1 KISN low power nonprofit station. BT asked if they would donate some PSA time to Benson. What would we do with 30 seconds of time?
  - Can start with going to Alumni website, promo for Tech show – advertising our meetings, join the association??? Grand Reunion. Etc.
  - BT will come up with some 30 second spots, will get them to RJ and kick it around the group.
- Next meeting is December 12th at the high school. Reunion meeting immediately following.

## OLD BUSINESS

- Monetary requests:
  - Discussion about the 2 groups that asked for funding:
    - Student Body money for T-shirts
    - Black Student Union
  - Discussion centered on alternatives to giving money and helping them with crowd funding sites and grant writing.
  - RJ will get back to both groups: we will offer JP's help with websites/social media, and Kevin's help with grants; businesses with community funding programs. Can offer a connection to Kenton Station, run by James Littlejohn.
  - NB made a motion that RJ contact the groups and let them know that we cannot provide funds but that we can provide services with fundraising help like consultation for grant writing and website presence. We would be open to hearing further presentations and possibly providing money in the future.
    - Discussion and restating of the motion occurred.
    - ML seconded.
    - All voted in favor.

- Things to remember:
  - Idea of paying students to follow up with alumni in the directory.
    - Kevin – we can use response data to help with grant writing.
  - Plan for merchandise?
  - Archiving location and cataloguing

Respectfully Submitted,

Maj Britt (Max) Baker  
Secretary  
BPHS Alumni Association