

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



Date: Dec 12, 2016  
Starting Time: 5:40 pm  
Ending Time: 7:40 pm  
Benson Tech library

**ATTENDEES:**

Rob Johns (RJ), Rachael Kuryunny (RK), Max Baker (MB), Bob Trimble (BT), Gerry Ochs (GO), Mike Landstrom (ML), Neal Galash (NG), Ken Bakke (KB), Josh Piper (JP), Roger Edwards (RE); Guests: Kevin Clark (KC); Amy Henry, school counselor; Paul Anthony, PPS schoolboard and student parent.

**MINUTES:**

- Guest Speakers
- Amy:
  - Working on student recruitment for the 360 freshman spots, shadow day and Tech show and applications
  - Benson received a grant to help students apply for Federal Aid. Deadline moved to Oct 21<sup>st</sup> – did a big push to let them know.
  - Oregon Promise has not been renewed. Legislature voting on it in Feb. Last year was trial year to pay for first year college for any graduate with 2.5 or above. Students have to fill out the financial aid form to qualify, and a short application that takes about 15 minutes.
  - Did survey last year of juniors that reported that 6% would be ORSA – undocumented or in the process of becoming citizens. They do not qualify for federal money but do qualify for Oregon Promise – different document to fill out.
  - Every week we can run a report to see who fills out the forms. We're at about 60% that have filled it out. Trying to meet with some students who haven't filled it out. Some students are going directly into work or military, some need to get their family financial information.
  - Question from ML: Why aren't we getting juniors and seniors into Community college or vocational schools?
    - Paul Anthony: It costs about twice the amount. Jefferson outcomes are good.
    - KC: It's not simply about costs. It's about the relationship of cost magnitude to projected and real outcomes. Do you get twice the outcomes for twice the cost? Do you get greater outcomes? Do you get less...?
  - Seen a huge increase in applications to Portland State University. If you qualify for even a partial Pell and have a 3.4 or above, you can receive tuition free. University of Oregon has offered the same program for a long time, but housing there is about \$10,000 this year. The PSU program is also like a trial.

- Wellness center is in full gear, very busy. Residents are there 3 days a week and pretty full. Two mental health therapists are there – one from the county and one from Western Psychological. One available 5 days a week. One social worker that trains around prevention and mental health, and some crisis case management. Her position is funded by a grant, so not sure about next year.
- Note the clinic is not free – OHSU works with their insurance, money, etc. Most students are on OHP, so they do bill that.
- KC: Does the health center assist students and their families to enroll in OHP, if students and families are uninsured?
- Amy: Yes.
- All the other high school clinics are run by the county. Our understanding is that the county does bill, but doesn't have the same kind of collection process.
- MESD Nurse is there as well.
- Paul Anthony: The clinic was open this summer – first time ever. The 2 west side high schools do not have clinics, so Wilson kids come here. MLC students as well.
- There is enough volume to keep the clinic open 3 days a week.
- Paul Anthony: continuing to work toward adding dental.
- Amy: there's only one place that has dental and they are booked out 6 months.
- KC: Is there sufficient space to add dental services? What kind of facilities growth is needed for the health center to add dental services or other programs?
- RJ: Planning to use existing ed space for dental services.
- Kevin Clark: Won't that interfere with student instruction?
- RJ: Planned space is currently unused.
- There's also a part time college counselor – Dr. Coleman. Half time with AVID as well.
- Oregon Opportunity Grant is also there, but money runs out so we push them to apply as soon as possible.
- It's usually around 35% straight to 4 year. 50% go to community, with half of those wanting to transfer to 4 year, others moving to other schools/apprenticeships. If they stay in the state of Oregon and go to a 4 year, there's excellent tracking. We have a very high retention rate when they go to a 4 year. Last year we had 12 students go to UofO, 10 returned. It's a high number. Very difficult to get data from community college.
- KC: It's difficult to get data from community colleges because their student retention is lower than traditional four-year colleges. At the October 2016 site council meeting, Curtis confirmed the difficulty in obtaining data about students who work or attend college/university outside Oregon. I've suggested to Curtis and others within the BPHS community that we can establish better post-secondary tracking of BPHS students. Would you, as a career counselor, use long-term post-secondary tracking data, if they were made available to you? I and other members of

the BPHS community can assist in developing and acquiring technologies and analytics/numerical metrics to track and project post-secondary outcomes. That information also is, as I've stated many times, important for developing and securing grants, partnerships, professional/academic pipelines for students and teachers, etc.

- Amy: Yes, I would use that tracking information.
- PCC is getting rid of the placement test system, which students have a hard time placing well on, so they end up having to take remedial classes. Once that's gone we might do better.
- RK expressed dissatisfaction with math placement tests, citing her experience as a teacher.
- KC: In your opinion, what are the possible reasons for poor test validity and/or reliability?
- RK: Not sure. Just thinking about it now.
- We are trying to push taking a fourth year of math – a lot of senior's don't. We offered it as an elective this year. 75 seniors signed up for it.
- Paul Anthony
  - Starting superintendent search. Want to hire by March 2017, in place by July 1st.
  - State deficits – PPS is looking at 20 million dollar shortfall for next school year at least, if the numbers hold. That's 200 teaching positions. Very painful.
  - Bond seems to be in holding pattern. Not a good thing if we are going to pass it in May. Several meetings have been cancelled. Long term, I still have confidence in Benson's future. Just not sure when.
  - Freshman Tech Geometry course – late Sept. power tools were stolen. Huge outpouring of support: lots of gifts. Lowe's then gave them everything and a storage container. They received it about 3 weeks ago. Those classes are getting all their materials donated by the city. Because they got so many cash donations from generous people, the class is buying another shipping container to keep supplies secure.
  - RJ – anything for the master planning committee? Paul – nope. We are hoping it doesn't get cancelled.
  - Measure 98?
    - It's going to be a pain. ODE is implementing it, and it's turning into an enormous mess. The only way to get money for the district is to submit a grant application.
    - KC: When will money first be made available -- CY 2017?
    - Paul: AY 2017.
    - Kevin Clark: Yes, that's what I meant – AY.
    - Money will be directed to high school. Can't be used in middle schools for H.S. feeder programs. Comparatively speaking, high schools are already pretty well supplied. We need it at the middle schools.
    - Despite what the measure said, it looks like ODE is going to allow us to fund existing programs with it.

- KC: What deadlines exist for grant proposals -- Fall/Spring annual cycles? Is there a limit to the number of proposals a school can submit within a granting cycle? Are awards renewable or limited to one grant period?
  - Paul: Those issues are still being discussed.
  - Nobody knows where the money comes from. It was supposed to come from new revenue. There was a campaign to tell the governor to fund it out of the general fund, but that would affect schools. \$12 million hit to PPS if they did that. At the moment, ODE is saying ½ will be funded from general fund. We can't afford to lose 6 million. There are many people working to figure out the money. There's little time, since money is supposed to be available for next school year.
  - Preliminary language is for programs that will last 3 years.
  - Our guess is that Benson will be the one that has its act together, so they'll put in more proposals, but other schools will be upset if the majority of funds goes there.
- 10 years ago, legislature passed mandate for PE. It hits all schools next year. It's a modest increase in high schools, but for elementary schools, it's a x5 increase. It will have a huge impact. 123 additional faculty would be needed in PPS. Almost no schools have the facilities. Many of the gyms are used for breakfast and lunch, so there's lots of downtime. Peter Courtney's bill was an unfunded mandate.
  - School for the top 1% - Access. Started about a dozen years ago at Sabin. 3 years ago moved to Rose City Park. Next year it's probably going to move to Humboldt, which currently holds a charter school. The next 3 Benson houses are probably going to be in the lots behind the school. The kids will be there working on the houses while the middle school kids at Access will see them. The middle school parents and PTA there are really excited about the science and math curriculums that will mirror what's happening at the construction sites. For the last dozen years most of the kids have gone to Grant. This might swing that.
  - 360 Freshman in the fall. We have graduating class of 220. Next year we'll have 140 more bodies in the school. That means 5 more classrooms. PISA program might be moving out. 3 classrooms and a few offices. Curtis thinks he can make the numbers work with that. They want to move it to Wilson, Madison and maybe Franklin, which would be good distribution.
  - Alliance needs its own space. Facilities is looking at a building. De La Salle is leasing it – 30 year lease. They've renegotiated the lease down to 5 years. Kenton is looking good for them. The space that has been added is ideal for the kinds of CTE programs Alliance has. Right at Lombard MAX stop. De La Salle is at capacity, but they don't have sustainable model – exist solely on donations. They've done some great stuff, but there's only so long they can keep going.
  - There are some ideas on other programs moving, but nothing solid yet.

- Franklin, Grant, Madison will be using Marshall. By that time it may have to reopen. Some of the area is not very good. Franklin's principal has done a great job keeping on the city to get areas cleaned up.
- Most of the buildings PPS has are very small buildings with 6 to 10 classrooms. Rice, Terwilligar, Sacajawea, Smith. Jackson can only hold 1000 kids, it's a middle school right now with 800 kids. We all miss Washington. Adams was torn down, but needed to be. Still have property, but probably building middle school there.
- District-wide, we had 30% of the kids completing the FAFSA form. This year they will probably hit 80%. My daughter did it all herself, with the help of the counselor and faculty. Very good work.
- Next school board meeting is tomorrow. On TV if you want to watch it in Portland.
- Leaning on Site Council and Curtis about anticipating increased students in the next few years, and what that allows us to expand into. Adding another CTE major, etc. They are looking at engineering. Might look at Insitu, the drone manufacturer in Binjen, to start up aviation again. If you have ideas about where you think Benson should be going, send them to Dale.
- RK has a contact from her class, Katie that would be interested in teaching aviation – she'll pass on the info on
- KC: Or send ideas to Lisa White, who is heading-up MPC subcommittees on curricular and infrastructure development, including developing and securing partners for new academic and major programs.
- RJ talked a bit about our previous plans for committees by major – list of businesses that might help each major.
- Discussion about age limits and workplace liabilities on apprenticeships during high school.
- Treasurer's report: ML
  - \$2297.71
  - Paypal money just transferred today, so that will be reported next time.
- Membership: JP
  - 54 current members.
- Site Council:
  - Dale isn't here but Paul Anthony reported that there are several new parents. All the issues that he reported on earlier, they are talking about. Dale and Curtis are working well together.
- Master Planning – RJ
  - Was cancelled and rescheduled for this Thursday.
  - Received a call from lead architect, Lauren. He said 118 million.
  - Asked Lauren to reach out to Aviation school contact.
- Reunion update: RK
  - Things did not work out with Norse Hall. Looking for other venues.
    - Kennedy school classroom is the next idea. There is a minimum purchase requirement, so she'll get the numbers.
    - Ambridge Center is on MLK.

- There are some others as well.
- Still not sure where our sign is. We should put it up for Tech Show again.
- Tech Show
  - MB passed out handouts
  - Discussion about layout, information materials – pushing the grand reunion and how.
  - Grand Reunion materials:
    - Banner sign up on back wall
    - Sell tickets there?
    - Cards for people to fill out if they want more info, including preferred method of contact.
    - What can we do
- Minutes:
  - MB sent them out. There were no responses.
  - ML moved that we accept the minutes, GO seconded. All approved.
- Annual meeting will be at tech show. Is there anything we want to do differently than we've done before?
  - Discussion about when to have it – earlier more people? Later people can walk around and come back?
  - Thursday 8:00PM
  - RJ will ask if Nathan can bring a speaker and microphone to do our meeting.
- 95.1 KISN – Scott couldn't make it tonight. We'll try again in January.
- Next meeting is Jan 9<sup>th</sup> at the high school. Reunion meeting immediately following.

#### NEW BUSINESS

- Email blast of upcoming dates to all people we have email for.
- We'll physical mail about 100 people our end of year letter.
  - JP moved that we spend up to \$75 to do the mailing.
  - GO seconded. Motion passed.

#### OLD BUSINESS

- None
- Things to remember:
  - Idea of paying students to follow up with alumni in the directory.
  - Kevin – we can use response data to help secure grants and partnerships
  - Plan for merchandise?
  - Archiving location and cataloguing

Respectfully Submitted,

Maj Britt (Max) Baker  
Secretary  
BPHS Alumni Association