

## BPHSAA Committees: Volunteers Needed

The BPHSAA offers several different opportunities to support Benson High School and the Alumni Association through its various committees.

Anyone is welcomed to participate. Time commitments vary. If you would like to serve on any of the committees, please contact the BPHSAA.

**Membership Committee:** The committee is responsible for the recruitment of new members and maintaining current membership for the alumni association.

**Communications Committee:** The committee is responsible for communications with Alumni Association members including maintaining an internet website as well as printed newsletters, flyers, etc as needed for special purposes.

**Scholarship Committee:** The committee is responsible for the management of the Benson Polytechnic High School Reunion Scholarship Fund (a tax exempt fund) that was established in 1991. This includes raising and investing funds and overseeing the award of annual scholarships to graduating Benson seniors.

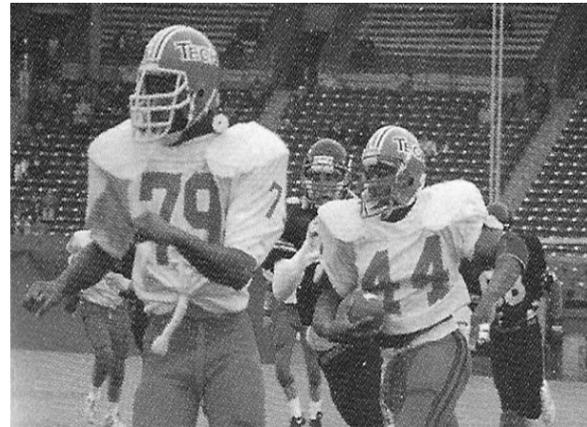
**Finance Committee:** The committee is responsible for developing and reviewing fiscal procedures, a fundraising plan, and annual budget.

**Events Committee:** The committee is responsible for planning and organizing alumni events such as the Alumni Room at Tech Show and the Annual All-Class Reunion Picnic.

**Long Term Development Committee:** The LTDC is responsible for developing a long term vision for the future of Benson Polytechnic High School.

### **Calendar of Events**

08/23/2009—1:00pm	KBPS Reunion Grand Central Restaurant & Bowling Lounge, 839 SE Morrison
09/19/2009—9:00am	Benson Campus Clean-Up
10/16/2009—7:00pm	Homecoming Game vs. Marshall @ Cleveland
11/2009	Scholarship Fund Raising Drive (Date & Time TBD)
12/17/2009—7:00pm	Winter Concert @ Benson
04/29 & 04/30/2010	Tech Show



### **Benson Sports**

Benson's fall sports season is here with football, volleyball and soccer games scheduled to begin the 2nd week of September.

Cost of events varies depending on sport. All events are free of charge unless noted otherwise.

#### Football & Basketball

Adult—\$6, Student w/ID—\$3, Child—\$1

#### Volleyball & Wrestling

Adult—\$3, Student—\$1

For a full schedule of games, visit the BPHSAA website under "Athletics" or visit <http://highschoolsports.oregonlive.com/schedule>

Football:	(Opponent / Field)
09/11—7:00	St. Helens @ St. Helens
09/18—7:00	Parkrose @ *Cleveland
09/25—7:00	Cleveland @ Cleveland

\*Cleveland H.S. is considered Benson's home field for football games unless playing Cleveland H.S.

#### Volleyball:

09/10—6:30	Benson @ Putnam
09/15—6:30	Benson @ Beaverton
09/29—6:30	Benson @ Jefferson

#### Boys Soccer:

09/08—7:00	Clackamas @ Benson
09/10—4:15	Newberg @ Benson
09/14—7:00	Aloha @ Benson

#### Girls Soccer:

09/09—4:15	Milwaukie @ Benson
09/10—4:00	Benson @ Reynolds
09/15—4:30	Benson @ Dallas

# **BENSON TECH ALUMNI TEXT**

The Official Newsletter of the Benson Polytechnic High School Alumni Association  
August 2009—Reunion Picnic Edition



## **The BPHSAA—What is It and What Does It Do?**

The Benson Polytechnic High School Alumni Association (BPHSAA) was established in August 2008 to promote and support Benson HS and its current students as well as to facilitate social activities of the alumni. It is open to any student who once attended Benson and past and current teachers.

The association is guided by a 15-person Board of Directors and is supported by several different committees. Meeting times and dates are posted the webpage. The annual meeting held in August is open to all members.

Annual membership dues are \$12.00 and are payable by debit or credit card on our website or by regular mail. Membership in the BPHSAA strengthens the Benson Community and allows the association to speak forcefully on behalf of the school, and its students, teachers, and staff.

A major effort of BPHSAA during its first year was to create and promote a Long Term Development Plan (LTDP) that would focus the school's programs on Sustainability and the Green Economy plus developing more partnerships with industry, civic organizations and colleges, universities and technical schools. The LTDC and BPHSAA's efforts "lobbying" the school district played a significant role in Benson being retained as a magnet school in the district's "New High School Model".

### **Membership Dues Anniversary Special**

In celebration of our 1st Anniversary, the BPHSAA is offering a special on memberships. \$15.00 covers your membership for the remainder of 2009 and all of 2010. That is a 37% discount.

You can either pay on-line through the BPHSAA website or mail in your payment.

### **Contacting the BPHSAA**

BPHSAA c/o Benson High School  
546 NE 12th Ave. Portland, OR 97232

Website: [www.BensonTechAlumni.org](http://www.BensonTechAlumni.org)  
Email: [Info@BensonTechAlumni.org](mailto:Info@BensonTechAlumni.org)

Other accomplishments of the association during its first year:

- Grown from 12-individuals to a membership of over 150 people.
- Established a webpage where alumni can go to find out the latest information on association and school activities and post announcements.
- Been recognized by the high school and Portland Public Schools (PPS) as the representative of Benson alumni which includes participating on Benson's Site Council.
- Sponsored the Alumni Room at the Tech Show in April and held two meetings to receive input from alumni on the association's LTDP.
- Sponsored a "Campus Clean-Up Day" at Benson to prepare the front of the school for Tech Show. A fall event has been scheduled for Sunday, September 19, 2009.
- Published four issues of the "Benson Tech Alumni Text"; the BPHSAA newsletter.
- Awarded three scholarships to 2009 graduates from the Benson Alumni Scholarship Fund and conducted a fund drive.
- Sponsored the August 2009 Benson All-Class Reunion Picnic.

**Fall Event**  
**BENSON**  
**CAMPUS**  
**CLEAN-UP**

**Saturday, September 19th**  
**9am to 1pm**

Grab your gardening gloves and show your Benson spirit by joining us the on the front steps of the school for a morning of general landscaping and cleaning.

## **Benson To Be A “Magnet” School**

In June 2009, at Benson HS, Portland Public Schools (PPS) announced its new model for the high school system that will guide the planning for the district’s public high schools over the next 10 to 20 years.

Benson was specifically identified as one of the future “magnet schools.” As such, the school will focus on career / technical education and be open to students throughout the district. Essentially, this is the same concept that has existed for decades.

This decision follows months of public input and deliberations by PPS’s planning staff to develop a comprehensive plan for all of the city’s high schools. There is evidence that the BPHSAA and the individual efforts of its members weighed in on the decision not to close Benson as well as on other aspects of the plan.

The announced model will make Benson one of 3 or more magnet schools. Details about the function and admission requirements along with the focus of the other magnet schools was not spelled out. The model also proposes to reduce the number of neighborhood high schools by 2 or 2, but no decisions regarding which schools or how school boundaries are to be drawn have been made at this time.

After years of rumors that Benson would be closing, PPS’ decision to keep the school open and to

highlight it in the new model as a magnet school was obviously affected by the alumni association’s Long Term Development Plan (LTDP) for Benson. Several participatory meetings have been held with alumni, representatives of local colleges, and industry leaders since the initial concept was unveiled last November. The plan has also been discussed with the Portland Public School’s staff, Portland’s Mayor, and the state’s Department of Education. Portions of the continually refined LTDP have obviously been included in PPS’s “new high school system model” announced by the district in June 2009. Benson has been identified as a magnet high school for career technical education (CTE).

The associations LTDP or “New Benson Vision” will build upon Benson’s long history as one of the nation’s pre-eminent polytechnic high schools. Key parts of the LTDP are to increasingly focus Benson’s curriculum on sustainability and the green economy, to increase the school’s partnerships with industry, civic organizations and high education, and to more fully utilize its space and location in the center of the metropolitan area. The end result would transform Benson into a state-of-the-art, career pathway, technical high school model for the rest of the nation.

A forum on “K-12 Education for Sustainability” was held by the association’s LTDP Committee on June 19th to provide further guidance to refining and implementing the LTDP. The forum was attended by representatives of the school district, Oregon Department of Education, several Oregon college and universities and local development companies among others.

The forum’s discussions covered the importance of education about sustainability from kindergarten through 12th grade and how to make Benson a “Center for the Green Economy”. Three task forces were formed to begin work on possible curriculum, physical facilities and the logistics of implementation. The work of the task forces will be factored into the LTDP this fall. At that time there will also be an increased effort to identify specific industrial, commercial, civic and academic partners for the initial implementation of the New Benson Vision.

In addition to the foregoing, with crucial input from the Association’s Planning Committee, Benson was selected to represent Oregon (one of five states nationally) by the U.S. Department of Education and

## **Benson Students Do Well in National Competition**

Huy Pham, a senior from Benson H.S., took the gold medal in Technical Computer Applications at the SkillsUSA national championship competition. (Formally Vocational Industrial Clubs of America or VICA).

The SkillsUSA Championships, held in Kansas City, Missouri June 22rd – 26th, were part of the 45th annual SkillsUSA National Leadership and Skills Conference (NLSC), a showcase of career and technical education students. More than 5,400 outstanding career and technical education students – all state contest winners – competed hands-on in 91 different trade, technical and leadership fields.

Seven other Benson students placed in the top ten in their contests: Brian Halvorson and Shawn Spears who competed as a team in Audio/Radio Production ranked 8th and the five members of the Quiz Bowl

team – Ian Hankins, Milan Justel, Shane Sahnaw and Logan Stowell who placed 9th. Benson sent a total of 17 students to compete in the SkillsUSA championships this year.

In order to cover the costs of travel, hotel rooms and food, the Benson chapter relies on donations from private parties and local companies. If you would like to make a donation, contact Mary Ganoie or Bill Cooper (Class of ‘72) at Benson High School.

For a complete list of the Benson winners from the state level competitions, go to the BPHSAA website.



## **Long Term Planning Continues**

The BPHSAA is continuing to refine its Long Term Development Plan (LTDP) for Benson. Several participatory meetings have been held with alumni, representatives of local colleges, and industry leaders since the initial concept was unveiled last November. The plan has also been discussed with the Portland Public School’s staff, Portland’s Mayor, and the state’s Department of Education. Portions of the continually refined LTDP have obviously been included in PPS’s “new high school system model” announced by the district in June 2009. Benson has been identified as a magnet high school for career technical education (CTE).

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In addition to the foregoing, with crucial input from the Association’s Planning Committee, Benson was selected to represent Oregon (one of five states nationally) by the U.S. Department of Education and

the National Research Center for a 14 month study. This study will develop model curriculum focused on green technology in high schools. The results of the study will be presented at a three day seminar in Washington DC in the fall of 2010. This work will also be coordinated with the taskforce work of the LTDP and the District’s planned “vision” of Benson. This is an exciting opportunity for the Alumni Association to help define Benson High School as Portland’s magnet public high school focusing on careers in the growing green economy.

The LTDP Committee, headed by Dick Spies (‘64) and the BPHSAA welcomes anyone with an interest in helping with this exciting “New Benson Vision” project.



## **Scholarships Awarded**

The BPHSAA “Reunion Scholarship Fund” provided \$3600.00 to award 3 scholarships to 2009 graduates at the Senior Awards Ceremony in May. These scholarships add to the 41 previously given from the fund established in 1991.

This year’s recipients are Liezl Dygart, Long Vinh (Andy) Nguyen and Lucia Ngo.

Money for these scholarships comes from the annual earnings of the Reunion Scholarship Fund that is invested in the Oregon Community Fund. The Fund’s principal was enhanced by over \$3400.00 from the 2008-09 winter fund raising effort and a generous give from the Class of 1958 following their 50th reunion.

For information about making a donation or about the scholarship program, visit the alumni website. Donations are tax deductible.