

Benson Polytechnic High School Alumni Association Board of Director Meeting—Official Minutes

Date: Wednesday, March 11, 2008

Starting Time: 5:30pm Ending Time: 7:30pm

Location: Benson Polytechnic H.S. Library Classroom

ATTENDEES:

Dale Bajema, Neal Galash, Paul Benninghoff, Josh Piper, Chuck Heil, Don La Barre, Richard Spies, Joanne Stainbrook, Kyle Anderson, Bob Hyland, Ken Bakke and Tammy Hite.

Guests: Ed Warmoth (45) and Larrada Reddent (PTSA, President)

MINUTES:

Note: Items may not be in the exact order in which they were discussed. If any corrections or additions need to be made, please forward them to Tammy Hite.

- Introductory Remarks by Dale Bajema
- Minutes from 01/14/09 meeting approved.
- Membership Count to-date by Tammy: 142 members, 132 paid members, unpaid include Friends of Benson (FOB), retired teachers and members from the class of 2008.
- Treasury report by Paul B.
 - Account Balance: \$1726.00
 - Outstanding bills: \$158.75
 - PayPal account has been established for people to pay dues on-line
 - Motion made to make Ken Bakke, Assistant Treasurer. Motion second and passed.
 - ♦ Ken will be made a signer on the account at On-point Credit Union.
 - A donation check given to the association from alumnus in class of '50.
- Scholarship Committee report by Don.
 - The November drive gathered a total of \$3406.00 with most of the funds coming class of 1958. (\$1285.32)
 - Due to the declining economy, the fund has taken a hit. The balance currently stands at \$59,718.00 which is down from the over \$80,000 this time last year.
 - For the class of 2009, there is \$3600.00 to award in scholarships because the amount is based on monies before the downturn. Next year's scholarships will be less.
 - Scholarship winners are chosen by the Benson teachers from the pool of applicants. However there has been some difficulty in recent years to get students to apply for scholarships.

- A new treasurer for the committee needs to be found. This issue to be addressed in future meetings.
 - Bob H. has given Mary Ganoë the list of bad address and has agreed to pay Skills USA \$0.50 for each name the students find.
 - Don verified that the money in the scholarship fund can ONLY be used for the scholarships.
- Proposed gifts for the school.
 - At the last Executive committee meeting it was suggest by Paul that we consider a gift for the school
 - Paul spoke with Bruce Alton (Benson Athletic Director and School Activity Coordinator) about a Campus Clean-up day before Tech Show.
 - ♦ Saturday, April 18th
 - ♦ Paul will see about getting a list of chores that need to be completed.
 - ♦ Tammy suggested inviting students to join us.
 - ♦ Neal will work with Paul regarding the details.
 - An item to purchase for the school has not been chosen but the item should be for the whole school and not one particular group or department.
 - Talk about stolen funds that Boosters group incurred in 2008. There is over \$10,000 in unpaid bills for football uniforms and other items
 - ♦ Larrada mention that the DA is trying to get all funds returned to Boosters
 - School morale is very low amongst students and teachers
 - Larrada mentioned that the district did actually try to close Benson in the 50's, but the alumni stepped in and changed their minds.
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- Tech Show (Tammy)
 - Tammy listed the room set-up, displays and personnel needed for the show. A minimum of 3-people will be needed at all times, but more is preferred.
 - A sheet was passed around for everyone to select a time to work the show. Tammy will send out reminders to everyone as the show approaches.
 - Taylor Dixon will not be able to finish her alumni video in time for the show.
 - Ed Warmouth has contact Brett Anderson about media announcements. Bob will help in contacting the newspapers.
 - A motion was made to offer a \$10.00 membership special at Tech Show. The motion was second and passed.
 - Personal invitations can be gotten from the school to send to contacts.
- Summer Picnic (Neal)
 - Sunday, August 16th, 11am to 4pm at Columbia Park.
 - The permit has been obtained from Portland Parks and Recreation
- LTDC (Dick)
 - The meeting on 02/11 went very well and everyone seemed to think we are going in the right direction.
 - Dick has met with Tom Miller from Sam Adams office.

- ♦ There are 3-city cabinets that the committee should present to: education, business development, and sustainability.
- State Senator Jeff Barker (Aloha district and Benson alumnus) has been approaching other Senators that are interested in what we are doing and want to be put on the mailing list.
- Dick to start talking to County Commissioners and Governor's office next.
- Next steps for the LTDC include a forum for representatives of high education that can help validate our approach.
 - ♦ Should try to get PPS representatives to attend the meeting.
 - ♦ Should be held prior to April 20th, the first of the community meetings to be held by the district regarding the high school reforms.
- All of the high schools have been told to cut back on their staff for next year. A total of 60 positions to be cut. Benson to see 6 to 8 of those.
- Some stimulus money may be seen for building upgrades, but it is hard to know when or how much.
- We need to get representatives from the business to attend the public forums to back up what we are doing.
- Dale met with Bonneville Power Administration
 - ♦ They won't commit until we have more nailed down.
 - ♦ We need to be able to answer the question, "What do you want from us?"
 - ♦ BPA expects a high retiree rate in the next 10-years.
- Columbia Gorge Community College has program to train technicians for wind turbines.
 - ♦ Graduates are making \$35.00 per hours
 - ♦ The college only takes 36 students per semester out a pool of 50 to 100. Most do not have the technical background.
- Validation for a school like Benson is key at this time.
- Smaller groups of influential people may be more effective at this time.
 - ♦ Letters or personal testimony at meetings
- PPS plans to make a proposal by June 2009.
- According to Larrada, current interim principal Steve Olczak has been asked to remain.
- Next meeting of the LTDC to happen on Tuesday, March 17th, 5:30 at Group MacKenzie.