

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



Date: February 4, 2013

Starting Time: 5:40 pm Ending Time: 7:20 pm

Benson Polytechnic High School – Band Room

ATTENDEES:

Rob Johns (RJ), Neal Galash (NG), Ken Bakke (KB), Don Wear (DW), Dale Bajema (DB), Max Baker (MB), Wayne De Vore (WD), Mike Landstrom (ML), Josh Piper (JP), Joanne Stainbrook (JS), guests: Roger Edwards 1963 grad, rrredwards@frontier.com, trying to organize reunion; Lisa Wilcke - Site Council and helping to organize Benson memorabilia: lisawilcke@gmail.com; Sara Swanborn, Chuck's daughter, curator. smh.swanborn@gmail.com.

MINUTES:

- Note: The door was locked because there was no night school tonight. Chuck, Lisa and others were in the library (they got a key!)
- Previous minutes: MB: Minutes for the last three meetings had been emailed out. JS had some corrections to the November minutes. JS moved we accept the corrected minutes and Ken seconded the motion. The motion passed. Minutes were approved as corrected.
- Membership/Scholarship: JP: There are 71 paid members. 46 renewals from last year. Only 8 have not renewed.
 - DB - do we have list of names of contributors to scholarship? Josh says they will get a list from the organization. The statement includes that.
- Finance: KB: \$3832.21 balance includes PayPal. Five checks were picked up tonight. KB received a note from a 2006 grad wondering about a 10 year reunion. He gave the info to Josh.
- Band update: WD: The band played girls' basketball game last Thursday. The crowd was more welcoming and interested. They asked us to play again tonight, so we will after the meeting.
 - Wayne mentioned the janitor needs to be told when there is a change in schedule.
 - Note from Rob Johns: Lincoln is looking for band uniforms or \$22,000 to purchase new ones.
- There was a round of introductions for the visitors.
- Guest speaker: Lisa Wickle - on Site Council.
 - In the storage room where the memorabilia is kept: The mice were dead but there were silverfish. She looked and boxed. Bill Ranta is a 65 grad and former teacher. Almost 1/3 of the stuff in the back is his. There is an AC green jersey, duplicate collection of yearbooks, team photos, photos, some identified/some not. Old jerseys. Mostly athletic, some not. She doesn't know what is valuable. She's been putting together photos of the building in transition. Tour of locker rooms revealed there isn't much else down there.
 - Need an F on the wall of fame.

- Troy Berry has the basketball trophies. Bill Ranta is former baseball coach and has the baseball trophies. He is the retired athletic director, still works for the district. He also brings obituaries to the school.
 - There are two or three more people who could be inducted into the hall of fame. There is a nominating committee and criteria.
 - Lisa's son is a junior, so we have her help for two years.
- Guest speaker: Sarah Swanborn, Chuck's daughter, curator
 - She's been working with museums for the last 10 years. Oregon State Hospital museum most recently. She has a list of questions - she will put this together for us.
 - Who owns the memorabilia? Does it belong to Benson? To Portland public schools? Does it belong to the foundation? Need to find someone to answer that question from the school side of things. This answer will affect how you treat the items.
 - What is the end goal for the stuff we have? Inventory and preservation? Displays? Museum?
 - If you are storing, to what extent do you want to categorize it, label it, preserve it for the future, etc.
 - Do you want to acquire more and be responsible for the collection? Once people know that you are collecting stuff, more people will donate. You'll have to develop policies around what you keep, where you keep, ownership, etc.
 - The centennial is coming up.
 - Depending on the answers to the above questions, that's how we will move forward.
 - There is free software to create an initial database. This is recommended urgently.
 - Collecting oral histories? Tech show would be perfect timing. Story core model - in New York, there is a sound booth and you make an apt where you have a conversation, recorded up to 2 hours, edited down to 2 to 3 minute story. Saved in the library of congress. This is a great model. The state hospital has this concept also, they are looking for grant money for this. Could the radio station do this at Tech Shows?
 - DB: About 3 years ago we talked about students building display cases. At that time there was an interest and willingness - the big cost is the glass, but there may be an alternative. Lisa: Bill put together a few cases in the community room. 3. But those wouldn't work for halls - only in supervised room. DB: students could have their names on them also.
- Discussion:
 - Chuck - this is a big undertaking. We need to decide whether this will be a focus of the association.
 - Chuck moved to establish a committee to explore the possibility of a Benson historic repository. They would get answers to the questions and bring it back to the group. Don seconded the motion. The motion passed.
 - RJ: who can take a lead as curator committee? Chuck, Joanne, Dale and Don volunteered.

- Lisa will continue to go through the room, not throwing anything away. She is putting team photos together, sorted by sport, try and put in chronological order. Not looking up anyone.
 - Sara: you should purchase archival file folders and boxes. Then you can put them in there now as Sara sorts.
 - The committee will look into the cost of this.
- Benson House history discussion:
 - Lisa – The list of Benson houses and when and where they were built is missing. Can she put a list out, for people to fill in at Tech Show? (Yes) Carol wants to do a map with string to addresses of each house. John Vingland's photos are there, but nothing else.
 - ML: most of the houses before the 80s were not done locally.
 - DB: we need a poster saying we're interested in help with the repository.
 - Lisa - there are some really awesome photos we can put out to peak interest.
 - Sara - scanning photos is a project down the line.
 - MB: we can use the Tech Show and picnic to get info from the alumni on what is in the photos, also.
 - Chuck - Sig Unander Jr. (great grandson of Simon Benson) did a presentation last week. His dad was state treasurer back in the 50s. Carol came and met him, was impressed with his presentation. He's offered to contribute some things to Benson. There is a good connection there. Alice Benson wrote a book: Simon Benson, Northwest Lumber King. It's in the library and we have a copy in the alumni room.
- The monitor is up and displaying schedules!!! It is wired for sound to show videos. Software was free. Carol is pleased with it.
- PTSA update: CH: There were questions about tech show that are yet to be settled. Next meeting is next Tues. They had questions about scholarships. Foundation information:
 - RJ: The IRS has not yet assigned a person to review our 501C-3 application yet. Jan 10th is when the 90 days is up.
- Benson House:
 - RJ: Has anyone talked to/heard from Dick Spies about the house? Nope.
 - The foundation has been poured, flooring is in. There is still no sign.
 - The house is on Skidmore and Mallory - two blocks west MLK.
 - RJ will call Dick to see if we can get updates on the house and other committees.
- School updates:
 - CH: Carol sent the invitations for the OIT accord. They now have bilingual community agent so letters/emails can go out in Spanish. Health corps is a strong program: healthy eating, activity/exercise and the program is so great that healthcare national wants to do a documentary on the Benson program. Discovery Channel or PBS! Carol went to every middle school - same DVD from last year, which they are impressed with. JS: When was the documentary going to happen? CH: not sure. If they don't do it this year, it may not happen. It has to be on the existing program. Amy asked to stay at Benson this year,

but she might not be here next year. Joanne will ask Amy if there is anything we can do. RJ - please ask if she can come to our March meeting.

- We need a note in Carol's letter about the Alumni Association - when we meet and our website. Keep pounding on it. Rob Johns will contact her again about this.
- Boosters:
 - There is still a question about the Boosters, and they don't have answers yet. CH will contact Dick Spies about how Lincoln boosters works.
 - RJ: one of the core challenges to Benson Boosters is that Benson families have two working parents. That's not true at other high schools, where there is one parent to help more.
 - DW - I haven't gotten any word about Boosters. There was connection with a former coach - he will pursue this.
 - Chuck - the boosters basically do not exist at this time. Is there a possibility for a common meeting day? RJ: We will revisit the idea of serial meetings/Carol meeting night.
 - Max - If we don't have enough people for alumni assoc, or PTSA, trying to start up a new club is probably not a great idea.
- Tech Show – MB:
 - Is Tech Show being advertised on KBPS? Max will check. [answer: yes.]
 - Printed balloons were fairly expensive, and the smallest reasonably priced quantity was 1000 – since balloons don't last more than a year we'd have to have a strategy to use them all. For now, it's not practical.
 - Most items were outlined in the previous minutes.
 - Discussion on the idea of having a postcard pre-addressed to school board, where alums can fill out their contact info and then write what they love/want to preserve about Benson. KB: The Business Journal article had some good points. MB: Provide a list of talking points like this:
 - Adequate staffing
 - Enrollment caps
 - Benson is all neighborhoods.
 - Industry needs skilled workers
 - Hands on experience
 - Unparalleled graduation rates, scholarships, and college applicants.
 - (check with Carol on points)
 - JS and JP will work on the postcard idea.
 - Newsletter:
 - JP putting it together. MB will see if Connie will help. CH, JP, DB will provide content. RJ to provide info on OIT agreement. Roger will put together a summary of the reunion they are planning. He'll get the 1973 reunion guy also. JP: there is a lot of material on the website.
 - CH moved we allocate up to \$250 for Tech Show purchases, ML seconded and the motion passed.
- OIT Accord:
 - RJ - Great invitation on OIT agreement. Went out to carol smith, CTE lady, etc. Trip was here from PPS. no one from PPS went to OIT. Kevin Truong is

the President of the student body, he is a great kid. Meeting tomorrow night at the library, and he will be there. Super SAC meeting. Was very surprised that nobody from PPS came. That is a strong statement. The reason they don't want kids to go here because the failed schools get federal dollars. They will sacrifice Benson for everyone else.

- School board discussion:
 - CH: I taught for 50 years. 80% or more of people in public school administration are failed teachers. As a consequence they cannot identify or support good instruction. Difficulty is to appeal to the public and letting them know there is a better way. Things are very different now than they were when he started teaching - administrators used to be professional teachers.
 - We need school board turnover - we need people qualified to make the decisions. The school board relies on people to tell them what decisions to make.

OLD BUSINESS

- KB: Benson house - There isn't a sign up. RJ will send a note to DS and Toni Francesconi. We could do a vinyl sign up very soon!
- Committee for lawn mowing? Schedule and duties.
- Can we get a video for PR for the new construction design class?
- Formalize Benson tours for industry and others. Each room to have a student ambassador? RJ to talk to Carol. Kathy Skatch is the communications teacher.
- RJ to follow up with Carol about \$250 matching travel funds for kids to take the train to Kfalls for OIT open house.
- RJ to set up a meeting with the Labor Commissioner and DW about rules that would apply to Benson students trying to get internships.
- Interview Miranda Ryan, jobs coordinator, and put it up on the website? Video? Student project? CH will talk to Kathy Skatch about having students do that kind of thing, getting us the video to post on the website.
- Connie is working on marketing materials for the Foundation.
 - Who are we and what are our intentions? Trifold.
 - Carol can have it on her desk - we can all have it to carry it around and hand out.
 - We need to put some things on the website also.
- We need two "Stay tuned for opportunities to participate." letters:
 - Portland Business community - businesses that have indicated interest in Benson.
 - Alumni.
 - We might be able to use some senior students in English or Communications to try and create the documents. A senior project?
- Can we pursue more one on one meetings with school board members?
 - CTE programs require more staffing - if you want us to be 850 kids, that's fine but we need more staff - not staffing at a conventional high school level. 5-18 students in a class for CTE is what is needed. Now it's 25-30.

- Carol is also going to push for nationwide searches for CTE staff”
 - We need to write the basic requirements for getting TSPC licensure. Basically about 18 hours schooling, and probably some hours of on the job training. You have 3 years to do it, and get funds to cover 6 hours per year.
 - CTE enhances and promotes academic the core: student see algebra, pre-calculus, writing and reading being used in CTE classes.
- 100 year celebration: September 2017:
 - What is the district doing? What is the school doing? What are we doing?
 - Good opportunity for publicity - community, Simon Benson etc. CH: There aren't many other HS that have the community connection.
 - Get the grandkids involved: Chet and Darcy.
 - JS: Can we cast a new bubbler? Original molds somewhere? RJ will send a note to Carol.
 - CH: The College I went to just celebrated the 100 year anniversary. DVD narrative. (Reed) He will try and get ahold of it - very interesting and informative. JS: I think one of my neighbors helped with the research on that.
 - Oregonian retrospective?
- Plans to communicate with students:
 - Utilize KBPS.
 - Can we get info into PTSA newsletters to parents? - end of year one would be great: don't lose contact, sign up now.
 - Could we even enter the classrooms in the last month of school? Or pep rally to promote it, even maybe collecting email addresses.
 - Can we get senior class president to come to our meetings?
 - How do we talk to the lower classes?
 - Helping with student registration is a good start.
 - Can we get a few minutes in front of a pep rally?
 - Older generation had more insecurity about our personal information. This generation is more open - Facebook, etc. They will be more likely to provide us their email addresses etc.
 - Make sure the email address and website is at the bottom of the newspaper, principal's letter. etc.
 - Video reader board around the school, where kids could see announcements and information. Carol seems very supportive of that idea. We might be helpful in that area and get some promotion.
- Band ideas:
 - Carol is interested in getting a music program going. Who will meet with her to talk about what they can do to get more student involvement?
 - Band information needs to be in the welcome packet for next year:
 - Should we be a band club? Spanish teacher adviser. This may solve contacting the kids issue for reminders about practices, etc,
 - What information: meeting times and place, possible events
 - JP: also could record practice tapes.
 - JP: would the club status give us access to district instruments or music stands? Should check.

- Give cheerleaders a tape and words for Benson Fight song, so they can learn a routine.
- We need a plan for collecting info about alumni job skills/employers, as a way to find new business partners for Benson:
 - DB and JP to meet on ideas to build out the alumni DB on skills and employers. DS: try and hook up with advisory boards for the CTE programs, which exist but are ad hoc. Graphics instructor said she had the advisory board but she was possessive about it. DS: If we go through Carol, then we could act as intermediaries.
 - Langley Associates is property management group for properties in the Lloyd district. Dick has convinced them there is a strong relationship between what happens at Benson and their properties. They are excited about being involved, and can be a link to their tenants - other partners.
 - PGE is already helping with the technical drawing class curriculum.
- We need a plan for communication to talk with political figures at all levels: mayor, county, state. Lay out our vision of mixed use development and business partnerships.
 - Can we get the new Mayor interested in Benson?
 - Can we get industry to write a letter to the school board campaign?
- How can we make our board more diverse?
- How can we get Benson staff who are also alumni involved with the board?
- JP reports that there is more memorabilia in the back room where the yearbooks are stored. We need to think about how we can preserve this history.
 - CH talked to his daughter who is a curator and she is willing to talk to us.
 - RJ: Sensing that alumni would be excited about knowing trophies were on display etc. and bringing Simon Benson into the community. JP: Where they are storing it now, it's a mess and things won't last too long.
 - JS: We should mention this to DS. If the bond measure passes, a room or plan for what to do with this stuff should be part of that planning.
 - RJ: Senior projects - building display cases now to peak people's interest for long term plan.
- Need help coordinating PR releases to the Portland Tribune, Willamette Week and the Oregonian about what is currently going on at Benson.
 - JS met with a class of 2012 transfer student, who said he transferred out because they lost the architecture program. Said he would be interested in telling his story of missed opportunities. He was doing an office tour.
- Opportunities for alums to help:
 - Counselling center: volunteer to help kids with scholarship applications and essays, etc.
 - JS – There is a health Corps program funded by Dr. Oz. This is the 2nd year. Coordinator on campus is doing things to keep kids healthy, does classroom stretching, yoga during study hall, etc. She could use more support. Materials, time, garden.
 - JP – does internship framework exist? Dale: PWA does the internships. They present a framework with commitments to businesses, so they can evaluate it annually.

- Ideas of alumni support:
 - Ben Fleske OMSI – Josh to contact
 - OSU Extension – 4H support – Rob to contact
 - NASA space camp scholarship for two students? Max to investigate
- Benson and the State of Oregon received the sustainable program grant and they've been working on the study for two years but haven't finalized it. Dale to contact Tom Thompson with the Oregon State Department of Education and Reese Lord, who was working for the Mayor but is now at Systems, a private group of Educational Consultants.
 - 7/2012: Sustainable program grant: DS says Tom Thompson still working on it. Still needs to be finished.
- We need to formalize the role of PTSA liaison.
- Once the Foundation has 501C3 status:
 - we could ask that it be listed as a flight miles donation option at various airline websites.
 - instrument and cash donations to the band will be tax deductible
 - we can consider going for the Bill and Melinda Gates grants
 - we could consider moving from the district funding the Benson house construction to the Foundation, that way profits from sale would be reinvested in the school itself.
- RJ: thoughts to recruit:
 - Dig deeper into matches of people with majors. Mission based approach to recruiting.
 - Start with communication about supporting the station. Rob will draft and send to Dale and Josh, for showing to Carol for approval.
- Outreach and Partnerships - RJ
 - OSU not reaching back yet. U of O is waiting on the results of their program with Jefferson.
 - OIT/Oregon Tech

Meetings At Benson library:

- Mar 12th
- Apr 8th
- May 13th
- June 10th

Respectfully Submitted,

Maj Britt (Max) Baker
 Secretary
 BPHS Alumni Association