

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



Date: April 8, 2013
Starting Time: 5:30 pm Ending Time: 7:27 pm
Benson Polytechnic High School – Library Classroom

ATTENDEES:

Josh Piper (JP), Ken Bakke (KB), Neal Galash (NG), Joanne Stainbrook (JS), Chuck Heil (CH), Dale Bajema (DB), Dick Spies (DS), guests: Roger Edwards-class of 1963, Franklin Johnson-class of 1964, Glen Pak-class of 1998

MINUTES:

Dale Bajema presided over the meeting.

- Review past meeting minutes:
 - February minutes reviewed. DS moved to approve the minutes. JP seconded. Motion passed.
 - March minutes on hold for approval at our next meeting.
- Financial Report
 - Report by KB – approximately \$3,000 in the alumni account.
 - DB requested that KB prepare a report for each of the past two years showing by category how the association funds were spent. KB will work on putting this together.
- PTSA Clean-up Update
 - CH provided an overview of the upcoming school clean up being coordinated by the PTSA and the Kerns Neighborhood Association.
 - **Clean-up is April 20th. Sign in is at 8:30 am.** The hope is to be done in time for the Kerns barbeque at 12:00 at the Hinson Church parking lot on 20th.
 - CH passed out a list of potential projects at the school.
 - **Contact CH if interested in heading up a project area or have power tools to bring.** Edgers, pickups and a lawn mower may be needed.
- PTSA Liaison
 - CH has been attending PTSA meetings for the past few years and sees great value in formalizing the relationship as an official position. By providing a liaison we show support for the PTSA and can better coordinate efforts to support the school and students.
 - CH suggested we consider coordinating our meeting dates and time to align with the PTSA to encourage people to attend both and potentially make it easier for Principal Campbell to attend both. No motion at this time.
 - DS moved that we formalize the position of BPHAA PTSA Liaison and have CH continue in the role. JP seconded. Motion passed. (CH will continue in the role, but is interested in finding a replacement to hand off to.)
- No Pep Band Updates
- Benson House Update
 - House is under construction at Skidmore and Mallory.
 - House is going for LEED Gold status.

- House will feature SIPs panels in the roof system and radiant slab floors.
- Status of a banner or sign to recognize the house as a Benson project not known. Group would like to see some recognition for the program. DS will follow up.
- Volunteering for Benson's Career/Counseling Center
 - DB would like to see alumni step up to help out with this specific request from the school. If we can create a one page hand-out to generate interest and clarify the commitments this might generate some volunteers. CH and Franklin Johnson are interested in helping with the effort.
 - DB would like to Amy to come to a meeting again to describe what is involved to be a volunteer.
 - CH: Could include information in his class reunion letter for this year.
- Annual Picnic
 - **Picnic is on Saturday, August 17th at Blue Lake Park.**
 - See if the PTSA is interested in being involved.
 - Group would like to make sure picnic continues to emphasize the Benson Community and current parents and students.
 - Should there be an event (softball game) or entertainment to draw people in?
 - More picnic discussion will continue with the Event Committee.
- Long Term Development Plan (LTDP)
 - DS: The Lincoln High School long term development planning committee has become reinvigorated and is looking ahead to the upcoming second bond measure which is being planned for the November 2016 election. The Lincoln group is interested in working with the Benson alumni association to partner in our efforts for long range planning at bigger scale.
 - Lincoln sees schools with private partnerships as good candidates to be included on the next bond. Benson and Lincoln are each unique and would not be competing for the same partners but could help each other mapping out a plan for reaching out to potential partners.
 - DS passed out a vision statement for the LTDP. (see attached) **Please review and send him comments.** We need to craft a concise document for moving forward. Part of this vision includes the mission of a 4 year comprehensive high school. There still appear to be people within PPS who are advocating for a 2 year skill center at Benson.
 - CH moved to have the LDTP Committee take the lead on developing the vision statement and working with the Lincoln High School group to create a Lincoln-Benson coalition. KB seconded. Discussion: DB: Need to include someone from Benson (teacher) in this effort. PPS has just released the first monies from the recent bond. The PPS Office of School Modernization is in charge of administering the bond projects. PPS is currently hiring for a communications specialist to help with outreach and transparency. Glen Pak suggested that the Benson group stay visible at the planning meetings for the current bond high school projects to show support for the process and observe lessons learned so things run smoother for the next round. Franklin Johnson also pointed out that we should be looking at how we can add value to the process and make the efforts of PPS successful. Another discussion item was

developing feeder schools for Benson. Lincoln is looking at adding a 6, 7, 8 component to feed into their school. Benson could do this as well. This would provide the school with students prepared to learn the skills Benson has to offer. Motion passed.

- No report on possible CTE grant.
- Following up on opportunities for Benson
 - DB: RJ has been working hard over the past 6 months making connections, attending meetings and getting the word out about Benson.
 - We need to follow up and maintain those connections and identify people who can get involved.
 - DS: We can tap in to the list of LTDP members who were more active in the past.
 - Create a sense of urgency and prioritize what to pursue.
 - Develop a vision and a story. Have a group of people available to call on to attend meetings or speak about Benson. Have a backup so there are several people to call on.
- Archiving BPHAA materials
 - DB: We should have a central location and process for archiving materials so we have a record of our activities and a resource for new members.
 - JP: 80% of our meeting notes are on the alumni web site. All our newsletters are there as well. Our Google group email archives all emails and attachments.
 - JP will research ways to archive our letters and other documents that are not included in the current records system.
 - CH: Could this be linked to our historical archives documentation efforts?
- Site Council Updates
 - DB: The site council is working on a 5 year plan with Principal Campbell. A rough draft has been started and a complete plan will be presented at a future meeting. The goal is a 5 page concise document with a matrix of goals. The goal is to have the document ready in June. Assumptions in the plan include modest new support from PPS, modest enrollment growth and expanded business partnerships for the school.
- Benson 100 Year Anniversary
 - 2017 is the 100 year anniversary for the school.
 - We should be looking ahead for ways to celebrate this.
- Meeting Adjourned at 7:27.

Note: See March minutes for running list of old business and action items.

Next Meetings: 5:30pm Benson Library Classroom

- May 13th
- June 10th

Respectfully Submitted,
Joanne Stainbrook
BPHS Alumni Association

Benson's Vision for Career Pathways Learning

Rough Draft: April 8, 2013

Four Year Integrated Career Exploration and Career Prep

At the core of the Benson High School Vision is a robust four year program of totally integrated career exploration and career prep experiences. This has been shown to be the most effective model for CTE (Career Technical Education) programs as seen in the high graduation rates from Benson's emerging program. This usually calls for two years of exploration during the freshman and sophomore years with the more focused career prep work taking place during the junior and senior years.

Project Based Learning

A crucial ingredient to this success is the integration of core academic instruction with a wide range of project based learning experiences. This approach is designed to tap into student's individual areas of interest and then form a tangible connect between these interests and other academic instruction. The goal is to use multiple learning experiences to reinforce the student's interest and in the process develop a broad base of skill sets allowing ongoing pursuit new opportunities.

Partnerships Reinforcing Career Pathways

A truly successful learning experience often includes introducing students to real world work environments in a way that can inspire and challenge students. This could be in the form of a simple tour, informational interview, internship or any number of creative ways that students can explore the world of work. Business and industry leaders can be aggressively engaged to form a real connection between the new CTE curriculum and the real jobs the region need s to thrive. Higher education partnerships and community and regional economic development strategies can also play a major role in shaping the Benson Vision to assure it can truly act as a legitimate link to real jobs and real continuing educational experiences.

Development of a Comprehensive Design Center Program

Architecture, urban design, and sustainability have been the hallmark of Portland and made the city and the region a leader in these areas. The New Benson Vision needs to reinforce these crucial career opportunities and once again offer full career exploration and career prep in these areas. The recently reactivated Construction Drawing course needs to be expanded to include the latest design and technology influences as well as a robust art experience.

Focused Program of Study on Sustainability

Two years ago, Benson High School and the State of Oregon were selected along with teams from four other states across the country to develop a focused program of study on sustainability. This work was orchestrated by Tom Thompson with the Oregon State Department of Education and resulted in a comprehensive body of work that could literally set the stage for an aggressive sustainability curriculum. It is just waiting for industry partners and higher educational institutions to offer their input and craft it into a world class magnet program for this major new career opportunity.

Safety thru Benson becoming a Center of its Community Partnerships

The New Benson Vision should create an environment that ideally opens itself up to its neighborhood and its partners in such a way that creates a safe and inclusive atmosphere. This can be achieved thru design and the careful integration of partnerships. By integrating the educational experience with its neighbors there is often a mutually beneficial result that strengthens the whole. This opening up of the educational experience is similar to what has been done at the Rosa Parks School but at Benson can tie directly into the rich array of CTE opportunities and the business and industry partners that exist in the neighborhood.

We at the Benson High School Alumni Assoc look forward to the opportunity to work with PPS, neighborhood, business, industry, and governmental partners to help make the Benson Vision a reality at Benson and help it inform other schools within the district.

Richard (Dick) Spies - Chair Benson High School Long Term Development Committee