

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

Date: Wednesday, October 14, 2009

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

Location: Benson Polytechnic H.S. Library Classroom

ATTENDEES:

Dale Bajema, Chuck Heil, Bob Hyland, Josh Piper, Dick Spies, Neal Galash, Ken Bakke, Joanne Stainbrook, Majbritt Baker, and Tammy Hite

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
 - The BOD should attempt to increase the association's and BOD's diversity.
 - Site Council Update
 - ♦ School goal includes the improvement of student retention particularly between the 10th and 11th grades.
 - ♦ Renaissance Foundation has approached Jefferson, Roosevelt and Benson to offer African American male students a position in a mentorship program. There is a possibility for the students to have the foundation cover all college costs if they attend PSU or PCC.

- Minutes from September meeting approved.

- LTDC
 - At the September 28th school board meeting, Zeke Smith presented the two types of high schools the district will be developing; neighborhood or community schools and magnet programs.
 - ♦ Community schools would enroll 1100 to 1300 students which means that some current neighborhood schools will be closed. There is concern with closing schools due to the difficulty of re-opening them if the population increases. Focus schools will not offer all the extra-curricular activities of the neighborhood schools, such as sports.
 - ♦ To offer certain curriculum, a school needs to have a certain number of students to maintain the need for the course.
 - ♦ Benson is listed as one of the possible magnets schools with an emphasis on environmental studies as a 4-year program.
 - Some board members were under the impression that Benson was to become a 2-year, career exploratory school.
 - Still a concern that Benson is drawing students away from the neighborhood schools.
 - ♦ An arts magnet school is also being proposed.
 - District workshops

- ♦ District workshop on October 9th was not heavily attended, but lots of district faculty in attendance.
 - ♦ Multi-use campuses were a common theme to help revitalize schools.
 - ♦ Questions on how restrictive to make Benson (and other magnet programs) without losing the diversity.
 - ♦ Next workshop on October 17th at Rosa Parks School.
 - Dick is meeting with Climate Prosperity on October 15th.
 - ♦ Climate Prosperity works with partners to develop a network of people to create business opportunities. Currently involved with PSU and the Sustainability Center currently in design.
 - Work for the national grant to develop green focused programs of study to begin at the end of October.

- By-law Changes and Updates
 - Executive Committee members to include the officers and 2-auxiliary members. Auxiliary member terms to be 1-year. Motion passed.
 - Quorum: Bylaws currently read that 8-members are needed at BOD meetings for official business to be conducted. Motion made to change verbiage to read “50% of BOD members are needed for quorum.”
 - ♦ Neal to draft changes.
 - Motion made to make the events and LTDC standing committees. Passed.

- Finance Committee Report
 - Current balance: \$1561.67.
 - Budget for 2009 still in progress. Need estimated numbers from Events committee for possible events for rest of year.
 - Dale would like to make the scholarship budget.

- Membership Count: 172 members most of which expire at end of 2009.
- Membership Dues to be re-set to \$12.00 from the \$15.00 set for the reunion picnic since 2009 is nearly over.

- Events Committee
 - A general meeting for alumni to be scheduled after the district makes an official announcement regarding the school.
 - Events need to focus on attracting younger generation (70’s through 90’s) to encourage membership.

- Tammy to find out the dates of the next PTSA meeting. Chuck volunteered to attend if possible.

- Scholarship Committee
 - Letter and card to be posted on the website and an email to be sent to contact list.
 - Will only send out paper letters to 200 people who have contributed in the past.
 - Don plans to hold off about \$2000 for next year’s mailing.
 - Costs for this year was kept smaller because some materials left over from last year were used again this year and mailing was more selective.
 - Josh to set-up pay-pal account for donations and add to website with history of program.

- Communications Committee

- Association “electronic” contact opportunities.
 - ♦ 338 registered users on the website.
 - ♦ Approximately 500 visitors per month with most viewing the reunions page. Next viewed pages include the academics, about us, links, and athletics.
 - ♦ Facebook group now over 1200 people
 - ♦ Linkin group has 72 members which is gain from 20 6-months ago.
 - ♦ Over 200 emails in Contact Database
- Committee vision: To develop a central/unified way of contacting everyone
- Dale spoke to the staff at their monthly meeting in September to ask them how the BPHSAA could help out the school
 - Display cases—association could have access. A cost estimate to be sent by school.
 - Field trips and speakers for classes
 - Calculators for math classes
 - Dale will send out a list of suggestions sent by staff
 - A small committee consisting of Dale, Josh and MajBrit established to handle the project
- Next meeting to be held on October 14th at Benson starting at 5:30pm.
- Meeting adjourned at 7:30pm