

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



Date: July 8, 2013  
Starting Time: 5:39 pm Ending Time: 7:26 pm  
Group McKenzie

**ATTENDEES:**

Rob Johns (RJ), Josh Piper (JP), Ken Bakke (KB), Joanne Stainbrook (JS), Chuck Heil (CH), Don Wear (DW), Dick Spies (DS), Max Baker (MB), Neal Galash (NG), guests: Roger Edwards class of 1963; Larry Haugen (lwh.pdx@gmail.com) and Bob Brown (PTSA Secretary), robertobrown12@gmail.com.

**MINUTES:**

- Everyone introduced themselves for the guests.
- Rob passed out agendas.
- Rob Johns:
  - Fall Benson Tech Foundation "Partners for Benson Reception":
    - We are in the early stages of planning - will be at school, trying to pick a date and time. Dale, RJ, JS, Kevin from PWA talking with Carol. Noon, two weeks from today. A subcommittee including RJ, DB, JS are working on an invitation.
  - July 6th, there was passage of the Senate Bill. RJ reaching out to discuss implications for Benson.
- DW: Counseling center.
  - July 23rd is the completion date.
  - Areas to be painted: prep work must be done by July 25th. Media event showing final painting will be on July 26th, 7AM to noon. Also, Carol would like to paint the band room. Trying to coordinate with Carol about color, paint and volunteers.
- Planning for future bond measures: DS:
  - Some contact with Portland Business Alliance. They are eager to help and we are trying to hook up with their educational coalition.
  - Building business connections forum at the Rose Quarter the morning of July 23rd. Peggy Anderson is the contact at PBA. Want to use that information to go into Benson-Lincoln joint planning committee meeting at the end of July.
  - One thing we are trying to do is gather data on business connections. Hopefully we will end up with a compelling list of potential stakeholders.
  - DS will email the board list with the dates and events.
- RJ: PBA sent a letter to Carol Smith signed by the President that supported Benson. There are folks out there supporting us.
- DS: As we go into the next year, those stakeholders will help craft the five year plan and dovetail into the vision for Benson and hopefully this will become part of the bond measure.
- Membership: JP: added one more member/renewal yesterday, so total is 90.
- Nothing new on website or scholarship.

- Finance: KB: Balance is 3185.95.
- PTSA update: no meetings over the summer, but will probably need to meet before the fall if we're having the big freshman welcome. Cake, ice cream, and welcome.
- Maintenance: CH: grass is still growing.
- Memorabilia: CH: Dale did a nice summary write up of the activities, will fill in the blanks and send to the group. We will be able to post his write up on the website and talk about it at the picnic.
- Roger Edwards: We will have an old slide rule and I will bring it to the picnic.
- Benson House: DS: closed up for the summer. Next year they will put on the interior finishing touches.
- Community picnic planning: MB:
  - Went over the handouts and discussed who was responsible for what.
  - Roger is bringing Moxie soda.
  - Some of the graduates will help with cleanup.
  - Bob volunteered to contact the baseball coaches to see if they would lead a pickup game.
  - Planning for next year: have it at the school. Bob believes Carol will be able to make it happen.
  - Dale and Chuck will not be at the picnic. Wayne will be there with some of the band.
- Proposed first amendment to move annual meeting - changes to bylaws.
  - Remove August and insert 'Tech Show', so the annual meeting would take place during the month of the Tech Show.
  - NG moved to accept the proposed amendment, CH seconded. The motion passed.
  - Proposed second amendment: statement that 2013 term ends will extend to the 2014.
  - CH moved to accept, NG seconded.
  - Discussion: JS and MB stated they do not think the amendment is needed in the bylaws.
  - The amendment to the amendment failed.
  - We will discuss the extension of terms, instead of place it in the bylaws.
  - NG: Issue to discuss at a later date - succession: Chair, Vice-Chair, and who is next? Will put that on a later meeting agenda.
  - Max will work with Josh to amend the bylaws and report.
- Previous Minutes:
  - KB moved and DS seconded May minutes approved. Motion passed.
  - JS will have June minutes out soon.
- KB: There was a great article in the Tribune by Brad Avakian last Tues. Senate bill 498.
- Foundation: RJ:
  - There is no news on the Foundation 501C-3 status.
  - RJ met with Tom Goodhue about constructing a format that would be successful in obtaining a grant. Concepts have been created for partnerships.

Send to DS to see if it's good. Connie is helping with the grant writing. RJ passed out bullet points on the concepts developed.

- Brad is labor commissioner - how can we be self-sustaining? CTE teaching school - practicum for teachers. Partnership with OIT, which parallels in a college setting, can we partner with them for the education component for new teachers? We need to spreadsheet potential partnerships, since it crosses over all of our activities.
- Need to find ways to bring Labor, industry, education together in a self-sustaining way in the same space.
- JS: need to get funding in the grant for a coordinator to put the pieces together.
- CH: training the teachers needs to be put together outside of what the school district does - they do not understand what CTE teachers need. There are difficult politics there, but it needs to be negotiated.
- CH: consider creating school of education for CTE, talk with OIT.
- RJ: not to the exclusion of other institutions. OIT has relationship with OHSU. More colleges are partnering than in the old days. Thomas King - pres of Oregon League of minority voters. This has legs within his group of constituents.
- KB: Still have to get to the school board - if the board doesn't approve it, it's dead.
- DS: the more robust the partnerships, the more compelling the story, the harder for them to deny the validity.
- RJ: We have two more CTE supporters on the board now.
- RJ: He will send information out to the group.
- DS: We'll roll these into the long term planning goals.

## OLD BUSINESS

- What to do with postcards from Tech Show?
- Did we get the letter from Dale Lawrence Jensen (1945 graduate) up on the website?
- How can we support Carol's goals:
  - Five year plan for Benson. With limiting funding, how can we continue to build the school?
    - Instruction, community, growth.
    - partnerships, community, students and family
    - growth: growing numbers, growing programs.
    - Making the connection between career and college.
    - Growing in the relevancy, changing instruction to fit industry.
- 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.
  - Need a base drum.
- 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 that are alumni involved with the board?
- Memorabilia: 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 Alumni association members:
  - Dig deeper into matches of people with majors. Mission based approach to recruiting.
  - Engage with KBPS about getting alumni association information out there.
- Outreach and Partnerships - RJ
  - OSU not reaching back yet.
  - U of O is waiting on the results of their program with Jefferson.

Next meeting at Mckenzie:

Aug 12<sup>th</sup>, 5:30PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Maj Britt (Max) Baker  
Secretary  
BPHS Alumni Association