

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



Date: Nov 4, 2013
Starting Time: 5:30 pm Ending Time: 7:30 pm
Benson Library

ATTENDEES:

Guests: Benson Tech counselor Amy Henry amyhenry@pps.net, Roger Edwards Class of 63, Jim McGinnis, P.E. Engineering Project Manager (daughter is Benson student) jim.mcginnis@portofportland.com , Dennis Phillips (dennisphillipsdx@hotmail.com) worked at Bonneville for 30 years (friend of RJs, CTE activist), Dick Pew class of 1958.

Rob Johns (RJ), Max Baker (MB), Josh Piper (JP), Joanne Stainbrook (JS), Mike Landstrom (ML), Don Wear (DW), Dick Spies (DS)

MINUTES:

- Amy Henry spoke:
 - Update on college/career center
 - Come by and visit
 - Trained 20 community volunteers
 - Open from noon to 5PM. - request from students to be open after school
 - 3-5PM shift was taken by the 'I have a dream' partnership
 - It is hard to get people that go through the training to take shifts, as they are all daytime shifts.
 - Feedback was received that the center looks 'sterile'. We did receive a rotary grant for \$500 to work with community artist to make signs. We'll have a wall with scholarship winners and students with apprenticeships. The artist gave a bid of \$1000, so alums are trying to get more money and possibly a sign company to donate. The community artist is also working with the art teacher and students to create tiles representing trades. We want to be done by Tech show.
 - We will have receptions an hour before Tech Show. 5-6PM on Thurs.
 - Getting together a Facebook site for donors, etc.
 - All but one computer has died. District gave quote of \$3300 to replace them. She'll get specs from Albert and email them to Rob so we can post online.
 - Met with OIT.
 - On both sides, we've had staff changes, so we met again to talk about how to make the partnership work. Set four goals:
 - Dual credit. Teachers here have to have a masters degree in order for this to work. Hope to pilot one or two classes next year.
 - Outreach activities: Miranda will be in charge. Two career pathways (Health Occupations and Industrial and Engineering) will visit

Wilsonville campus, and some staff will come here to talk about opportunities. Next year will plan trip to K-Falls.

- Tech Show: Currently we have 25 Benson alums who are attending OIT. We'd like to have a booth and ask them to man the booth, poster with kids who are currently there, majors etc. We do have a banner already.
 1. Rob: we do have a standing offer for Alumnus to donate to help with travel to K-Falls. Amy: I'll have Miranda follow up with students who talked to OIT. ML: Good for Juniors also.
 2. Jim M: question: credit here counts as credit at OIT: what type of classes, what kind of degree?
 3. Amy: Math, Science and Technology. We think we have a math teacher. As far as I know we don't have any science teachers that fit that. We might offer English as well to help get it going.
 4. Dick P: Exceptions can be made, depending on experience.
 5. Amy: Yes, OIT has designated someone to help us walk through the process of how to get qualified.
 6. Dick P: They can also take the course they would be teaching as a review.
 7. ML: The end of the day kids get a credit, it knocks off money and time for the student.
 8. Jim M: The Benson Course guide does talk about dual credit with PCC.
 9. Amy: This would be toward a 4 year university.
 10. RJ: In K-Falls, the Health Occupations people can work across the street from the school. It's a unique opportunity.
- DS: We are getting letters of support from school of architecture at universities. We are crafting understanding about how a partnership would work.
 - RJ: Concordia also has given us a letter of commitment. Teaching school for CTE instructors. Ron Dexter runs the curriculum there. This would be a vehicle for certification.
 - Jim M: we have about 36 kids in each program going through dual credits.
 - DW: Do we have technical reading?
 - Amy: Teachers will tell you they integrate technical reading into the classroom. I would suggest you have Jeandre come back after she's talked to the staff to see who is interested.
- Introductions were made around the room.
- RJ: Dennis and I talked with Jeff Reardon, State Representative District 48 (503-986-1448, rep.jeffreardon@state.or.us), has background as CTE teacher. Very interested in Benson. He felt few people knew what he did in the classroom. Interested in creating CTE advisory committee. Jim Francesconi visited, preparing for another run for office.
- Dick Pew: Interested in sharing information about class of 58.
- Discussion about the latest contact with the private company putting together the alumni contact book. DS and JR ordered copies. JP mentioned there had been a

- few contacts on our site about the cards for the books. He did put up a notice that we are not associated with that private company.
- RJ: New data on CTE retiring teachers - new contracts and health benefits might increase the retirement rate.
 - DW: I've been speaking with the unions about getting people that can work with adolescents.
 - RJ: Luke Hopkiss is backing up Tony Francesconi right now. He's at Concordia getting his CTE certification. This is a good example, and we need to study what he is doing.
 - DW: They have lots of people who have the years in the field, can instruct and work with kids - would be good to have a fast track for these folks to get certified.
 - Jim M: Rob - asked about CTE classes offered at other high schools. Seems like we're diluting the workforce. Should we consolidate CTE at Benson?
 - RJ: Let's look at the statistics about Benson vs. other high school numbers. Note the 'all high schools' includes Benson stats. The only thing you can attribute higher stats to is the CTE component. Many kids tell you that they skip school on the days they don't have CTE. We need CTE at other schools to help with this.
 - Jim M: Because of the cap it's hard to recruit - are we being disingenuous trying to get as many people in as possible?
 - Rob: That is a district issue, it's true.
 - DW: Most schools have limited space. Open up evening CTE classes and summer school for kids in other schools that want CTE. But Benson is specifically designed with the Freshman and Sophomore rotations.
 - MB: CTE means something different to people outside of a CTE school. CTE classes in neighborhood schools are wood shop and maybe plastics shop. The kids get a little experience but aren't expecting to go into trade. Benson is integrated CTE, a totally different experience. The district is not talking about creating an integrated CTE environment in all neighborhood schools, which is the key to Benson's success. They should be talking about how to move kids who aren't doing well in the neighborhood schools academic focus environments over to Benson and vice versa.
 - RJ: We're talking about making this school vital through the partnerships and CTE night and summer schools. When that happens the talk about enrollment caps goes away.
 - Jim M: The district established a cap and there was no logic that would keep them from removing the cap. He took them to court. They called the day before the court date to say his daughter could enroll.
 - RJ: They had 15 people that didn't end up coming in Sept. They contacted students on the waiting list and had little success recruiting. The interpretation of the children is that they were rejected and unwanted.
 - Jim M: What I found during the legal process was that the school district has no written standard for making decisions about whether they accept or reject a request. I will forward you the school's legal response.
 - Grant submission:

- RJ: Sent out copy of final grant submission. Final decision will come mid to late December. Jan 14 through Jun of 2015 would be the money flow.
- DS: Long term planning:
 - Entering into a productive time for planning for a new Benson High School. DS has been invited to serve on the planning committee to recommend which schools are going to be on the next Bond measure. Benson, Lincoln, Jefferson are strong candidates. The important thing is that there is money available from the first bond measure to plan for the next round. That is scheduled to go into effect after the 1st of the year. I am pretty confident that we can tell a compelling story that Benson should be in that next bond. As part of SB498, we've been gathering letters of support about creating new robust programs at Benson. We can use that new support. University of Oregon, White Stag campus etc. Nov 2016 would be when the money would be available.
 - Around 85 million dollars will not create a new school. Now the prognosis is that the schools are going to be larger. It will be remodeled schools. My pitch is that they will need to allocate more money for Benson.
 - Jim M: Facility assessment?
 - DS: Yes, all the PPS schools. ADA, seismic, etc. It's available online. Bottom line is we have a great story to tell, good likelihood money will be available. We need to help inform what kind of school we could be.
 - DW: Has anyone talked to Wyden and Kennedy?
 - RJ: I think Kathy Skatch has a contact.
 - JS: Related issue: While Grant is being renovated, students will be relocated to Marshall High. Co-worker said - hoping my son gets into Benson because I don't want to have to send them to Marshall. Will there be more students from Grant that want to come to Benson? If Benson goes through a renovation, will there be a drop in interest for those years?
 - DS: We'd have to work out the logistics of how to do the renovation and see if we can keep students on campus. Pre-planning work could begin next year. The difficulty the current schools are having is that they hadn't done any of the planning work. I am very encouraged.
 - RJ: I've talked to the district about Benson needing buffer in the enrollment for the displaced students.
 - DS: By the time we get to the next bond measure, the schools aren't going to be finished, so voters will be asking why we need more money. That's why the Benson story is so compelling - we can turn education into jobs right away.
 - DW: Industries will be taking kids out for summer jobs. Getting those apprenticeships into place will be key. How Benson built Portland is a compelling story for job creation.
 - RJ: John Bradshaw did one of our tours. He's interested in how Benson has been such a big part of Portland history.
- RJ: Planning for Tech Show: Feb 13th and 14th. Transfer decisions due Feb 21st.
 - Amy and Steve are visiting middle schools the first part of Feb. We'd like to have the freshmen go back to their middle schools to talk to the kids about their experiences.

- ML: other high schools are going out to visit in November.
 - RJ: Start recruiting in Nov/Dec, but still have the Tech Show Feb. It's hard to tell what public opinion is right now.
 - ML and DW and Roger interested in Tech Show committee. Max will email the board for volunteers to meet outside of the board.
- RJ: Asked PPS: manage the cap up. What is the plan? He's not sure if they are listening and where they are at.
 - ML: PPS does media blitz that enrollment is up, but they don't talk about the graduation rate. We need to be talking about Benson's 85% graduation success, and the district using Benson's space for other things.
 - RJ: Increase in enrollment in Roosevelt, Jefferson and Grant. They kept kids from going to Benson that ended up at Roosevelt. The architects are presenting three plans and they are giving 2000 square feet on first floor, and second floor. Heavy equipment isn't going on the 2nd floor. No discussion about manufacturing. They are thinking about arts/drama.
 - ML: Can't we set the record straight before this information is presented to the school board?
 - RJ: I don't know how we get that out without major advertising that we don't have money for.
 - DW: Would be great to get Schnitzer Steel and other industries involved.
 - RJ: They are so frustrated with PPS they are looking at other solutions to their workforce issues.
 - All the instructors have partnership connections. When they retire, where do the connections go?
- Partnerships:
 - There is a walk through with industry on Wed.
 - ML doing walk through on Thurs.
 - There is nothing like walking someone through the school. The front of the school looks like any other school. You have to go through the wings.
 - Dennis: There are economies of scale if you could coordinate the district CTE programs through Benson.
 - DS: We've thought about putting in middle schools programs here.
 - RJ: We've talked to the district about moving DART. Carole Smith has admitted there is other space to move them to. We're advocating to move it because we need the space for architecture and mechanical drawing. SB498 asked for direct funding to bring back architecture.
 - DS: Basics of design concepts could be anyone - someone from Nike.
- Oregon Tech, MOU:
 - Amy found 25 graduates currently going to Oregon Tech. It's like Benson on steroids. I encourage everyone to visit. The President Chris Maples is an extremely creative individual.
- Old business and minutes from previous meeting tabled for next meeting.
- Membership:
 - RJ: We need to increase membership to get more money to help the school with what they want to accomplish. Should we have a membership committee?

- Roger: I would suggest firming up the connections with the people running the class reunions. We can advertise at reunions.
- ML: Coordinate to have classes have their reunions at the same time as our picnic. That worked very well this year.
- RJ: The idea of having it here at the school is great.
- DW: Brings in PTSA, kids, etc.
- MB: Need to coordinate with people to see if we can get the building etc.
- JS: Probably want to have it a week or so before the district cleanup so we can get volunteers to sign up.
- Dick Pew: Have room on the sign-up sheets for all the alum information, then follow up and contact them for other contact information. I came for the first time in many, many years this last year. Only a few from my year came. I have about 8 contacts I could give, where you could invite them to Kenton station or the board meetings.
- JP: We communicate well, we just can't seem to get people to sign up and pay dues.
- RJ: MB, ML will meet with Rob to discuss various membership ideas.
- JP: annual mailing in December - sometimes whole DB, sometimes just dues paying. Last month was newsletter mailing, letter because you paid dues etc, when Tech show is etc. Last annual mailing hardcopies to current and former dues paying members. Email to everyone.
- ML: What happened to student representative trying to hook seniors in?
- MB: We talked about trying to attend a pep rally or go into classrooms to talk about the alumni assoc. also.
- RJ: Let's put that on the committee agenda.
- Roger: I would suggest firming up the connections with the people running the class reunions. We can advertise at reunions.
- ML: Coordinate to have classes have their reunions at the same time as our picnic. That worked very well this year.
- JS: What happened with sports?
 - RJ: Not sure. 6A means they only have two schools with three teams. Curtis probably has a better idea.
- Did everyone see the youtube link on Curtis leading the Zoomba class? Curtis has done a great job. He's openly asked Tripp for 150 more kids next year.
- Next meeting will be December 2nd.

OLD BUSINESS

- Bylaws amended from Aug 2013 meeting re moving annual meeting?
- 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 Curtis Wilson'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 Curtis. Kathy Skatch is the communications teacher.
- RJ to follow up with Curtis 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.
 - Curtis Wilson can have it on his 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.
 - Is Curtis 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.
 - 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.
- Band ideas:
 - Is Curtis 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 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 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 meetings at Benson Library:

Because the next two 2nd Mondays are Federal holidays, proposed is:
Mon Oct 7th, Mon Nov 4th.

Respectfully Submitted,

Maj Britt (Max) Baker
Secretary
BPHS Alumni Association