

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



Date: Dec 2, 2013
Starting Time: 5:30 pm Ending Time: 7:10 pm
Benson Library

ATTENDEES:

Guests: Benson Tech Principal Curtis Wilson; Benson Tech Sally Niedermeyer, Health Occupations Leader/Instructor, sniederm@pps.net; Roger Edwards Class of 63; Ed Ariniello, class of 1979, Jr and Sr. class president, edward.a.ariniello@kp.org

Rob Johns (RJ), Max Baker (MB), Josh Piper (JP), Joanne Stainbrook (JS), Mike Landstrom (ML), Don Wear (DW), Dick Spies (DS), Dale Bajema (DB), Neal Galash (NG), Ken Bakke (KB)

MINUTES:

- Sally Niedermeyer spoke:
 - Health Occupations merged into Health Science with a dental focus and Medical Professional focus.
 - You can try for your RA certification at 18 years of age, but it's a \$110 licensing exam fee, which intimidates many kids. You also have to do a criminal background check, which is only good for 6 months, so you would have to do it twice for the year. It totals about of \$200, and it's due around prom and graduation.
 - One of the perks is that a nursing assistant works in a federal facility they can have their tuition reimbursed, however that means the student still has to come up with the money in the first place. The beginning of the year would be the best time to organize scholarships for the year - it would pay tuition to HOSA, travelling etc.
 - In order to go on clinical visits, you have to be dressed professionally, so you have to come to school dressed up. It's a higher standard.
 - It would be great to get a dental hygienist or dental assistant who would be a great teacher.
 - DW expressed interest in meeting with Sally about the apprenticeship library idea.
 - Sally: Applied for a CTE grant to create their own HOSA website.
 - RJ: HOSA?
 - Sally: HOSA/VICA: Health Occupation Skills of America. Speaking, teamwork, community service events. Skills USA has other careers, HOSA is for Health Occupations, but it's the same type of skills. The Technical Student organizations help kids learn the skills. Just did a big fundraiser - at the state level they lost their funding, however Perkins kicked in and they got funding back. The cost of registering students is prohibitive, also travelling. Last year

sent one student to nationals - came back 17th. There's only one scholarship through HOSA - \$2000 scholarship by Kaiser.

- Thanks for having me to speak.
- Sally excused herself from the meeting.
- Curtis Wilson spoke:
 - Curtis suggested he would like to meet with the Site Council, PTSA and BPHSAA groups meeting on the same night: every third Wednesday at 5:30PM meet in room 125 (the old band room), Curtis and two administrators will give a “State of Benson Tech” address. Site council will still meet at 4PM, then come to 5:30PM meeting. PTSA agreed also.
 - RJ: We will discuss this.
 - There are so many discussions with the district about the enrollment cap, CTE, and grants. There are a lot of changes coming.
 - Enrollment cap: We are meeting with the board before Christmas Break. They want us to give them a number, to increase the number of students allowed to enroll. Working with Trip Goodall to increase it anywhere from 50 to 150, in a way that other schools don't lose students.
 - CTE – This is huge with the bonds coming up to rebuild high schools.
 - Two weeks ago, the district met with all the principals. Franklin and Roosevelt - they will be adding CTE classes, not at the same level as Benson Tech. The district wants us to help figure out what these other high school CTE classes would look like.
 - Curtis is talking to the district about bringing back some of the programs that were cut at Benson Tech. He met with enough people to create a wish list for phasing in classes over the next three years. Drafting/Architecture is number 1. Mechanical engineering, computer science, First responders. He met with Kevin Geans-Gale, etc. He had to submit by this Friday, but has the trip to Las Vegas for National CTE convention on Wed, so submitted it today. He is not sure what is going to happen, but they are having these conversations and it feels good.
 - Visioning session tomorrow 1-5PM for all principals and stakeholders. Superintendent will be there. Talking about where CTE is going in the schools.
 - RJ: There will also be employers there in small groups - what skills are you seeking. We are supposed to hear if we've won the grant, on 12/4. If we win the grant, I would advocate for Architectural program to be restored.
 - DS: Will there be any representation of Architecture there?
 - RJ: I gave them a list and I think they went after some of the 'independent' businesses that weren't directly associated with Benson Tech. They are hearing Benson's message loudly.
 - Curtis: We're talking about bringing in sophomores and juniors into Benson Tech. We know they won't allow 150 freshman in. Figuring out how to arrange classes for kids who's missed part of all of the rotation.

- RJ: Don't forget the idea of a summer school orientation. It's a little out of the box.
 - Curtis: It's exciting to have these out of the box conversations with other principals where people are really thinking about how to make it work.
 - DW: If we were able to bring CTE together in ADX model. All CTE in one room where it's introductory. Then if a student shows real potential, that child would move to Benson Tech.
 - Curtis: What should we push at this visioning meeting?
 - RJ: The statistics about graduation rates - why is Benson's so much higher? CTE in and of itself is the reason. You have 5 or 6 CTE teachers that were students themselves. It says a lot.
- DS: In your conversations have you heard anything about Benson Tech being in the next round of bond measure?
 - Curtis: The district says they want to see it happen. They know everyone is talking about Benson Tech right now. We have to start working on it now.
 - DS: There are monies in the first bond to plan what the new vision is now. It's supposed to be spent next year.
 - Curtis: We've spoken of it but it's up in the air.
 - DS: I'm on the long term planning committee, who helped draft the first bond. Last month's meeting polled the people on the next bond. They want to do it 2016 and have it focus on high schools and be very robust.
- Curtis thanked the board for their time.
- Curtis excused himself from the meeting.
- Discussion of new board meeting date/time:
 - DS moved we shift meeting to third Wed to begin with the "State of Benson Tech" address and continue with our normal agenda. DW seconded. The motion passed.
- Discussion of Chuck Heil resignation from the board.
 - RJ: Chuck has resigned. We will need a PTSA liaison. We will discuss with the PTSA the possibility of meeting with them for 15 minutes or so after the joint meeting, since it is likely we will be having our meetings at the same time on third Wednesdays now.
- Membership: JS
 - There are currently 95 members.
 - JS sent out a copy of the membership plea, updated for this year. Dale had some good input on mentioning our work with the senate bill etc. Please email more suggestions.
 - RJ: Please send comments to Josh in the next two days. Josh will move forward to publishing.
 - DB moved we approve up to \$100 for the membership renewal mailing. DS seconded the motion. The motion passed.
- Scholarship: JS

- I will email the scholarship letter for comments, as it will go out with the membership renewal. The mailing will go out in about a week to paid members and people who have donated before.
- Finance: KB
 - Currently there is not a lot coming in. Balance in checking: \$2361.92.
- Archiving effort and centennial celebration: DB
 - Archived items might generate interest in archiving and the centennial.
 - RJ: With Chuck resigning, I emailed with Lisa about archiving. Once we have someone, they can meet with Lisa, the librarian and Curtis to talk about putting some of the items on display in the library.
 - DS will reach out to Bill Ranta, perhaps through Franklin Johnson, and see if he's interested in talking to Lisa Wilcke and Curtis Wilson about helping with archives.
- Planning for Tech Show: MB
 - Feb 13th and 14th. Transfer decisions due Feb 21st.
 - MB found the documents from last year, and reflections on what could be better.
 - MB will email those that indicated interest for a one-hour meeting in December to firm up plans for this year.
 - DB: Let's hope there isn't a teacher strike that would prevent visiting the middle schools.
- Upcoming reunions: JP
 - Class of 4s reunions – JP emailed a contact from 1994 and hasn't heard back.
 - DS will talk with Franklin about the 64 reunion.
- Community Picnic: RJ
 - Let's bring up the idea of having the Community picnic at Benson Tech at the Jan 15th meeting.
 - RJ will send a note to Curtis to see if he'll put it on his agenda.
- Potential guests for next meeting: RJ
 - JS: Someone to talk about the grant?
 - RJ: I'll see if we can get Jeannie Yerkovick.
- SB.1293 senate bill: RJ
 - It seems like they just copied the state level since they asked for 23 million, which is what the state looked for. We'll see what happens with it.
- Previous minutes: MB
 - Finalized minutes for August and September were mailed Saturday.
 - Draft minutes for October and November were mailed Saturday, and revised with corrections from JS on Sunday, with Neal providing the second half of Oct minutes on Sunday.
 - There was discussion about getting all the minutes for 2013 approved and posted by the end of the year.
 - MB will send the revised minutes for October and November, and the December minutes on Tuesday. Please read them and send any comments to her by end of day Friday.
 - KB moved that we approve all previous minutes and these minutes as amended by Friday. DS seconded. The motion passed.

- Benson Tech House:
 - JS: How are we planning for property for house building in the next few years?
 - DS will ask Rich Webber and let RJ know.
- Ed spoke:
 - General history: Ed graduated in 1979. He spent years at Benson helping with Junior Achievement and has been on boards for the Red Cross and March of Dimes. He tries to help smaller nonprofits. He's been in business in Portland for 30+ years. Early on, made several attempts to speak for high school students at Benson, but discussion was not open at that time.
 - His friend's son is a junior at Benson this year. If it wasn't for the automotive program here he wouldn't have finished high school.
 - He is interested in helping forward Benson's cause.
 - Currently he works for Kaiser Permanente. There are many health needs that are under addressed and he sees a lot of opportunity at Benson, especially for kids that feel they can't invest time or money in their education.
 - RJ: Kevin Dalt and a few folks from Kaiser came to Benson recently. Kaiser is so large, there are workforce analysis people there. We discussed the need for having an educated workforce ready at graduation. Health Occupations has about a 92% graduation rate, with kids from all walks of life. Kevin Geans-Gale PWA is working with apprenticeships. Blount, Gunderson etc. This last year we've worked with Amy Henry, a Benson counselor. Two career counselors split the entire student body. There is no mental health counselling available, though 15 kids have a need. The county and school district are trying to figure out who should provide services. We would love to have someone with your connections and experience that will help us help the kids.
 - DW: Rob and I working with Miranda trying to create a program to provide career education and apprenticeship pathways.
 - Ed: That sounds like the Experiential school at Centennial. It's a job shadow for a week with assignments. All different kinds of businesses: Boeing, Health Occs, GI Joes for retail, warehousing etc. What does it take to get employed? Four hour course and then job shadow.
- Meeting was adjourned at 7:10PM.
- Next meeting is 5:30 in the old band room Jan 15th, 2014 for the State of Benson Tech address.

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