

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



Date: Jan 15, 2014  
Starting Time: 5:30 pm Ending Time: 7:30 pm  
Benson Band Room/Benson Library

Benson Principal State of the School address began at 5:30PM in the Benson Band Room, where various members of the PTSA, BPHSAA and other interested parties were present. John Isaacs, Senior Policy Advisor to the Superintendent and Judy Brennan, Enrollment Director (and parent of Benson 2011 grad) were there to address the enrollment cap concerns.

John Isaacs:

- We know there's been significant concern with all the groups about the hard cap for enrollment. Question about whether the district recognizes the value of Benson. We are here to say yes, Benson is absolutely vital to the future of the school system. The superintendent formed a committee to come up with recommendations to the board to lay the foundation to put Benson on a growth path. Renewed conversations about CTE in the district. Core of those conversations is that Benson is the hub of building CTE.

Judy Brennan:

- Recommendations package that we'll be bringing to the board:
  - Lottery changes - increase slots at 9th and 10th grade.
  - Proposing 40 more slots across the 2 grades.
  - Looking for increased retention rate, then upping the cap again.
  - We're not setting a new target - emphasis is on how we can support stable enrollment.
  - Acknowledgement that kids who apply to Benson usually apply from certain districts. Many kids from one school has impacts. So we're looking at balancing measures. Kids from schools with low numbers of applicants will have a better chance of getting in. Madison had 91 applicants at Benson, Lincoln 3. Prioritizes lottery, so that has to be voted on by the board. We think this helps Benson get bigger without negatively impacting the other schools.
  - Jan 27th is when the lottery opens.
  - Working to find ways to get students to Benson at 11th and even 12th grade.
  - Plan of operation document will be available soon.
  - We expect that after this year, that will lay the foundation for changing and increasing Benson enrollment.
  - We are also reconvening the bond planning committee next month. Dick Spies will serve as a representative of Benson.
  - Question: Can we get students from outside of district?
  - Judy: There are new rules all the time about inter-district students. Portland district says Portland schools first, so there are not separate

buckets of enrollment for in and out of district. We're thinking about it and looking at new state rules.

Principal Curtis Wilson addressed the assembly:

- Enrollment increase: working with the district for months to figure this out. It's a lot of work. There's no such thing as just raise the cap - politics. Talking with everyone, creating documents. Operations document is 40 pages about how we need to increase enrollment. This will be presented to the board. It has all the numbers and data. We're hoping that when the board hears our proposal and reads through it, they will approve it. We're talking about gradual increasing. We're looking around 915 for next year. Hoping the regional balancer makes a difference, and that we'll get up to 1000 in the next few years. After the 27th it will become a public document and you can have a copy.
- Tech Show: 1st tech show, people are very passionate about it. They shut down the school, the teachers get a half day off- what is this all about? Hearing I just have to see it. 13th and 14th from 6-9PM. Anything we can do digitally to get stuff out about Tech Show, let's do it! Newsletters, facebook, websites, twitter, etc. Spread the word with the media!
- Please spread the word about this meeting. I am hoping parents will come. We all want Benson to be a better school, so let me know how to get parents here, and what we need to talk about. The goal is to get people here and talking to each other.
- Finals start next week - Wed, Thurs, Fri. Periods 1,3,5 Wed. 2,4,6 on Thur, Fri 7 and 8. These exams are on the transcripts. We are pushing them to focus and study.
- Strike issue - don't know where it's going to go. If the worse happens, I have to shut the school down as a safety issue. Can't have subs with machinery etc. Last Monday the board was supposed to listen to HR about why we haven't been able to get a contract settled, they decided to implement the original contract with stuff teachers didn't want. It got heated and the board left, except one board member. If they vote to implement the original contract, the teachers will strike.
  - A parent present said that he was there and the meeting was enthusiastic and lots of energy. There were hundreds of high school students there. The agenda item to vote on the contract was not on the agenda. Two votes on standard business and then they left when their business was over, and met in an executive session. They may have discussed it there. They had mediation scheduled for Monday and it's scheduled again for tomorrow.
  - Question: any presumption that if there is a strike, that juniors and seniors whose final grades are important will be protected?
  - Curtis: the district plans to keep schools open.
  - Parent: If the teachers go on strike the negotiations will speed up. Neither side wants a prolonged strike.

This portion of the meeting concluded. PTSA and BPHSAA went to meet separately.

BPHSAA meeting began at 6:10PM in the library

ATTENDEES:

Guests: Curtis Wilson, Principal; Bill Sanders, class of 1979, denise@mymeditationroom.com friend of Rob Johns; Roger Edwards Class of 63, Franklin Johnson.

Wayne DeVore (WD), Max Baker (MB), Joanne Stainbrook (JS), Don Wear (DW), Dick Spies (DS), Dale Bajema (DB), Neal Galash (NG), Ken Bakke (KB)

MINUTES:

- New Bond – DS
  - We need to tell a compelling story about why the voters should vote for the bond - new Benson vision. Getting kids employed.
  - Curtis: What have you heard from Rod? He seems to have the direct pipeline to Trip and Carol.
  - DS: He's on board.
  - Curtis: I get all my info from Rod.
  - DS: John Isaacs and I have had conversations, and he's also convinced we will be in the next round.
  - Curtis: Your concern is we need to start planning now. I meet with Trip on a weekly basis, so I will bring this up.
  - DS: I will email Trip and let him know what's happening with the advisory group. Meeting next Wed night in the library room. I will invite Trip. The Site Council approved forming the advisory group and talk more globally about what should be included in the proposal in the redesign of Benson. Not just architectural drawing. Urban design, sustainability, etc. Gathering an interesting cadre of partners to back up our vision.
  - Curtis: District is trying to get a little CTE in every high school. Trying to figure out wish list of what programs we would bring back here. District is saying - if you had these programs, what equipment would you need? Getting that list together. We are talking back and forth. In the other schools, they are just talking about one class, not full integration.
  - DS: we need to make sure our planning committee has your lists and is aware of those conversations, so we can use that for future classes planning.
  - DW: talking about how small spaces can do generalized CTE in the other high schools.
  - Curtis: I asked the teachers about juniors and seniors coming in, knowing they don't have the skill set to choose the major. The majority of the staff were on board with juniors because they could get them into sophomore rotation and then speed them through. They were concerned about incoming seniors.
  - Don: At least if they had some experience at other schools they'll have the safety and thinking skills they need to come in to Benson if they need to. Teachers there could recognize that a student might then excel at Benson.
  - Franklin: Question about CTE in other high schools: What was the original rationale?
  - Curtis: Somewhere in the bond it talked about expanding CTE for the entire district, and they have to follow through with that. I've been going to middle

schools to recruit. Grant has 91 million dollar renovation. Our video was awesome and the kids loved it, impressed with professionally done. 10 minute video. Jefferson had the inside track. I see CTE at the other high schools as CTE orientation, and if they want/need more, they will transfer to Benson. So that's why we're talking about how to make it happen for juniors. Talking about how to limit it to kids that really want to do CTE also.

- Community Picnic this summer:
  - JS: Did anyone ask you about hosting the Community picnic here at the school.
  - Curtis: We'd need a CUB, but I don't see any conflicts. I just need the date.
  - Franklin: Class of 1964 50 year reunion. 3rd or 5th weekend in August. It would be great to tie it in.
  - Curtis: I just need enough notice.
- Curtis excused himself from the meeting.
- Membership: JP NEED PASTE DATA
- Finance: KB
  - There is 351.81 in Paypal. Checking: NEED PASTE DATA
  - There were 16 member renewals. Extra money was donated for the athletic hall of fame. Franklin will ask Ranta who we make a check to. Extra money and money for scholarships is coming in. There are no outstanding bills.
  - DB asked KB for an analysis of what we spent our money on last year to help with planning. KB agreed to create a report.
  - Franklin floated the idea of raising the dues to \$20 annually. The group agreed it seemed reasonable.
- Scholarship:
  - There was a physical mailing. The website has a link but the Foundation made a change that broke our donation link. Josh is working with them on it.
- Discussion of PTSA liason:
  - There is currently nobody that can take over. Let's look for an alum with a student currently in the school. Note if we meet on a night other than 3<sup>rd</sup> Wed, we can ask a board member to volunteer to go and attend and report back at our meeting. The PTSA provides support to the school – it's important. We will give them all the support we can.
- Planning for Tech Show: MB
  - Max presented the information discussed by the folks that met in December. She has emailed RoiSan and Brett information about what the desired setup is for the room. She handed out assignments and asked for everyone to recruit volunteers to help with the two nights.
  - DS moved that the board authorize spending up to \$200 for Tech Show as needed. KB seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.
  - Please put together information for the newsletter so we can potentially mail it before tech show to members, and have copies for Tech Show. Connie Mar will help put it together again. We need to put in information about the board positions that we will be voting for at the annual meeting at Tech Show.
- Archiving effort and centennial celebration:

- Bill Sanders was sent to our meeting by Rob Johns to help with the centennial efforts. He and DB will hook up after the meeting.
- Previous minutes: MB
  - All previous minutes for 2013 were finalized and mailed to the board.
- OIT transportation issue:
  - DS: Are we willing to donate some money for students to get down to OIT at the openhouse? Amy will get them down there.
  - KB moved we approve \$250 expenditure for helping the counseling center get kids to OIT for their open house. Dick seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.
- DW brought up the idea of forming an Apprenticeship program committee, which he would head. There was some discussion. DW will put together information on what the proposal is for this committee, including its duties, and present it at the next board meeting.
  - DS: We need to have input on the apprenticeship program from the CTE advisors.
- JS: Did we hear about the grant the district applied for?  
DB: We did not get it. The electronic version of the grant got jumbled, so the reviewers could not review it. The paper copy was not sufficient, so we were not considered. Rob has another grant source that he's going to reuse much of the grant proposal.
- Meeting was adjourned at 7:30PM.
- Next meeting TBD. [Since the meeting it was decided the next meeting would be Feb 10<sup>th</sup> 5:30PM in the Library.]

#### 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 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 meetings at Benson Library:

[Mon Feb 10<sup>th</sup>]

Respectfully Submitted,



Maj Britt (Max) Baker  
Secretary  
BPHS Alumni Association