

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



Date: April 14, 2014

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

Benson Band Room/Benson Library

ATTENDEES:

Josh Piper (JP), Ken Bakke (KB), Neal Galash (NG), Don Wear (DW), Max Baker (MB), Dale Bajema (DB), Joanne Stainbrook (JS), RE (rodger Edwards), Dick Spies (DS), Rob Johns (RJ), guest Franklin Johnson

MINUTES:

- Athletics discussion:
 - DB read the letter sent to Jon Issacs.
 - We've put the request in writing and if there is no response from the district we need to put pressure on. I would be surprised if they have a written plan. As a group we don't want to meet with Haskins until we have a better process and some written materials.
 - RJ: to add to this, they put a moratorium on sports for 2014-2015.
 - General discussion about the fact there wasn't a written plan from the district, and we need one in order to address concerns.
- Foundation status:
 - RJ: we received 501C-3 approval. It's a good thing, gives us some good opportunities. Now we have studying to do on how to use this.
 - KB: It says addendum
 - applies: no. What does that mean?
 - RJ: I'll have to call. Lots of research to do. Start Connie on Marketing.
- Geometry Tech and Algebra Tech Update
 - RJ: Geo tech is match teacher and CTE instructor that puts them in the mode of teaching physical functioning geometry in the construction of staircase, houses, etc, playhouse for local daycare. It's taken several years of attempts to get this approval for the class. They got really good press, including that there isn't room for the class etc. Curtis briefed them on where they could have it. Auto shop didn't work. They are going to make it more a part of construction: tools and ventilation are already there. The tours during the day, there is a lot of open time and space in the shops while the kids are out on site. There are a lot of discussions going on around where and when the class will take place. Every time he approaches PPS about moving the drug and alcohol program they are told it's off limits.
 - The coursework is truly science technology engineering and math (STEM) in action. Kids take a greater interest in math because it's not as abstract. They can see how it works.
 - DS: example of coordinating basic academic with career technology.
 - DB: Same thing we've been saying about the benefits of Benson.

- DW: And things that OMSI does. Note that kids need to be doing more math in 7th and 8th grade.
- CEIC - RJ:
 - KB and RJ went to their quarterly lunch. Talked about how to establish more relationships with businesses to talk about apprenticeships. Met president of Portland bottling. Several kids from Benson are working there. He is on board with helping. Plyworks was represented by a guy from the Netherlands. Bamboo and metal plates with laminated photos. He's been on a tour and he invited Ken and I to visit. He's very positive about hiring kids. His wife would be a great parallel contact with the photography portion. Feeling very positive about the connection.
 - KB: they have these mixers that come up once or twice a month.
 - RJ: I will email the board the schedule.
- Gunderson follow-up – RJ
 - DW: Friday had a fabulous meeting with Dymler. They want an action plan and a way to measure success of the students. Talking about building a new diesel technology facility. It's on hold while they figure it out internally. I have to build trust with the instructors. Good meeting with Rich and Brett. Brett wants the jump cart built, motorcycle lift, jacks of things that he needs. He's really excited about the diesel shop, but because of the conflict with geo-tech everything is in a state of flux. Rich wants to talk to DS. Needs a roof designed between construction and radio building and they'll be able to put the houses together there, and move their construction materials out, then they will have more space inside. We're talking to Caterpillar and Boeing. Transportation covers a lot, including aviation. We're looking at attending their corporate board meeting. There might be a half million going into the automotive/transportation area. They love the idea of kids coming out of high school going right into their programs. When I talked to the instructors about it, we need a program that can bring the kids up to speed on basic life skills. Tom Adams is in charge of maintenance PPS. There's a lot of talk about bringing students in to help with that.
 - DS: I recommend you consider forming an advisory group for this cluster. What we're trying to do with the design center advisory group and the others - health occ - is start to develop a broad wishlist for the programs.
 - DW: Brett has an advisory committee that meets twice a year so I don't know what to do with that. There's a lot of people ready to go on this, but I don't want to step on the instructors.
 - RJ: The challenge is that Brett has his own group. When we talked about advisory committees, they were very possessive. There's a 'turf' concept, because teachers have had to survive through these issues.
 - DW: Brett is asking for these items to help build up trust.
 - DS: If we can take the advisory groups that are already in place and supplement those.
 - RJ: The question is how do you get there?
 - DW: I have an in with Rich Webber because I'm helping him with his Harley. He came by the shop and saw the equipment that I have, so the rapport is

building. So I'm working on relationships with the industries and instructors. It's working through the emotional strains through the last few years. Brett's comments are that a lot of people come in with great ideas and they have ulterior motives or don't stick around.

- There is a lot of historical equipment that could be traded, donate it etc. Lots of wasted space. So the concept is to get things more compact, more portable.
- DB: I'm a little troubled. We exist to support the school, but we're not the school board. We're not telling the high school what kind of programs they should have or not have. I could argue that drones are the future and we should scrap everything and just build drones.
- DW: the diesel shop was on the wish list.
- DB: We need to work through existing structures, and try and modify them. Maybe we can help bringing in people and nudging.
- DW: I want to support what he's doing.
- RJ: Always arrange your time as an invite to your guest, sign in at the front desk, etc.
- DW: I meet with him at 7AM, mostly.
- Design/Drawing – DS
 - The advisory group is diverse - faculty and also design professions. We meet monthly, next meeting is the 17th. In conjunction with that we're meeting with Curtis and Jeandre wed morning. He can bring up his concerns and we can talk about how we can get the advisory groups to work together. The next meeting is at Zeba design - gives the group another flavor of design. The week after is the Architectural Foundation of Oregon (AFO) board meeting on the 24th here at Benson. That group is oriented around increasing the awareness of the general population on architecture. Broad base of people - not all architects. The opportunity to bring them through Benson Tech is awesome. Rob and Curtis will be there - walk through of the shops. They will see why you want to put the design center here rather than at another school. At our meeting this week I invited Jon Issacs. Jeanie Yerkovich usually comes. What's going to happen at the district level for preplanning for the schools? Jeanie is going to explain how monies from CTE grant will impact it, Jon can talk about how the money from the bond will impact the school. All of this will go into preplanning and into developing programs for the school.
 - RJ: I think as we bring CTE teachers on board that are more willing to work with bigger industrial partners, I think other more hesitant teachers will come along. Building the trust and making long term plans is important.
 - DW: Talked to Dymler about how this diesel program would help get the money passed, and the school bond passed - because industry is stepping in to help build the schools.
 - RJ: Firestorm going on at Roosevelt about CTE space because they didn't have advance planning. Superintendent has to have a vision presented to the board in June. What CTE means to the district is still evolving.
 - DS: That why we have the advisory boards - to answer that question - what is CTE?
 - JS: Is the goal to have a class next fall?

- DS: There is a class already - we're hoping to expand the class year by year. Reality is that in 2016, if the bond passes, then we can redesign. The effort of our group is two pronged - long range picture, but yearly incremental steps.
 - DB: We are thinking about junior level class this fall.
 - RJ: when the grant money goes away, that's when we need the industry partners to come in.
 - DS: We're thinking eventually this might become 6-12 school.
 - RJ: OMSI director came through the school, then came back to say they'd like to partner, but their target is middle schoolers. We talked about the non-heavy CTE, that maybe they could use some of the facility for summer school classes. Or Saturday academy. Any kids that apply don't get turned away - they have significant scholarships.
- Community Picnic - August 16th! Here at the school. Max will head the committee, do a few planning meetings. Invite PTSA and athletic programs. Franklin - we are scheduling class of 64 50th reunion around that. So we will have some folks in here.
 - RJ is going to talk to Curtis about having a tour of the building before or during the picnic.
 - Franklin: helps to bring family through to, because if it's a family commitment there is better support, especially when asking for money.
 - Discussion of things the committee will need to think about: what to charge how to collect etc.
- June 3rd event; 6-7:30PM
 - Discussion about three touches of the incoming students this summer. Curtis wants to make sure we don't lose kids over the summer. It hurts the teacher allocation. We will support the June event however we are asked. The June event was tried by Carol last year, get the freshmen interested, get the parents involved. Meet coaches, sign up with athletics, etc. Kristy Schuester is heading up the June event. She and Curtis are meeting weekly.
 - DB: hoping we could contribute a few hundred, and of course publicizing the Aug picnic.
 - Ken - do we have alternate list?
 - RJ: Yes. Min of next hundred kids drawn.
 - DB: I move the association contribute \$200 for the June event. A reserve for expenses.
 - DS: Seconded.
 - Motion passed unanimously.
 - KB: Gas company used to come bring a gas grill and I think donated the food.
 - RJ: We might have some other food connections to tap.
 - MB: Maybe Kenton station would donate some food?
 - Discussion about swag - Josh will check with bookkeeper on what the student store offers and we'll figure out some things we can order.
- Annual Benson Cleanup is the 19th, 9AM - 1PM. Come if you can.
- DW: there are four kids going for interviews at Gunderson.
- RJ: Saw post: 3 kids that are finalists in the poetry slam - Gerding theater 7PM, April 29th.

- RJ: Curtis asked for this to be posted: they need 10 volunteers for the number of kids targeted to attend OMSI 8 -12:30 at OMSI April 23rd. We need to post on our site. I think they need to email Barry Phillips. Josh will write up some description of what they are looking for.
- Minutes:
 - DB - Move that the March minutes will be approved as written if Max does not receive any comments by email.
 - DS - seconded.
 - Motion passed unanimously.
- Finance
 - Received nice letter for the donation for the robotics club. They did not make it past the round they were in. They took a student video crew with them to do some video blogs. They are on the website.
 - Checks and bills paid tonight, not included.
 - \$3851.92 balance.
 - Bob Whittle - \$100 to Benson Hall of Fame.
 - Franklin - we are meeting this week here, so I'll have Bill Ranta contact you.
 - We also got a \$50 for Benson Athletic Association. Josh will ask the bookkeeper if there is an account that could go into.
 - Josh - PayPal numbers: \$90.20 that will move into onpoint tomorrow.
- Membership: JP
 - One new member since we last talked. Entered info from Tech Show. Last meeting we voted in giving new graduates four years free. Total membership is now 159.
 - Discussion on marketing membership.
 - People that make a directory every year get data from PPS. If there's a way for PPS to give us graduate contacts in a way that works, that would be better than trying to gather the information individually.
 - And I have a captive audience at the Awards ceremony.
 - Discussion on ways to get the word out and get them signed in.
 - Know when tech show is, know when reunions are, linked in and alumni connections.
- New item - Some of you remember Laney. She now works for Treehouse - subscription firm for learning to build websites and write code. It's a paid site thing - he's giving free subscriptions to Benson kids.
 - JP - is there a press release?
 - MB - can we give tax credit through the foundation?
 - RJ: good questions. It's a great thing. STEM stuff.
- Open board positions: Dick was going to talk to Franklin.
 - Neal and Don made the last Kenton Station meeting but the last meeting there were only folks from far away.
 - We can fill open positions at any time, so let's continue to search for people we think would be great members.
- Benson House:
 - JS: When is the Benson house done and if there's a new property?
 - DS: I will report on the house next month. Depends on the cabinets.

- Ken: they are putting siding on it, looks good.
- DS: they are doing electrical and plumbing now.
- NG: have they considered a remodel or adding a second story?
- DS: The district has access to properties, but there are a lot of things they could do.
- JS: I also heard that all classical radio 89.9 moved to near OMSI.
 - RJ: Flink and Steve want to use the space to do video. PPS looks on it as rentable space.
- Adjourned at 7:42pm

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:

[Mon May 12th]

Respectfully Submitted,

Maj Britt (Max) Baker
Secretary
BPHS Alumni Association