

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



Date: Feb 2, 2015

Starting Time: 5:40 pm Ending Time: 7:36pm

Benson Tech Library

**ATTENDEES:**

Dale Bajema (DB), Roger Edwards (RE), Mike Landstrom (ML), Neal Galash (NG), Ken Bakke (KB), Max Baker (MB), Rob Johns (RJ), Annika Johnson (AJ), Josh Piper (JP)

Guests: Tammy Hite, Graduate and teacher; Andy Pazeotopoulos (Architecture 1953)

**MINUTES:**

- **Booster – DB**
  - 28 Free sports physicals were done with the help of Dr. Edward Chaplain, Providence Health and Services. In the spring there will be more.
  - Winter and Spring Sports Banquet March 10<sup>th</sup>, 7-9PM. Boosters to supply coffee/punch/cake or cookies. Will try and recruit parents there.
  - Winter concessions: Jessica Muchinson – Leadership advisor – all concessions for sports are being done by Boosters. Sports events/Tech Show/Robotics Championship is 50/50 split with Boosters. Night school is 100% profits to Boosters or club running it that night.
  - Discussion about what the concession stand might need. Requests have been made to district facilities to look at electrical.
  - New Baseball Head Coach, New Softball Head Coach, Retiring Head Coach Track and Field (Curtis looking). Vacant football head coach.
  - \$500 donation from PTSA. Homecoming made enough to cover decorations. Bank balance \$202.56.
  - Dale will be added to account until parent support arrives.
- **Membership - JP**
  - 91 paid members online. Ken has 7 envelopes to go through.
  - Hard copy went to physical addresses with no email, except the board.
  - Three email blasts. He gets about 5 memberships per blast.
- **Treasurer Report: KB**
  - \$2576.15 is the balance.
- **Membership: JP**
  - Several board members, and guests, renewed membership.
  - Now we have 87 members.
- **Tammy spoke:**
  - Three lots behind Humbolt elementary are being considered for the next Benson House. The district has given the ok for pre-planning/design to build on one of the lots. 50 x 100 ft lot with alley access.
  - Tammy still has to meet with construction on what they want to do. There is talk of creating an auxiliary building. The architecture juniors are going to

make designs and see if the construction team likes them. Permitting will be in August. Building construction is going to make the cabinets.

- 13 students in the junior class now. Doing forecasting guide for next year. Officially adding the senior level next year, so they will have someone else teaching freshmen drafting next year. Trying to figure out how to get the students to help with the bond measure planning also.
- Guest Andy: Mike Parker who designed the airport esplanade would probably like to come in; he knows all the old timer architects also.
- Tammy: That's great. We'll be looking to do that next year. The web page is finally up and I've finally been added to the teacher contact list.
- Josh: Who did the website?
- Tammy: The communications class gets assignments to do the interviews and take photos and videos. They are working on updating the Benson website.
- The existing house status: they are starting cabinets for the house they are finishing. It will be officially done in the fall – go up for sale in the fall. They are dragging their feet.
- Tech Show planning:
  - Board of Directors discussion
    - Bylaws were passed out. There is a more updated version on the website. Everyone wrote the updates on the printouts.
    - NG presented an interpretation of the bylaws saying that the first board of directors was not elected. Since the intent of the bylaws is to keep a functioning board running, it could be said that the board members have not reached their limit.
    - ML moved we accept the interpretation, NG seconded. The board approved unanimously.
    - Everyone agreed we all need to recruit board members so that we can encourage new ideas and participation.
  - Max passed around the revised volunteer sheet, picnic flyer, board flyer, and plan with floor diagram. Let her know if you have questions.
- Site Council -DB:
  - How do we get more money from district to defray cost of CTE programs?
    - There are additional supplies etc. Safety concerns: 1 teacher per 15 students?
  - How can we get more teachers involved?
    - Curtis suggested start at 3:30PM.
    - Curtis will make personal appeals.
    - Brett Anderson has been regular and active member last two years.
  - New classes and programs to be offered next year?
  - How to engage business partners in redesign?
  - Athletics
  - Guidance concerning interpersonal relationships between students/students and students/teachers. More discussion.
  - Engaging incoming students
    - Not just applications – but visiting the school.
      - Information nights at the school

- Staff visits school
  - Student shadow days
  - June engagement picnic
    1. Alumni attend and contribute money
  - Alumni helps also with community picnic, free ticket to 8<sup>th</sup> graders.
- RE: why do all this recruiting when not everyone gets in?
- DB: 275 got in (won the lottery), wait list set aside. Only 175 showed up to registration (September), then contacted wait list, but it was too late. 99 of the people on the wait list were willing to come. There have been discussions this year between the district and Curtis to make changes – if you don't come to shadow or information nights, that should factor into whether you get a lottery ticket. If you won and you don't show up for forecasting without notifying district, then you'd be put on wait list.
  - Applications are being taken now until Feb 18<sup>th</sup>. They put down 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> choice. RJ entered during this discussion.
  - Balancer was also introduced, where they weight from certain districts. This helped ally fears of the schools that were losing students to Benson.
  - Curtis entered the room.
    1. ML says Tech Show banner on outside of old gym on the outside. Nobody can see it. Can we move to front of building? Curtis will investigate. ML will email Curtis to remind him.
    2. Curtis has three of our banners in his office. The others might be in the community room. That's where the Benson Health Clinic will be next year, so we'll need to move it again if the grant comes through.
- Curtis:
  - Athletics
    - The district will meet with Benson and Site Council on the 17<sup>th</sup>, then there will be an announcement, in regard to football.
  - Enrollment
    - District taking a proposal to the board tomorrow. The balancer worked, but the kids that got accepted held us hostage over the summer, 30 kids decided not to come, and we pulled kids off the waiting list, but those kids decided not to come. It was a big mess. We did hit our number, but we don't want to do that again. This next year 275 kids, but if balancer works, they will try 300 for a few years. Any kid that wins and doesn't come to forecasting nights and fail to communicate why, we can take a person off the waiting list in April. I got the draft tonight, Dale and he agree is seems good. Last year was 433. District allowed 275. 274 was what we ended up with. We also got 20 sophomores. We get 40 next year.
    - ML: does the new transfer policy favorable affect us, because all kids transferring have to petition for exceptions? Curtis: I don't think so.
  - Programs
    - We brought back drafting

- Looking to expand Tech Algebra and Tech Geo. It's contingent on the FTE, which we find out in the spring.
- We have teachers come and make pitches for new programs. We take all that info and compile it and see what we get for FTE. Then we have to figure out if students forecast for the programs. Right now we have a math and construction teacher teaching Tech Geo/Algebra. We have two other teachers interested in teaching it. If we get students signing up, we'll do it.
- Teacher wants to do news media class. Students doing announcements at Benson etc.
- Curtis has been thinking about what he wants for Benson. There are a lot of politics. Tried to move programs out, change culture and atmosphere. Trying to save athletics. Now that graduation rates are out: 85% - Lincoln 91%, Grant 90%, Cleveland, then Benson. I'm trying to push for 90%. We're looking at where the seniors are right now. Where are we losing them between freshman and senior year?
  - Rob: How do you account for the attrition of kids going back to neighborhood school?
  - Curtis: that's a good question. The district can track if they come to Benson and then move to another PPS school.
- RE: Diesel program starting? RJ: We have a program- there's 5 new engines back there, and a truck too. This was in the body shop area.
- We've started the dialogue about the new Benson. The district has a plan – talking about the programs for the first 6-8 months. Through September. Then we'll talk about CTE programs and structure of the school. This is when we'll bring in parents, alumni, businesses. Initial conversation is that they will build up.
- ML: Do you have enough potential CTE teachers?
- Curtis: We've been working with the district on recruiting now. There is one teacher that says he's leaving in 2 years. We have someone in place to train the next few years. When we have to pull from the list, we are trying to get the red tape to get them into the classroom taken care of. Still discussing this. We can do one at a time. As long as a bunch don't leave all at once we'll be ok.
- Centennial class discussion:
  - Sophomore class. These discussions are happening with Site Council.
- Andy: industry leader on CNN saying they can't hire anyone. People don't realize what a trade salary is: \$62,000. Promotion is key. Thinking outside the box.
- Curtis: The cap limits a lot. Half of the people that want in can't get in.
- Curtis: Note the programs that are NOT Benson will still be housed in Benson after the redesign.
- Curtis: When you can galvanize the alumni and make enough noise, you can influence the decisions being made.
- Andy: list of grads and their current businesses?
- RJ: Nope. We have a printed book we can go through.

- Discussion about apprenticeships. We always need more businesses to offer them. Alumni would be great for this.
- Newsletter:
  - Dick Spies – design center
  - Dick Spies – bond progress
  - Dick Spies – Benson house
  - Tammy – Tech Algebra
  - Paul Anthony – Dental Health Clinic
  - Amy Henry – Health Clinic
  - Dale Bajema – Booster
  - Rob Johns – Alumni Update
- RJ will email Paul and Amy about their articles. Will email Lisa Wilcke to see if she has the computer with archiving software or knows where it is.
- Next meeting is Monday March 9<sup>th</sup>. (2<sup>nd</sup> Monday)

OLD BUSINESS – things to keep in mind

- Benson 5 year plan.
- Who do we talk to at the awards ceremony about getting time to address students about the alumni association?
- Plan for merchandise?
- ‘Pathways to Manufacturing’ that is managed by Impact NW. Currently Vigors and Daimler participate in the program with Franklin and Centennial students.
- Points West does financial seminars in the community and would be willing to come to Benson and talk to students. This idea needs to be followed up with Principal Wilson.

Respectfully Submitted,

Maj Britt (Max) Baker  
Secretary  
BPHS Alumni Association