

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



Date: May 11, 2015
Starting Time: 5:40 pm Ending Time: 7:41 pm
Benson Tech Library

ATTENDEES:

Dick Spies (DS), Annika Johnson (AJ), Max Baker (MB), Rob Johns (RJ), Mike Landstrom (ML), Roger Edwards (RE), Wes Soderback (WS), Josh Piper (JP)

MINUTES:

- Discussion - RJ:
 - Want to do a working session about 5 year plan and letter to Curtis.
 - Curtis asked about what we are doing for the June 2nd Freshman picnic.
- Treasurer's Report – ML:
 - Nothing is pending in the mail.
 - \$2847.11 in checking
 - Someone sent \$40 for a 50s yearbook. We will give it to the bookkeeper.
 - Transition to the Credit Union from OnPoint. Board already passed it, so the Treasurer and Chair will arrange going there to open the account.
- Membership Report – JP:
 - Membership number may be wrong from last time. No new members. We have 65 paid members.
 - No members at Tech show or directly after Tech Show. Discussed having a computer or the square out at the next Tech Show. Discussion of other people interested in joining: Gonzales who is running for School Board and is a Benson alum.
 - Tammy mentioned she found lots of yearbooks and is interested in selling them. Discussion about how the alumni assoc. could help, possibly for a small percentage to market. Josh will contact Tammy
- Site Council
 - 5 year plan – RJ:
 - Suggestion – change 100% of mastery of elemental skills... how are you measuring? Are you talking about Juniors that had been there all 3 years? We think 90% is about the max you are going to achieve.
 - Statistics from PPS website:
 - 2014:
 - Enrollment: **781 4.6%**
 - Free or reduced lunch: **65%**
 - Economically disadvantaged: **69%**
 - Students with disabilities: **12%**
 - English language learners: **33%**
 - Languages spoken: **22**

- 2014:
 - Hispanic: 29%
 - White: 28.6%
 - Black: 21.1%
 - Asian: 16.6%
 - Am. Indian: .5%
 - Other: 4.2%
- 2014 Graduation rates
 - Class size: 179 (District 3,318; State 45,674)
 - Percent On-time Grads **85%** (District 70%; State 72%)
 - Number of dropouts 14 (7%) (District 632 (19%); State 8,959 (19%))
- Curtis said Benson finished with graduation rate at #3 this last year. Lincoln, Grant, Benson.
- Discussed the fact that it is difficult to find the cost per student at any school. Federal dollars to state dollars? Etc.
- Add to 2016 and 2017 to combat absenteeism.
- Scores are low in science – perhaps adding classes in science?
- Do they have any data re how many families feel marginalized? Need data to figure out best return.
- JP: Work on PTSA growth. Maybe they need to involve the students more. Would be good to see this committed in writing.
- WS: Asian community contacted me during the campaign asking how the school was going to help their people learn English.
- RJ: There is a program (PISA – Portland International Scholars Academy) in the building that helps newly arrived emergent bilinguals.
- MB: The goal of Deepening and Expanding Business partnerships is only going to go so far without teacher participation. I see nothing in here about slowly increasing CTE teacher participation in Advisory Committees or requirements for bringing in new partners. We can host a conference but if no teachers show up the business partners won't have anyone to partner with.
- JP: Do teachers understand why the partnerships are important?
- RJ: They are required to have an Advisory Committee. It's not been enforced, and now the teachers have established curriculums, they are defensive about change. If you can bring industry leaders in to help you shape that, why wouldn't you? Because it becomes a defense. And because it's difficult to make more time to build the partnerships. They are only required to meet twice a year.
- Discussion about the fact that this is a paradigm shift and will require effort and time to change teachers' perspectives.
- RJ: Add goal of at least 4 guest speakers a year in each area.
- 100 years at Benson:

- Businesses owned by Benson graduates – want to be a part of this celebration?
 - Series of stories of Benson grads – what it’s meant to them and how they see it moving forward.
 - KBPS interviews
 - Kids create and school donates new Benson Bubbler to the city.
 - Rogers finds lots of info article searching and in obits.
 - Move the stuff from restoring CTE classes from 2013 – 2014 to current and next years. Building advisory groups.
- Long Range planning – DS:
 - As a followup to 4/14th meeting, we have been invited to attend a “mapping session” to identify additional stakeholders to the planning process. This is very frustrating because it is so late in the process. We are still being told to not form partnerships until the faculty has spoken. DS has emailed teachers to see if they have relationships we can help with. He has heard nothing back.
 - RJ: It seems the faculty will want to know how many dollars they will get from partners and I will say that we need to define what the partnership is about – what they get for their money investment.
 - DS: We want to influence who is on the Design Advisory Committee, which will advise the planners and the district. This is painfully slow, falling way behind their pre-determined schedules.
 - WS: Heard from a friend involved with Roosevelt and they did not have the correct size classrooms etc. The problems are escalating.
 - DB and RJ will be attending the mapping session on 5/26.
- Discussed RJs letter draft of Alumni Redesign and Curriculum thoughts.
 - Many exciting ideas, including Drone Technology and building tiny houses on site.
 - Send any other ideas to RJ by the end of the week.
- Archives – RE:
 - RE: Tammy said she could house the archives. He offered to help and she said she could handle it.
 - RJ: Curtis said Tammy has taken it on.
 - RE: I transported the Oregonian microfiche reels to the Genealogical Forum of Oregon.
 - RE: They are starting construction in that room because of the clinic, so hopefully everything got moves.
- Minutes:
 - MB sent the minutes on Sat. Submit changes by next Friday.
- No Booster club update
- Next meeting: June 8th 5:30PM at Benson library. July and Aug will be at DS’s work.
- Don’t forget to vote!

OLD BUSINESS – things to keep in mind

- 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