

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



Date: June 8, 2015

Starting Time: 5:40 pm Ending Time: 7:37pm

Benson Tech Library

ATTENDEES:

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

MINUTES:

- Pre-meeting discussion of obituary of Benson Tech Alumn:
- Discussion – RJ:
 - The incoming freshman picnic was last week – moved to the gym. It seemed to work great, with kids able to shoot some hoops, clubs had tables.
 - Talked to Tech Algebra group about doing shirts for alumni – year and majors on them. JP said he had reached out to them before and had no response. RJ will email Tim and Kayla, CC JP to see if they will think about it.
- Treasurer’s report – ML:
 - \$2544.11 and check for Benson picnic \$300 cleared.
 - Getting ready to migrate from OnPoint to PointWest.
 - Currently there are two people on the account, we should add another one.
 - ML moved we add MB. DB seconded. The motion passed.
 - JP to look up our EIN, which we must have had for the PayPal and OnPoint accounts.
 - DB: I think we need to have an annual spending plan.
 - RJ: ML is taking that as a TODO item that we can review at July or Aug meeting.
 - There was discussion about why we have two groups: Alumni Association and the Foundation, which is the 501C-3. RJ suggested that the Alumni mission is the more social aspects, and the foundation will be more focused on supporting CTE. If anyone else has ideas about what to spend money on, email them to ML.
 - NG – because there is such limited support from the parents, the Alumni Association was really the only supportive group.
 - WS – Looked up the assumed business names of the organizations’: PTSA is current on assumed name and registration. Booster Club hasn’t paid up since 1993.
- Membership Report – JP:
 - No new members. We have 65 paid members. 2 new seniors registered!
 - Discussion about the monthly meetup at Kenton Station:

- WS reported most of the time he's the only one there. Sometimes NG and KB are there. Suggests another time and place.
 - NG: poll on website? Rolling locations.
 - WS: I think folks are looking for an update on what is happening at Benson.
 - We will declare the next one the last one at this location. We'll use the next few meetings to discuss. JP will post that we are soliciting ideas. DB will email the group with suggestions of questions. JP will create the survey to post with the last meetup announcement.
 - We have approval to sell the yearbooks on the alumni site. At Tech Show Tammy will sell the yearbooks at discounted prices.
- Communications – RJ
 - Switchboardhq.com website has asks and offers. Don't know if there is any cost, but maybe we could use this for internships, apprenticeships, etc.
 - MB: local company created the site for Reed College. It costs because you can sign up for a free demo.
 - JP: concern is that it's another channel we'd have to manage. We should be able to get the word out through the sites we have.
 - DB: Curtis sends an email out every week to parents and guardians, that it includes job opportunities.
 - JP: Career center had 5 openings for apprenticeships, could only get two kids to show.
 - Discussion about use of Facebook. JP says Twitter is big but there is still a large presence on Facebook. He recently created a Benson Alumni 'person' rather than organization, and that seems to be getting more traffic.
- Site Council - DB
 - 5 year plan – RJ:
 - DB said that many of our suggestions were tentatively accepted by the council and Curtis needs to approve. He uses it frequently throughout the year.
 - Master steps for planning are now major action items: Beginning computer science program, increase in students. 2020 2000 students is the projection. He'll look at the plan next week. As soon as Curtis has signed off, we can post on our webpage. There are several action items that involve the Alumni Assoc. like the picnics and partners, so it's appropriate to have up there.
 - Staff funding continues to be an issue. Major source of funding comes from per capita funding, but there are other sources of funds. It would be nice if the Foundation could work with the site council to lay out a more aggressive programming schedule, to add back some of the programming. Engineering program in 2016? OIT proposal for mechanical engineering. But it's a quandary because if we ask the staff about funding, they say they are fine. The discussions we've had with the district about the planning, we are talking about existing programs, education program (ill defined

at this point). So if we could be a little more aggressive about our planning we might be able to have more robust programs in place when the redesign is done.

- Choosing your major – 1st, 2nd, 3rd choice. Last year they only took 20 into each program. Many students were pushed to their second choice.
 - Addition from Tammy Hite: [Last year] the numbers in some majors were so low, the class would have been canceled if it had been a general elective course. Building Construction only had 7 with two teachers... most of the CTE teachers agreed a few months ago that we would cap the major at 20 students per major teacher so it ensures the survival of the program and staff. The 20 student number was derived from taking the incoming Junior class and dividing it equally. Some majors like building construction and architecture are not getting enough students because we are not as popular right now. KBPS, Transportation and Electric have over 24-students per teacher (which is maximum capacity) trying to get into those majors; so yes, they have to turn people away. It is just a matter of how many. Some teachers are not wanting to take their numbers down to the 20 as we agreed upon, which is leaving some majors a bit empty. This process is nothing new. The first students turned away are those that failed the sophomore or freshman level feeder courses. It is common for students to get their 2nd or even 3rd choices. I had several students in the past who chose Architecture as a 3rd choice, but after being in my class for 2-years some eventually became Architects. The student's major also depends on what other classes/electives the student wants to take. Some courses, like Yearbook are only taught 1-period and if it conflicts with the 1st choice major, the counselors may put them in their 2nd or 3rd choice.
- Curtis is also talking about course guidelines. All high schools will have 2 CTE 'programs'. It may only be a few classes. 20% of the CTE money is being spread out to the other high schools. Opportunity to transfer to Benson junior/senior has been mentioned. There's no procedures for this kind of transferring. Staff hasn't heard of it yet.
- Discussion ensued that we will have to embrace the idea of kids coming from other high schools coming to Benson just for CTE majors. RJ suggested that their neighborhood school diploma should have the additional line of the Major at Benson Tech.
 - Summer class to prepare the kids for their junior major?
- Benson grads didn't have an all-night party last year, so this year we kicked the idea to the PTSA and they organized it. Graduation is tonight,

at Big Al's in Vancouver. The PTSA did a lot of fundraising, parents, and Curtis found some money, got the cost down to \$30 per student. Around 175 students graduated.

- Foundation
 - 2152.90 balance. \$120 check from United Way came in today.
 - RJ is president, ML is treasurer, DB is secretary.
 - We will need thank you letters for donors. ML has a connection to a printers.
 - NG's sister has a book of grant donors.
- Booster Club – DB:
 - Lisa White took it over. She's been doing a lot, earned \$2000 for the club by manning concession stands, etc.
 - Booster Club website discussion led to a discussion about abolishing the Booster Club.
 - The PTSA has 25 or 30 paying members, but only about 7 people come. The person they elected at Treasurer is the State PTSA treasurer, and they now have 2 year terms. Several officers have had to pay out of pocket for items. Curtis is now investigating whether they have to have one, and what authority the Principal has regarding the officers.
 - There was minimal parent and coach participation. They did get 30 people at the freshman picnic to sign up for helping out.
 - Curtis is thinking about an international parent potluck in September.
 - We should continue to be involved and support whatever organizations continue to exist.
 - RJ invited Lisa to this meeting but she has another apt.
- Next meeting moved to July 20th, at DS's work location.
- Picnic planning:
 - Could use new gym or get a large tent for outside.
 - **ML check on tent cost, RJ check on old gym cost.**
 - DB: differentiate with name tag colors so they can identify who is what: parent, teacher, alumns etc.
 - **RJ to check with Curtis on whether the CUB was already set up for our date.**
- Archives – RE:
 - RE: Tammy Hite found some magazines from 1930s in pristine condition on Industrial issues. It did seem to be a legit organization. Asked Multnomah County Library, PSU etc. RE will look through to see if they have any Benson articles.
 - Archives have been moved into Tammy's area. They await an archivist.
 - We don't know about accessibility over the summer. He will check with Tammy about summer access.
- Minutes:
 - MB sent the minutes out directly after our last meeting but did not see any emails about corrections/additions. Please review to make sure your views were accurately captured. Email changes by next Friday.
- Scholarship – RJ:

- I got to speak for 3 minutes at graduation about the Alumni Association.
- JP: Last year they banked some money. This year \$5889, split between two students: Marisa Jimenez-Pereera, going to Mt. Hood or PCC. Breanna Le. \$2944.50 each. The Simon Benson scholarship is about \$2000 and that's separate from us.
- There were a lot of kids getting awards. It felt great to attend.
- ML: need write-up as well as receipts so I can keep the books straight.
- Merchandise:
 - We have 24 T-shirts of various sizes, 1 letter. Yearbooks.

OLD BUSINESS – things to keep in mind

- 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.
 - Update: RJ talked to Jeanie Y and this is targeted for students outside of Benson. We can take this off the agenda.
- Points West does financial seminars in the community and would be willing to come to Benson and talk to students.
 - Update: Miranda and Curtis are investigating, so we will take this off the agenda.

Respectfully Submitted,

Maj Britt (Max) Baker
Secretary
BPHS Alumni Association