

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



Date: Aug 10, 2015
Starting Time: 5:35 pm Ending Time: 7:35pm
Benson Library

ATTENDEES:

Max Baker (MB), Rob Johns (RJ), Neal Galash (NG), Roger Edwards (RE), Ken Bakke (KB), Dale Bajema (DB); Josh Piper (JP), guest Principal Curtis Wilson

MINUTES:

- Curtis:
 - 275 Freshmen have been admitted for 2015-2016.
 - District signed off on the Health Center. \$300,000 to open in Jan 2016.
 - Sat after the picnic, will spread bark dust and paint over the tagging on the orange doors.
 - Benson rebuild planning proceeding. Very exciting.
 - Report card from the state arrived, and he's reviewing. Benson did great. All the principals have to say things about the results, so he'll put it in the state newsletter and it will be public in Oct. Benson is very consistent, self-motivated.
 - Would be great if we could get people out to the football games in orange and blue that would be great. He'll get us the schedule.
 - Bringing back computer engineering Major! This year computer engineering 3 was added. Next year we will bring back the 4th year.
 - Bringing in AVID for sophomores. These are the 60 students in the middle that they identified last spring. We have one counselor and one teacher, and two tutors that can all access resources. Advancement Via Individual Development. The entire district is moving this way. It's funded by PPS and Nike.
 - New teachers in Math, English, Science. Next year we might lose two teachers in CTE. They will start advertising in the spring.
 - Teachers come back on the 24th, students come in on Thurs.
 - RJ: What about a meet and greet with teachers?
 - Curtis: How about Friday the 28th 4 – 6 PM?
 - RJ will check with Point West.
- Treasurer's report – ML:
 - Current balance; \$2154.45
 - Check cleared \$336.00 for CUB (Custodial for 8/15/2015) picnic.
 - Moving checking from On-Point:
 - I am unable to track down the document with our EIN number which is being required by PointWest CU and I will need to get down to the IRS for the document. I found out this is not something you can just log in to the IRS web site and pull down.

If no tax returns are generated the EIN goes inactive hence the challenge. I hope to get to the IRS prior to our September meeting.

- Still working on the budget trend and hope to have something to the team prior to September's board meeting for discussion.
- Membership – JP:
 - No changes
- Newsletter –
 - Connie Mar did a draft that looks great. It's two pages right now.
 - DB sent another article today.
 - Homecoming is Oct 5th 4PM Cleveland vs. Benson, here. Let's add that in. Show up in orange and Blue.
 - MB will email TH and see if she has an student pics we could use.
 - RJ will look for photos.
 - Newsletter could be printed at minuteman press? They are alums and good prices. On NE Broadway across from Safeway.
- Picnic planning:
 - MB passed out the revised list and layout and they read it over.
 - NG got an estimate for the food from cash and carry.
 - RJ will grab veggies if NG doesn't find it at cash and carry. About \$300 for food.
 - DB moved we approve up to \$500 for the food and newsletter printing for the picnic.
 - WS seconded.
 - Discussion – if a run is needed in the middle of the picnic to purchase food, we'll take money that comes in for meals.
 - Motion passed.
 - Everyone bring one cooler.
 - Tents – 2 are coming from RE, the one for membership table JP will bring. PointWest tents, RJ will bring. NG will bring his. MB will bring her camping one with zippers.
- School cleanup is Aug 22
 - Curtis has mentioned that there's a crew that stays after the cleanup. We might want to provide pizza and drinks. RJ check with Curtis about funding. RJ will email the board with what he finds out.
- Foundation
 - After the newsletter is out we'll get back to logo and marketing materials, to have things ready for Sept 14th meeting.
- Site Council/5 year plan: DB: no update
- Booster Club update: DB
 - They are still trying to decide what to do. More to come in Sept.
- District Board Meeting – DB:
 - WS, DB and RE attending the district meeting. The board had voted to require the superintendent to create a 2 year phased approach to lifting Benson's cap. At the meeting the board revised the mandate to say they needed to include the effect on other schools. They became a little gun shy when the time to vote came.

- School board members tried to say there may not be demand to support a raise in the cap:
 - Neighborhood schools have CTE now.
 - Redesign is difficult – CTE students will not be moved as with other schools that are redesigned.\
- So the amendment was to do a feasibility study on lifting the cap.
- WS:
 - Pam Knowles echoes the superintendent. They want no Benson or a Benson that is equal to the neighborhood schools.
 - Anthony voted down the amendment, and voted for the cap.
 - Amy Constand came up with the Benson rebuild timeline, so why are we doing this now? She didn't seem against it, but wasn't for it either.
 - I'm guessing the study will be done behind closed doors.
- DB: Maybe we should continue to raise the concerns that not all CTE classes are equal, alternative programs residing in the building, etc. Keep getting these on record.
- WS: Suggest we draw up a plan for speakers – alum, parents, industry – and try and have at least one person at every meeting.
- RE: Interesting figuring out the board personalities. The meetings are televised, so that's great. The discussion about special student programs imposed on Benson was not scripted, and the board seemed interested.
- KB: Did anyone talk about what the kids want? We have the highest graduation rate and the kids want to come here, but they never seem to talk about it.
- DB: 2009, when they did the redesign – they had a free transfer program and so many kids were fleeing to better schools, so the poorer schools didn't have resources to offer better classes. It was a downward spiral. Lincoln had four languages, others had only one. District was facing lawsuits. This is why they tried to strengthen them.
- WS: They would have closed three schools, but one that they suggested closing was Benson, which made no sense. With Jefferson, the school district is trying to solve community problem by keeping more kids in the school, but that's not going to work. We need students to come and speak.
- DB: Let's try and get some kids go down and talk. And maybe we could invite each school board member out.
- WS: Let's send them email invite to the picnic for a free meal.
- RJ will do that.
- RJ will lead a focused effort to write up talking points and get speakers, including students, to sign up at the district meetings before Jan. Also individual meetings with board members.
- Minutes:
 - MB sent the minutes last Wed, handed them out. Brought printout. Please send changes by Friday.
- Teacher event: Friday Aug 28th 4 – 6 PM?

- DB: Move we allocate up to \$200 of cost for food and drink, with RJ to set a date with Curtis.
- KB: seconded
- Motion passed.
- Alumni invite?
- Crowd funding ideas – advertise on the web.
- Reminder to send your availability for Tech Show to Max.
- Sign up for helping out with Registration.
- Next meeting is Monday Sept 14th, 5:30PM at Benson.

OLD BUSINESS – things to keep in mind

- Plan for merchandise?
- Archiving location and cataloguing

Respectfully Submitted,

Maj Britt (Max) Baker
Secretary
BPHS Alumni Association