

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



Date: Sept 14, 2015

Starting Time: 5:35 pm Ending Time: 7pm

Benson Library

ATTENDEES:

Max Baker (MB), Rob Johns (RJ), Dick Spies (DS), Dale Bajema (DB); Neal Galash (NG), Mike Landstrom (ML), Ken Bakke (KB), Josh Piper (JP), Wes Soderback (WS), guests: Principal Curtis Wilson, Don Wear (former board and alum), PPS Board Representative Tom Koehler, Booster Rep Lisa Wilcke

MINUTES:

- Discussions with Curtis:
 - The board expressed thoughts on these topics:
 - Benson can't expand if there are other schools and programs taking up space in the building.
 - A robust Benson is about 1700 to 1900 students, and there would be about 900 students in an alternative school.
 - Students today comingle with alt school, and that would be expected to continue?
 - How is the enrollment cap coming?
 - Discussion around having other classes and schools hosted at Benson.
 - There are 9 other programs hosted in this school. There are a lot of meetings that have to take place to get that to work in the same building.
 - Lack of space for Benson growth. Curtis has made it clear to the district there is no more space for other programs.
 - Curtis expressed he feels the enrollment cap needs to be lifted in bigger chunks in order to staff appropriately.
 - We need to be able to talk about our concerns reasonably so that the district will listen for planning of the rebuild. We will need adequate space for the shops with heavy machinery.
 - Discussion around lack of middle school CTE.
 - Discussion about Clark College as a model
- Tom Koehler left the meeting, after being thanked for his participation.
- Discussion with Curtis continued:
 - Teacher social – staff felt really appreciated. They relaxed and started talking and it was a nice break. They didn't want to leave. Dialog there resulted in them finding a place to do disaster training at the CU parking lot. Relationship building was great.
 - Jessica Merchanson is the woman that headed an effort for teacher appreciation last year.

- Re design group, we're about 2 months behind. They are negotiating with the architectural group, and they kick start everything.
- Any Benson house updates? None. Plan is to have the house sold by the spring, then we will get the new lots. DS concerned about permits if they want to work on it next fall.
- Curtis and Tammy talked through the 2020 plans – how can we use the space more efficiently?
- Numbers for incoming freshmen: 275 said they were coming. There are about 265... official counts are happening now. They filled all 25 slots for sophomores. 916 students right now. Next year incoming freshmen will be up to 300.
- More teachers than ever before this year. Band room is too small for meeting now. 55 teachers.
- RJ: 40 CTE teachers in the district this year. Increased from last year, so the message is getting out.
- Thanks to Curtis for all his help with the picnic and everything done with the school. Curtis left the meeting.
- Boosters – Lisa:
 - None of the 70 parents that said they were interested came to the meeting last week. Donated all the food to the cleaning crew.
 - Discussion about at Back To School night (9/22 6PM to 8:30PM), having one or two of the classrooms at the front to talk to parents. They will introduce her and make a point of discussion points:
 - You chose to come. To get the kids through the school, we need volunteers to help. 1 to 3 hours of helping over the course of the year.
 - Discussed reasons parents are not as involved at Benson
 - Social parent group bonds developed through elementary, middle school are broken because most of the parents are still at the neighborhood schools.
 - Parents are not always aware of the value of being involved.
 - WS gave some history on the original formation of Dad's club, which he believes became the boosters club.
 - Controlled the rowdy students at games
 - Entered touring businesses and getting apprenticeships.
 - Providence is coming tomorrow to do a tour and look at the Health Occ classes, and will do internships for seniors. Guaranteed jobs when graduating. Also looking at the Wellness Center, but OHSU has been unable to help with some things.
 - Lisa is hoping to encourage parent support by offering opportunities to them to help their kids move forward.
 - Curtis will do another reminder for back to school night. Lisa might spend some money to do a raffle for coming to talk at the Booster room.
 - Homecoming – Monday Oct 5th, starting at 3:30PM with JV teams against Cleveland. Lisa will email MB with positions/time slots that need to be filled. And we will post on social media.

- Prom committee will do candy, soda, water. Boosters will do main food. There is the possibility of a popcorn donation and resale, so Lisa will contact other clubs as well. Lisa will ask for the buns, cookies, etc. from the Franz.
- The stadium seating will be available, but there's no other seating.
- WS expressed that he was silently fuming about the homecoming discussion. He mentioned how things used to be with the football team and that he didn't understand why the varsity football team was cut.
- When RJ and other board members tried to outline the reasons the district gave for that decision, WS expressed he didn't agree with the decision and talked more about how the football program used to be run.
- RJ and other board members tried to steer the conversation back to a discussion of what we were going to do to help Benson move forward, and to support the booster club and the school's plans for the team during homecoming.
- WS questioned the existence and purpose of the Booster club, and the Alumni Association, stating he didn't like what had gone on at the picnic with the handing out of free tickets and food. He then aggressively questioned Lisa, RJ and MB about what they had done for the school recently.
- MB expressed the idea that if WS would like to make a list of his concerns that the board could try and address them at a future meeting.
- DB suggested that Lisa was invited to the meeting as a representative of the Booster Club and was our guest, indicating that she should be allowed to speak and be treated civilly.
- WS continued to aggressively assert his previously stated views on the booster club and alumni association.
- Lisa Wilcke left the meeting expressing the fact that she is volunteering her time to try and help all sports teams and Benson Tech as a whole, and did not appreciate being aggressively verbally attacked.
- DB left with Lisa.
- After several unsuccessful attempts to get the meeting back on track, RJ called for a vote to adjourn which was immediately agreed to by the majority of the board.
- The next board meeting will be October 12th at 5:30PM in the Benson Library.

OLD BUSINESS – things to keep in mind

- Plan for merchandise?
- Archiving location and cataloguing

Respectfully Submitted,

Maj Britt (Max) Baker
Secretary
BPHS Alumni Association