

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



Date: Oct 12, 2015

Starting Time: 5:30 pm Ending Time: 7:40 pm

Benson Library

ATTENDEES:

Max Baker (MB), Dick Spies (DS), Dale Bajema (DB); Neal Galash (NG), Mike Landstrom (ML), Ken Bakke (KB), Josh Piper (JP), Wes Soderback (WS), Annika Johnson (AJ), Roger Edwards (RE); guests: Tammy Hite – Benson teacher and alum.

MINUTES:

- DB opened the meeting. Remarks:
 - There are many good things happening at Benson.
 - Staff morale is up.
 - Incoming Freshmen and Sophomore slots were all filled.
 - We will probably 300 incoming freshmen next year.
 - The school added a Dean of Students and attendance monitor to focus on disciplinary and attendance issues. It's working really well.
 - New Program: AVID. Two classes to help the kids in the middle of the success spectrum. Open to sophomores this year. Underwritten by Nike. Will eventually be all classes and district wide.
 - Practice SAT coming.
 - College coordinator and (Miranda Ryan) career coordinator jobs are splitting support of the student body. It is working well.
 - Sanjay has named committee of 10 people that will evaluate the football team to see if they are ready to move up to V next year.
 - Is it true you have to field 3 teams or no sport?
 - DB: no, the district has backed off that.
 - Curtis says he is willing to take on issues, but he has to walk a fine line and determine what he can push on and what he can't. So while the new board members start pushing about moving alternative programs out of the building, he has to walk the line and will support as he can.
 - The Alumni Association does have influence with the school board and Curtis. However, DB has concerns about membership and infrastructure.
 - Community Picnic and Tech Show are good but alumni attendance is falling.
 - Need more minority members.
- Treasurer's Report – ML
 - \$2550.64 balance
 - \$358 picnic money deposit
 - Annika paid dues

- Finally received EIN number documentation: 900407138 for Benson Polytechnic High School Alumni Association. We will be transitioning from OnPoint to PointWest this month.
- Membership report – JP:
 - 140 total members – 3 new from the picnic
 - 67 are paid members.
- Minutes – MB:
 - Last two month meeting minutes were submitted to board via email.
 - Asked for additions/corrections. WS said his name was not in list of attendees, so Max will add.
 - ML moved we accept the minutes as amended. KB seconded. All approved. Motion passed.
- Rebuilding Benson – DS
 - Tammy Hite and DS discussed the partnerships. Tammy says they submitted names and the district was supposed to take it from there because they can negotiate.
 - AJ entered the meeting.
 - DAG has not been officially assigned. Tammy has been told she will be staff representative, but all of them need to go through the application process. There has been little discussion of the rebuild.
 - Tammy is prepping list of things teachers need to think about – what do we want taught? What requirements do we have? Several departments did not come through. Construction came through with good info. It's with Curtis. Trying to establish meetings with the teachers to walk through their spaces and talk to them about space and use.
 - DB: Back in June when we met with the district, they threw out the number of 2000 students, but there was never discussion about the alternative programs. At the second meeting that concern came up. The bond committee meeting made some decisions:
 - Student capacity 1350 students, core potential of 1700.
 - Separate building on campus that would host 500 students for Alliance program, separate entrance/exit.
 - Directed staff to look at alternative sites for the alternative programs at Benson. The entire committee voted for that.
 - Tammy: 2nd floor F wing is 7000 square feet is alternative program. That's space we can't use. The smaller CTE classes may not be utilized to their full capacity, but it would not be good space for alternative programs.
 - DS: Benson would include curriculum focused on education.
 - Tammy: July school board meeting said there were many people asking why they would include 'education' at Benson. It took them a long time to get an architect signed. We are way behind and we aren't hearing anything.
 - DS: Bond committee was reduced to 3 people (Pam Knowles, Amy Constantine and Paul Anthony) that had not been there for all the discussions. We are distressed with the bond committee's decision to reduce Benson's enrollment without any information on programming and

student projections. When I was asked what the qualitative difference between 1350 and 1700 students, we have program differences: band, more majors. So there is no way to understand their decision making process. DS will sign up to testify to the board again. We're slowly plodding ahead with a traditional plan that will probably not achieve where we are now. We're way behind putting a story together to put in front of the voters. They won't vote for it if they don't have a good story. It's very frustrating.

- RE: Isn't the school board obligated to rebuild the schools to bring them up to seismic standards?
- DS: Yes, but that's part of the new measure. The 2nd bond pays for the next set of schools. But you're asking the voters to vote for a new measure when the major projects from the first one are not completed.
- RE: If the bond fails, they have to bring it up again, though, right?
- DS: But if this one fails, another one will probably not be passed in the next few years. Jim Owens gone, CJ was going to be gone. We were supposed to get new people in.
- WS: The school board was restructured to have representatives on the committees to come back to the entire board and make recommendations. But they were supposed to have non board members as well.
- DS: I don't know where Lincoln or Madison is in their architect selection. But they need the design consultants and advisory groups in place.
- DS: so I will be testifying at 6PM on the 20th if I can get a slot.
- DB: Any CTE programs that are gone we want to bring back, or new ones we thing would be important to have?
 - Tammy: aviation, mechanical engineering. Computer science came back as a major this last year. Transportation could be split out as well. Robotics and drones.
 - WS: Aviation looks like a junk yard when I saw it at Tech Show. They have a helicopter shell with a motor, which needs a fuel pump. Instructor took an automotive fuel pump and it run fine.
 - Tammy: Trying to figure out majors that relate to other majors so there can be double-major opportunities.
 - DS: There are so many sub pathways in the world of design.
 - Tammy: We would have to have 1700 every single year to have all those different pathways.
 - DS: What's the driver for the programs? Industry.
 - DB: During Freshman/Sophomore years you had major rotation classes, right?
 - Tammy: yes, didn't pick your major until you'd gone through everything. Exposure is good.
- DS left the meeting.
- Standing committee review – DB:
 - Executive Committee – officers and NG and AJ.
 - Membership, Finance, Scholarship, Events.

- Back to opening remarks, we have more influence than ever before, but we discuss many things that we may be able to move more expeditiously through committees.
- NG: we haven't gotten people to volunteer.
- DB: thinking about assigning 1 or 2 board members to a committee, and they use their own personal contacts.
- NG: When we have a budget and can give each committee its budget, then they know what they have to work with.
- WS: I've tried to bring people back and they are so surprised Benson isn't the way it used to be, then they aren't interested in saving it.
- KB: It's this way with every group I've ever been in. One in 20 will volunteer to help. If we do a membership drive and get 100 people to join we might get 1 or 2 new board members.
- Discuss mailing everyone, giving free stuff, etc.
- RE: Reunions give us a chance to converse with alumni. But how many reunion planners do we have contact with?
- JP: More people are contacting us about reunions. This year we've known about 3 or 4 different reunions. Honestly, if we were to offer a service for organizing reunions, we'd probably make some money.
- KB: If we can get someone from the board out there to the reunions, the personal contact might make it.
- WS: direct mail with signature on the bottom still gets most people votes.
- ML: Having a function once a quarter would be a great idea.
- NG: We talked about doing something in November. We did it one time and had a pretty good turnout. That was still during the time Benson might have been closed. We should at least be 50% sociable organization. Trying to get people together and not be pushing them to do any certain thing.
- ML: May golf tournament? Event, mailing, event etc. feed it all into each other.
- Centennial: Tammy
 - Leadership class – some students will be working with her to set up the committee.
 - Last month was the official 100th. September 1915. Moved into this building in 1917.
 - Discussion about working on something bigger for next year.
 - NG: what about having a pre event next month that invites people to come that might be interested in helping.
 - WS: move that we have pre-centennial committee headed by NG.
 - AJ seconded. AJ will also be on the committee. CUB will have to be filed if you meet at Benson. The vote was unanimously passed. RE will help also.
 - Once you have an idea, come back to the board with date and budget.
 - RE will help Tammy on Centennial committee. Help boost the pride. MB and DB will help. ML as well.
- Budget – ML:

- Reviewed ML's handouts.
- Hard to determine returns of dues on mailing.
- ML will bring more information to the next meeting. Please send him ideas about categories.
- Scholarship fund – JP:
 - Last year we did the end of year mailing that includes a letter about the scholarship fund, with info about the last few years' recipients.
 - The account is with the Oregon Community Foundation. Donations go there, and the awards are made from the interest.
 - We currently have \$86,448.01
 - Distributed over \$5000 last year because we had a few thousand from the year before. The school counselors make the decision about who gets it.
 - We would love to advertise this all year long, but there's only so much bandwidth.
 - We get about \$1500 a year in to the fund with one mailing.
 - DB: we could perhaps suggest remembering the scholarship fund in estate planning.
 - JP: The foundation as well.
 - DB: Let's discuss this more at future meetings.
- Site council – DB:
 - 4 or 5 new parents at the last meeting, kids are younger. That was great.
 - It's been mostly teacher heavy.
 - Curtis sends weekly email to parents and this time people came.
 - Action plan with 40 items on it for the next year, drawn out of the 5 year plan. You could read that on the website if you like.
- Health and Wellness Center – DB:
 - Update from Amy Henry might happen next month.
 - We've asked for a tour.
 - Still on schedule for Jan.
 - Dental center might happen – there's a Tribune article.
 - Lisa White has been working with HOSA to set up Providence internship.
- Executive Board will meet Monday Oct 26th, 5PM at Benson library.
- The next board meeting will be November 9th 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