

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



Date: April 11, 2016  
Starting Time: 5:37 pm Ending Time: 7:33pm  
Benson Library

**ATTENDEES:**

Mike Landstrom (ML), Josh Piper (JP), Dale Bajema (DB), Annika Johnson (AJ), Wes Soderback (WS), Roger Edwards (RE), Don Wear (DW), Max Baker (MB), Gerry Ochs (GO); guests: Jeff Reardon (Oregon State Legislature Rep for district 48 – Happy Valley), Bob Trimble (class of 1977, long range planning), Rachael Kuryunny (graduate), Kevin Clark (master planning group), Paul Anthony.

**MINUTES:**

- DB led the meeting in RJ's absence.
- Jeff Reardon spoke - District 48 (Happy Valley) OR State Representative
  - About Jeff:
    - Electrical training in Navy - 2nd
    - Taught for 15 years 7 years shop at David Douglas
    - Technical writer for Techtronic's
    - David Douglas school board
    - Proponent of CTE
  - Technology Association
    - 92,000 employed
    - 6400 companies
    - Payroll \$9.7 Bil.
    - 21 in nation national ranking for technology/manufacturing
  - The four year graduation rate is higher for taking 1 CTE class: 23.1% on average higher
  - If a student takes 2 CTE credits graduation rate increases to 91%
  - Grant programs \$7.5 Mil in grants for shop from State – Benson already has a grant for shop
  - Set up math can earn credit to bridge CTE and Math
  - Get credits for what you know bill passed in OR State. Class room Management is key.
  - Regional Stem/CTE collaboration which he is a part of...
  - 2 Ballot Measures:
    - IP.28 – Oppose this bill Sold as a tax on corporations
      - Paying for purchase health care, electric, groceries, etc.
      - Supposed to be limited to education but will go in to general fund.
    - IP.65 – sponsored by Stand for Children will increase \$800 p/student for CTE college readiness (high school)
- Treasurer's Report:
  - Current balance: \$3845.12 at Point West CU

- On-Point CU account was officially closed
- Year book payback to Tammy is small
- Membership:
  - 49 paid members
  - No pending mailings
- Scholarship fund:
  - approx. \$100k
  - Oregon Community Fund manages the funds and distributes multiple scholarships
- New class enrollment 365 including 40 Sophomores Spring 2016
- All Class reunion for 2017 year – Centennial Reunion
  - June 17, 18, 19 2017 – planning committee 4-19 @ 7:00 at the Library BTHS
    - 15 months getting planning underway
- Building mailing list beyond the alumni association
  - Question if we are utilizing Class Mates.com
  - Looking to allocate funds to work
    - Looking for a motion spend \$250.00 to reach out to collect data of graduates of Benson
    - Motion – Spend \$250.00 to search for Benson Alumni; Gerry Och’s second. Passed unanimously.
- 6:20PM – MB arrived
  - DW made a motion to allocate up to \$250 to pay Benson tech clubs to enter data into a DB for us from the Benson Alumni Directory.
  - GO seconded.
  - Discussion: Kevin made suggestion that if we are calling or messaging alumni, we should collect education and employment history to statistically assess post-secondary school outcomes to help with donor, grant and partnership development.
- Master Planning – Kevin
  - Discussed variations in floor plan. Broke into 6 groups and each group came up with ideas about how the plans could be modernized. [Four plans were presented at the April 14th MPC meeting.]
  - The architectural group will take that and the other info from the public meetings and collate it into 3 contingency plans.
  - Variety of plans discussed – everyone is looking to reuse and to build-up from existing structure to lower cost, but even that idea needs to be evaluated for cost effectiveness. Some debate at meetings about whether or not demolishing and rebuilding exteriors/interiors might be cheaper alternative for space of less historical significance.
  - It’s slow going.
  - There’s a lot of agreement that the historical aesthetic of the building should be maintained, with greatest emphasis on conserving front areas of the school – A wing, the Old Gym, and the auditorium. Structures more on

the south side of campus might be modified because they aren't as protected by preservation policies for historic buildings.

- Paul Anthony arrived 6:27PM.
  - Re Master Planning: A lot of talk and desire to incorporate academic classes side by side with CTE classes. Concern about that is noise. Classrooms above the auto shop, for instance – they have tried to use that when auto-shop was operating and couldn't make it work for an entire semester. Aeronautics, when they have the engine going, the entire complex vibrates.
  - At another facility they have a huge glass wall and talked with them about what they did, and they had some ideas about what could be done cheaply about noise reduction.
  - Kevin - Seismic upgrades might be able to include this.
  - DW – there are many things that might belong in a museum. Most of the new stuff doesn't make that much noise.
  - MB – Is there a reason to have academics near CTE? Could see that instructor needs to teach, but then move students into CTE space. But that seems to be what we have now – can't see the benefit to have academic classes next to CTE.
  - DW – Discussed upper level classrooms.
  - Paul – Gerry says Benson people are used to doing these things – the first thing we say is – what's the budget?
  - Kevin – and we still haven't seen a budget yet.
  - DW – Gerry told us not to worry about the budget.
  - Bob – the feeling I got was that they were going to demo C and D wing and rebuild. That's going to cost a fortune.
  - Kevin – Just had last public workshop. Another community meeting in May. Is there anything planned to be scheduled following the board's decision in July/Aug/Sept?
  - Paul – probably not. If there needed to be revisions based on budget, we would have to.
  - Kevin – when the plans go to the board, what is the chance there will be revisions? For any school?
  - Paul – Plans, no. Building design. Gerry will have a specific dollar amount that is sufficient to achieve the plan. I don't think he'll allow it to start to come apart. Once the bond is passed, we'll come back as the DAG and put together the blueprint.
  - Rachael: will Benson remain here during remodel?
  - Paul: This will be tricky and expensive. We know there is no place for most Benson students to go. No other space for this kind of hands on learning. We have to keep it open during this remodel. Some people have floated really creative ideas for how we continue and free up space. One of the best is to move auto shop to the district motor pool.
  - Rachael when does it start?
  - Kevin – 2018, 2020 is the planned completion year.

- Paul – we hope. It's going to be tight. I think we'll be freeing up one classroom at a time.
- Rachael - what about the other program? Night school etc.
- Paul – haven't talked about it. Probably not night school. Probably summertime.
- ML – Marshall?
- Paul – It will have Grant. Also no equipment there. Transportation would be a killer.
- Paul – This last year, Lincoln, Roosevelt and Cleveland had 100 extra kids apply and their story was older families with high school kids moving to Portland. Perhaps we can get real estate people to tell new folks about it.
- Paul – it's been difficult at Roosevelt. Setting up the portables, moving classes around kids get lost. The school is surrounded by a sea of mud – kids track it in etc., so the school is filthy. The academic classes are in one hallway and what they find is that any kind of interaction between 2 students that in normal students would be laughed off, now it happens in front of everyone, it becomes an incident. The point is, Gerry Vincent thinks it was a mistake to let the contractor set a schedule that's 2 academic years and the summer. He thinks 2 summers and intervening academic year. We might get that for Benson.
- GO – Design bid build can be quick but you have to have the right team.
- Paul – I don't think they've started to think about it yet.
- Rachael - is 1700 the enrollment for 2020?
- Paul – there's not a specific year goal. It's probably not much past 2020.
- Rachael - would be hard to expand while remodeling.
- DB – 300 new students this coming year. The year after 365.
- DW – The CTE programs are about half of what they were when we were going to school here. Construction is down to 9 kids now. Used to be huge.
- Bob – we had 750 in freshman class, and that was before Health Occ.
- AJ – If only 9 students are in construction, how do we foster enthusiasm for those programs?
- DW – part of the issue was teachers not engaging, part of the issue is market.
- Paul – there are many things to do. Part of the problem is you have 900 students. If you double that, you probably have 16 kids.
- ML – Health Occupations will only have so many slots, too. If kids don't get in they choose another major.
- Paul – there has to be at least one other way to get into Benson.
- There was discussion about reinstating an application process, which everyone agreed on.
- Kevin – voters don't like a publicly funded private school, which is what many have incorrectly called Benson in attempts to lower the school's enrollment and district-resource priority.
- Paul – as the pressure on the other schools goes up – they get full and high numbers – there will be a willingness to let more students get to Benson.

- ML – still have to think about student/teacher ratio.
- Paul – I think we have a real opportunity to get some extraordinarily talented people to teach here. Many are retiring at 55 and they have plenty of money and want to do something. Many are interested in teaching and we're seeing more and more applying for teaching credentials. Intel has people in HR pushing people into this.
- DW – Many of us skilled with kids that have knowledge, we've got connections to get more people teaching. Still working on the apprenticeship library. It looks like Benson Tech has the most graduates in high levels in industry. So we have lots of connections.
- Minutes – MB
  - Minutes for the last meeting and the annual meeting were sent today via email. There are hard copies here if you want one.
  - Please send all corrections and additions to Max via email by Friday.
- August picnic – DB
  - MB will send out info from last year. Please review before the next meeting so you can present any suggestions.
  - Discussion of good communication from Curtis, good student leader involvement, robotics club.
- DB – 2 questions from RJ.
  - Tim Nesbit was here about taking a proposal to the legislature. We kicked around whether the board should support it. We've acted as a non-profit but we're not – not even incorporated. We've functioned as an organization above the fray, though we lobbied to keep Benson a four-year school. RJ raised a question about the modernization and bond measure coming up about whether we should be a proponent of passing the bond measure. I wonder whether it is appropriate to get involved in educational issues, since it is not an individual. So, can we or can we not support a bond measure? Let's think and discuss at next meeting. We might carefully word a statement about where we stand on things and establish precedent for future issues.
  - If we decide we can, should we?
- DW – teachers asked if the alumni would come cook the BBQ for a student group. He will put it on the next agenda. There's a lot going on with food industry. A club will come in and talk to us about it.
- Next meeting May 9th at the Benson Tech library at 5:30PM.

OLD BUSINESS – things to keep in mind

- Plan for merchandise?
- Archiving location and cataloguing

Respectfully Submitted,

Maj Britt (Max) Baker  
Secretary  
BPHS Alumni Association