

**Benson Polytechnic High School Alumni Association  
Monthly Board of Directors Meeting – FINAL**



Date: July 13, 2020  
Starting Time: 5:35 pm  
Ending Time: 7:25 pm  
Virtual meeting

**ATTENDEES:**

Roger Edwards (RE), Rob Johns (RJ), Josh Piper (JP), Maj Britt (Max) Baker (MB), Dale Bajema (DB), Mike Landstrom (ML), Rachael Kuryunny (RK), Gerry Ochs (GO), Bob Trimble (BT)

**ABSENT:** Dave Hutchins (DH), Paul Rossi (PR), Andy Payne (AP)

**GUEST:** Jen Sohm, Project Manager, Office of School Modernization; Joe Echeverri, Principal at Bassetti Architects

**Virtual meetings will commence until we can safely meet in person again.**

**NEW BUSINESS**

- RJ went over the agenda sent earlier today.
- Treasurer's report – BT:
  - Three checks for \$95 total arrived and were deposited today.
  - \$2654 checking, \$1000 saving
  - Will send reunion information he received to RK.
  - With school closed we haven't had expenses. We may be asked to contribute to some teacher event if they reopen.
- Discussion of school this fall:
  - RK: Might want to brainstorm how we can support staff once we know how it's going to be.
- Membership – JP:
  - Currently 82.
  - BT: There is one check indicating it is dues, so that might change the number.
- Girls Soccer and PPS Athletic Director – Alumni Position Statement: RJ
  - There's about 30 girls that want to play soccer - there aren't enough for Varsity and JV teams. Marshall Haskins, District Athletic Director of Portland Public Schools, is proposing JV2 team instead of JV team.
  - It seems to be a continuation of the theme of removing sports from Benson Tech.
  - RJ is proposing sending a position statement letter in support of Girl's soccer being a JV team.

- DB: One of Haskins' big points about football had to do with safety concerns re contact. That shouldn't be a factor here. Also, you may want to direct the letter to the superintendent.
- Further discussion about PIL doesn't make sense with current day schools, capping enrollment and feeder schools into neighborhood schools vs. application and approval process for magnets are all things that influence sports viability.
- Guests:
  - The application has been approved by the Landmarks Commission, so the architecture team is moving forward with permitting. They will still review some front lighting and fencing options later.
  - Joe presented a walk-through project video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8u12RUEUBXY>
  - Discussion about sound mitigation for the classrooms next to the commons area. Discussion about display cases for time capsule and historical items. Joe said they are working on a diagram of placement right now. Discussion about having a dedicated location on campus for historical archives/item storage.
    - Jen: As we are cleaning out the building and moving out, we need to have a way to inventory it, and where to store it, then it will have to be decided what happens with those things, some of which may be scanned and then reside at the Oregon Historical Society. It's pretty common to have spaces for alumni groups and booster groups where access was limited/secure. Franklin had a room near the front office and a display case where they could change out displayed items.
  - RJ: At the last PPS Town Hall regarding the bond, did they say \$182 million to finish Benson Tech?
  - Jen/Joe: the budget has not changed. Some money came from one bond, some from another. Hard construction cost is \$212 million budgeted. Does not include soft costs. We hoped that COVID would result in lowering costs. So far, construction is getting more expensive because of precautions. It's been a mixed bag in the bidding process right now. We'll know more in the next 4-6 months as the documents get more details and more subcontractors are on board. Not knowing what school looks like this fall and ongoing, we can't move equipment early at this point. If it goes 100% virtual... the construction has already started at Marshall to get it ready to accept equipment, so it may be possible depending on what happens. The other thing to keep in mind is that there is so much stuff in the school right now, it will be a scramble to get it all out over the summer. If kids aren't in the building it makes that process easier. A new building is being built at Marshall for heavy equipment, starting in the winter, so we would still have to wait to move that equipment until the building is finished.

- RJ: Listed bond proposals, including different schools. Within the discussion was a suggestion that part of the Benson Tech move be done at Jefferson. I was hoping that we could get clarity about why things are being done the way they are into the bond.
- Jen: The MPG building was already approved going into the Marshall parking lot and the design has already started.
- RK: Plan for transportation of kids?
- Jen: Transportation was working on a plan, and we had meetings with Curtis and others to work it out, but this has changed because of COVID. And, of course, the plan for delivering schooling is different now. Parents will definitely want to know how their kids will get there and we have to do mapping. There are people that have worked on it, but COVID has delayed this work. We do expect having some yellow bus transport.
- RK: Does anyone know if the application deadline be pushed out? Might want to advocate for that. Thinking of places to remind families that Benson Tech will be on Marshall campus next year - newspaper (Sellwood Bee), radio.
- ML expressed concerns again about large equipment/machinery in the inner courtyard, and the trees.
  - Joe: It's designed for a firetruck.
  - ML: The construction vehicles don't necessarily move like firetrucks.
  - Joe: We'll take a look at that.
- Jen: For any building designated as a historic landmark, the Landmark Committee evaluates projects to make sure they are designed to proceed in a comprehensive and thoughtful way. For us, they had important input on the front lawn, to retain the slope, retaining the south wall, and some construction materials.
- ML: Parking for students?
  - Joe/Jen: Approximate 112 spots. We could apply to make a case that teachers/staff/students might have special permits to allow street parking during school hours. But we are about 3 years away from that. There's about 200 bike parking in covered area: bike pavilion in the courtyard.
- There are plans to incorporate student art and projects.
- End of the presentation had a picture of masked students in front of the school during the 1918 pandemic:
  - <https://meet.google.com/linkredirect?authuser=0&dest=https%3A%2F%2Fohs.org%2Fblog%2F1918-influenza-in-oregon.cfm>
- Jen will get the alumni association copies of the presentations.
- Jen and Joe were excused.
- Alum birthday celebrations: RJ
  - RK: sending out recognition of milestone birthdays to alums, including Benson Tech information, and estate planning.

- RJ: Let's hold this and think about it later.
- RJ: When getting things from Curtis for the alum's birthday celebration, Curtis indicated that there are many leftover branded items that never sold. We may need to help figure out what to do with those things when it comes time to clean out the school. There are also things that have been donated to the Alumni, for use or fundraising:



- Michael Zokoych – Benson alum that ran Michael's Italian Beef & Sausage Co. on 11<sup>th</sup> and Sandy. Since he dies, the two women that worked at the shop inherited it, with Michael's recipes handed down. They are employing Benson students and grads. We should continue to support them.
- Minutes: MB:
  - March 2020, document with email correspondence between March and June meetings, and June 2020 draft minutes were all sent out. Everyone indicated that they did not need more time to review.
  - ML moved to approve all three documents, RE seconded. Motion passed.
- RJ picked up 2 2019 and 1 2020 yearbooks for the library.
- Next meetings will be virtual: August 10<sup>th</sup>, September 14<sup>th</sup> at 5:30PM.
  - <https://meet.google.com/goo-dwsy-ryi>
  - You can also join via phone by calling:
    - Dial-in: (US) +1 816-944-1361
    - PIN: 512 701 146#
- Any information that comes in after the next meeting and before draft minutes are sent out will be included below.
- [Note: after this meeting, RJ copied the board on an email he sent to the superintendent on behalf of the association about sports at Benson Tech. This email, as well as RJ's notes about a follow up phone call, has been amended onto the minutes.]

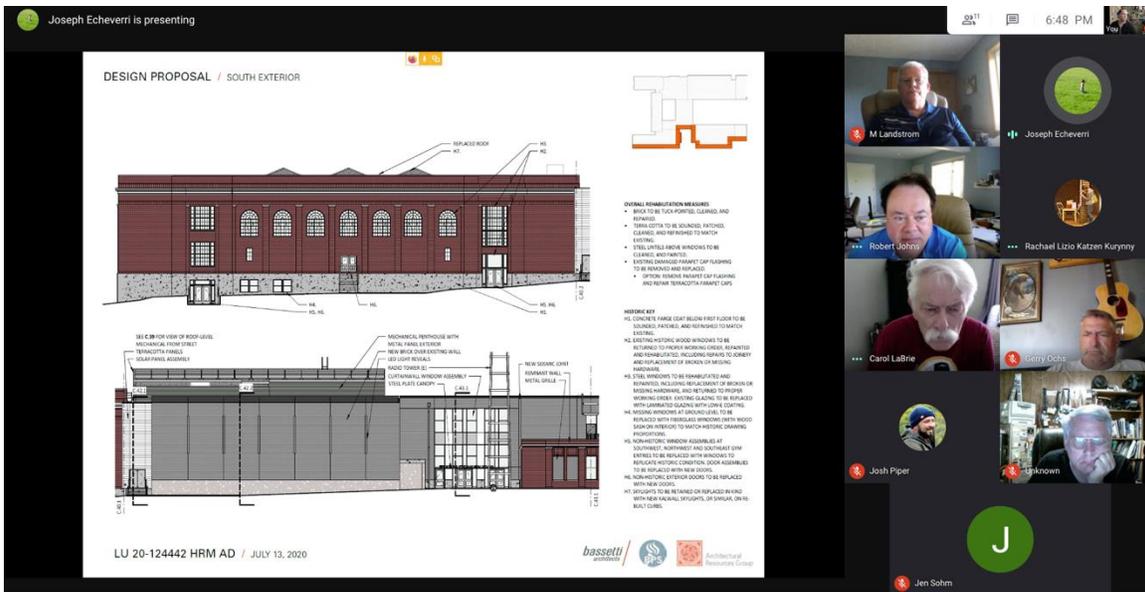
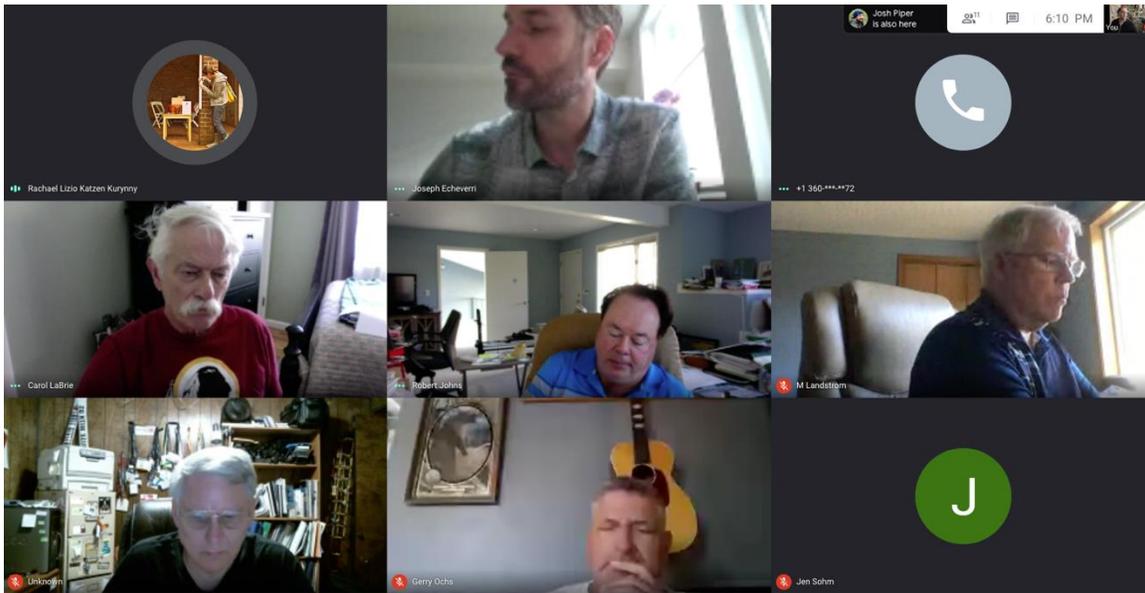
Parking Lot:

- Time Capsule contents during rebuild?

MEETING AJOURNED

Respectfully Submitted,

Maj Britt (Max) Baker  
Secretary  
BPHS Alumni Association



From: ROB JOHNS <robjohns@comcast.net>  
To: "superintendent@pps.net" <superintendent@pps.net>  
Cc: "mhaskins@pps.net" <mhaskins@pps.net>, "cpitman@pps.net" <cpitman@pps.net>, "jgarcia@pps.net" <jgarcia@pps.net>  
Date: 07/14/2020 10:34 PM  
Subject: Benson Tech Girls Junior Varsity Soccer- Benson Tech Alumni Question  
Haskins Decision Making

Dear Guadalupe,

It's been awhile since I raised my hand to question PPS decisions but this one deserves it. I hope you recognize my concern and take the time to take a look into it as it is being expressed on behalf of the Benson Tech Alumni Association in support of Girls Junior Varsity Soccer to be classified for this next season (given there is one in these COVID times), as Junior Varsity (JV) and not what is considered a lower division Junior Varsity 2 (JV2). There are 30 returning Benson Tech upper class soccer players. While the decision was mutually made by the school and the Athletic Director to not be Varsity level, to in some ways punish or be vindictive and classify them two divisions down to play Freshmen/Sophomore teams would in our estimation, be a poor safety decision for opposing teams nor fulfill one of the guiding principles of PPS Athletics to make a "Positive Impact at all Our Schools". Simply make the logical decision to classify the Benson Tech Girls Soccer as Junior Varsity and not JV2. Have the schedule set within the PIL and move on. **If we need to take this further and create a wider advocacy, we can do that.** We understand a similar issue arose this past school year with needing an intervention into Mr Haskins' decision on Benson Tech Girls Soccer at the request of a parent.

I must add that 2 years ago, what was commissioned as an "Extracurricular and Athletic Programs in PPS Schools" study directed by Mr Haskins (PPS paid to an outside Consultant) was brought to the attention of Director Rosen and shown to contain a significant percentage of content directed solely toward advocating for reduced athletics at Benson Tech with the same materials from prior attempts to reduce Benson Tech athletics. By showing this draft to Director Rosen, he agreed to end the study immediately. It's been nearly 4 years where Mr Haskins made overt statements that the press picked up where statements toward reducing athletics at Benson Tech were made, and a student march resulted directly to a PPS Board Meeting. Benson Tech is the only PIL school that received comments of this nature from Mr Haskins in such an overt fashion. I bring these items up to bring some historical context to what we are asking and seeing again. What we see is an overt bias against Benson Tech Athletics. Benson Tech is the only PIL school with no middle school athletic feeder program as it has "no boundaries" (its all of Portland) and it has a unique lottery program for entry. These two issues are something we would like to

plan/weigh in on, and look at more deeply in the future for the rebuilt Benson Tech.

Marshal Haskins, PPS Athletic Director, has made to our knowledge a rather arbitrary decision, we are asking for an intervention on behalf of our future Benson Tech Alumni, current students who wish to have as full a high school athletic experience as reasonably possible. Make it JV and not JV2.

Just one last add, when you look at the PPS webpage and you go to the directory of departments, you will note a lack of contacts easily identified for communication under the Athletics department versus the other departments for PPS. I would recommend the common PPS contact platform that Athletics would adhere to.

We thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Rob Johns  
Chair, Benson Tech Alumni Association  
503-314-0041

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On Wed, Jul 22, 2020 at 1:23 PM ROB JOHNS <[robjohns@comcast.net](mailto:robjohns@comcast.net)> wrote:  
All,

Thank you for your time today. This level of communication has been very helpful, I look forward to next steps with you.

I thought I would just summarize a few points from our call and we keep moving the ball forward.

- Competing Interests pose continuous challenges in the delivery of Athletic/Sports Programs within PPS/PIL.
- Advancing the idea of "intramural" not as OSAA competitive level of High School Sports with a formality - to allow more inclusion.
- Re-energize Stakeholders and PPS formal structures/advisories- I am not always clear on the Advising Committee structure and how stakeholders are identified but I do believe that a place for interested/active parents from each High School's Booster community to meet and understand PPS Athletic issues of impact to their communities and the broader PPS community would be beneficial and if that is Friends of PIL or however it should be phrased I would like to see how that can happen. Creating increased communication within the high schools. Along with the parents active/interested alumni/site council/boosters, participating will help

to smooth over the competing interests and provide increased support to the school Athletic Directors.

- Athletic Facilities - this is a continuous challenge and more work is needed here.
- Benson Tech- lottery to allow for middle school PIL sports program participants to have a clear enrollment path to Benson Tech to continue their personal athletic growth while attending the school of their choice. Alternatively, how OSAA may be able to change their rules to allow Benson students to play their chosen sport in their respective geographical high school program as Benson Tech students.

Feel free to correct anything here that I may not have interpreted correctly and "reply to all", so we can maintain cohesive communication.

Best,

Rob Johns  
Chair  
Benson Tech Alumni  
President  
Benson Tech Foundation  
503-314-0041