

**BENTON HARBOR AREA SCHOOLS  
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
OCTOBER 30, 2019**

**APPROVED 11/4/19**

The Benton Harbor Area Schools Community Engagement Advisory Committee meeting was held on Wednesday, October 30, 2019 in the Benton Harbor High School Library.

**I. Introductions**

Joyce Parker, Deputy Treasurer, called the meeting to order at 5:37PM. She asked that the members introduce themselves to each other and to the community.

- Joyce Parker, Michigan Department of Treasury Representative
- William Pearson, Michigan Department of Education Representative
- Dr. Wayne Watson, School Board Consultant
- Patricia Robinson, BHAS Interim Superintendent
- Dr. Michael Spencer, Business Representative
- Lisa Cripps-Downey, Community Based Foundation Representative
- Brenda Terrell, Union Leader and Teacher with BHAS
- Denise Whatley-Seats, BHAS Board of Education Representative
- Pastor Maurice McAfee, Ministerial Alliance Representative

**II. Signing of Memorandum of Understanding**

All members turned in their “Oaths of Office” and signed the Memorandum of Understanding.

**III. Election of Officers**

A motion was made by Lisa Cripps-Downey and supported by Dr. Michael Spencer to appoint Joyce Parker as Chair of the committee.

The motion was passed by unanimous vote.

A motion was made by Denise Whatley-Seats and supported by Brenda Terrell to appoint Pastor Maurice McAfee to the Vice Chair of the committee.

The motion was passed by unanimous vote.

A motion was made by Dr. Wayne Watson and supported by Patricia Robinson to appoint Denise Whatley-Seats as the Secretary of the committee.

The motion was passed by unanimous vote.

#### **IV. Discussion and Approval of Rules and Procedures**

Joyce Parker read the rules and procedures for the committee to follow. When finished, she asked for a motion to approve.

A motion was made by Dr. Michael Spencer and supported by Pastor Maurice McAfee to adopt the Rules and Procedures read by Deputy Treasurer Parker.

Joyce Parker asked if there were any questions or concerns. It was decided that there would be one meeting per month with special meetings when needed. The meetings will be held on the first Monday of every month and the meetings should not exceed 2 hours long.

The motion was passed by unanimous vote.

Guidelines for Public Comments was then discussed. There will be a sign up sheet for those making public comment. This will help the committee know how to reach these people in the future. The person's time should not exceed 2 minutes and there will not be any profanity or vulgarity.

The motion was passed by unanimous vote.

#### **V. Public Comment**

Patricia Rush, resident of Sodus, elected trustee of the BHAS BOE, Board Secretary and Chair to the Finance Committee. She will be happy to give reports from the Finance and Curriculum committees. Within the four months the Board was given back their authority, many improvements have been made.

Appalonia Williams, mother of student at BHAS. She wanted to know the difference between the School Board and the Advisory Committee. She also voiced concern that there will be only one meeting a month. Not sure how much can be accomplished with that.

Deputy Treasurer Parker explained that the parents will have input into this process. This is a community based committee. The committee will split into smaller groups and have their own meetings. Some of which would include the community.

William Pearson also stated that this could be used as a pilot plan in the future for other urban areas. Part of the assessment is to look over the other plans and find out what worked and did not work. Also look at the state level. Changes in legislature may have to be made, etc. in order to help the urban areas.

Reynaldo Tripplett - The purpose is for community engagement and assessment. He wants to make sure the assessment will also be made on MDE and Treasury. There needs to be an honest conversation to all that is involved. He was assured that MDE and Treasury is not exempt. We all have to be part of the change.

Angel Creighton - Community member, home owner with student going to school of choice. She wanted to know who nominated the members of the committee. Joyce Parker explained that the committee originally was only going to have 7 members but has changed to 12 members. We want to keep the numbers small so that things can get done. Ms. Creighton wants to be sure the parent member is involved and hopes this is being done for the students. The district needs stability. Our prayers are with you to get things back to the way they were.

**VII. Questions/Comments from Advisory Committee Members**

Between now and Friday, develop a work plan, who to meet with. Compile the previous plans and send to members so they can see what has been tried.

**VIII. Adjournment**

Ms. Parker ask for a motion to adjourn. Dr. Watson motion to adjourn. Second by Pastor McAfee. Adjourned at 6:43pm.