

**Benton Harbor Area Schools  
Community Engagement Advisory Committee  
Agenda**

**Monday, January 6, 2020  
5:00 pm**

Benton Harbor High School  
Library  
870 Colfax Ave.  
Benton Harbor, MI 49022

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

- A. Roll Call
- B. Approval of Agenda
- C. Approval of Minutes
  - 1. December 2, 2019 (Attachment #1)

**II. OLD BUSINESS**

None

**III. NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Subcommittee Reports
  - 1. Budget and Finance (Attachment #2)
  - 2. Community Engagement (Attachment #3)
  - 3. Academics and Programs (Attachments #4)
  - 4. Building Facility Technology
- B. Survey Discussion (Attachment #5)

**IV. BOARD COMMENT/OTHER**

**V. COMMUNICATIONS – Information Only**

- 1. Elnora Gavin – Benton Harbor Racial Equity Committee 2020 Day of Action Invitation (Attachment #6)

**VI. PUBLIC COMMENT**

**VII. ADJOURNMENT**

**Benton Harbor Area Schools  
Community Engagement Advisory Committee  
Meeting Minutes**

**Monday, December 2, 2019  
5:00 pm**

Benton Harbor High School  
Library  
870 Colfax Ave.  
Benton Harbor, MI 49022

Members Present

Joyce Parker  
Lisa Cripps-Downey  
Tray' von Gentry  
Maurice McAfee  
William Pearson  
Patricia Robinson  
Brenda Terrell  
Wayne Watson  
Denise Whatley-Seats

Members Absent

Michael Spencer  
Patrick Muhammad

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

- A. Chair Parker called the meeting to order at 5:15 pm. Let the record show a quorum is present.
- B. Introduction of student representative Tray' von Gentry
- C. Approval of Minutes

Motion made (Thomas) and supported (McAfee), the Committee unanimously voted to approve the November 4, 2019 minutes as amended.

**II. SCHOOL BOARD PRESENTATION**

- A. Scott Johnson – BHAS financial overview
- B. Patricia Rush – Recommended collaboration with CEAC Finance Committee

**III. OLD BUSINESS**

- A. Approval of Work Plan

Motion made (Whatley-Seats) and supported (Robinson), the committee unanimously voted to approve the Work Plan as presented.

**IV. NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Subcommittee reports
  - 1. Budget and Finance
    - Lisa Cripps-Downey presented an overview of the finance and budget report
  - 2. Community Engagement
    - Pastor Maurice McAfee presented the community engagement report – Identified events and communication between the community and the committee. Upcoming events were shared including the community survey.
  - 3. Academics and Programs
    - Michael Pearson presented an overview of the academics and programs report – Discussed deadlines and requirements of the subcommittee
  - 4. Building Facility and Technology
    - Jessica Thomas presented an overview of the building and facility assessment
    - Chair Joyce Parker requested the review of the 2017 building feasibility study be incorporated into the CEAC working plan.

**V. BOARD COMMENT/OTHER**

- A. Discussion of assessment and the four subcommittees and areas of review – provide to the Michigan Department of Education, Department of Treasury, and Benton Harbor Area School Board of Education for review and comment.

**VI. PUBLIC COMMENT**

- A. Shaquille Turner – BHAS Curriculum Equity Initiative Project – Requested Committee review
- B. Elnora Gavin – Racial Equity Committee Event
- C. Traci Burton – Publicize CEAC meetings more – offered support for further events.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, motion to adjourn (McAfee) and second Terrell), the meeting adjourned at 6:08 pm.

DRAFT



Budget and Finance Subcommittee  
Monthly Summary Report  
January 6, 2020

**Meeting Date:** 1/6/2020

**Subcommittee:** Budget/Finance

The Budget/Finance Committee has met bi-monthly either in person or via phone conference to review materials and identify information needs to conduct an assessment. The committee also met with BHAS Finance Director Scott Johnson and BHAS Board member Dr. Patricia Rush for an information gathering/education session.

As information and reports are shared, it leads the committee to ask more questions and seek additional information. Dr. Rush and Scott Johnson have been very helpful in providing the information.

**Documents Reviewed** (*Not all inclusive*): Many of these reports are being reviewed in comparison to similar-sized districts. In addition, many reports are generated compiling additional data sources.

- BHAS Audit Report
- BHAS Budgets
- Student Enrollment reports
- State of Michigan State Aid Financial Status Report
- Deficit Elimination Plans
- Financial Operating Plan
- Prior Consent Agreements
- Partnership Agreement
- MDE Improvement Plan
- District Employment trend data

**Next Steps:** The committee will continue to meet to review data. The committee intends to enlist outside expertise in review of the final data

Community Engagement Subcommittee  
Monthly Summary Report  
January 6, 2020

1. Attendance
  - a. Pastor Maurice McAfee, Chair
  - b. Deputy Treasurer Joyce Parker
  - c. Stephan Welke
2. Old Business
  - a. Since November 2019, several community outreach events were held in the Benton Harbor area. The community outreach events were targeted to specific demographics based off recommendations. Events were held at the Barich Pointe Senior Center, the Benton Township Housing Commission, and at the Benton Harbor Public Library. The feedback gathered will be used for the development of the operating plan. We noted similarities in feedback at various sessions.
3. New Business
  - a. Student Outreach Event
    - i. Date: January 6, 2020
    - ii. Location: Benton Harbor High School.
    - iii. The purpose of this meeting is to gain a student perspective. CEAC will provide an overview of schools funding and meetings will consist of three groups of students, a presentation, open discussion, and participation in the survey.
  - b. Ministerial Alliance Meeting
    - i. Date: January 11, 2020
    - ii. Location: Benton Harbor
    - iii. The purpose of this meeting is to set up future community engagement events hosted by the ministerial alliance and bring all denominations to one location.
  - c. CEAC was invited to an event organized by the City of Benton Harbor's Racial Equity Committee on January 11, 2020 from 1pm to 3pm.
4. Future Events
  - a. In the process of scheduling focus group meeting with legislatures, the Chamber of Commerce, and the ACLU.
5. Survey
  - a. As of January 2, 2020, there have been over 342 responses.

Academic & Programs Subcommittee Summary Report  
1/6/2020

1. Attendance

- a. Patricia Robinson – Benton Harbor Area Schools Rep.
- b. Dr. Wayne Watson – Community Rep.
- c. Brenda Terrell – Teacher Union Rep.
- d. Traci Burton – Family Community Liaison
- e. Lisa Pattison – Berrien ISD
- f. Tray'von Gentry - Student Rep.
- g. Dr. William Pearson – Michigan Department of Education
- h. Sam Irrer – Michigan Department of Treasury

2. Old Business

- a. Since December 2019, members of the subcommittee have met and determined which data is important to the assessment and started compiling data. Lisa Pattison from Berrien RESA as well as staff from the district have compiled academic data from a variety of metrics and assessments. The committee is working on determining strengths, weaknesses, challenges, and trends as it relates to the academic data. We used data from the M-Step, PSAT8, ELA proficiency & growth trends, math proficiency and growth, NWEA growth, absent student trends, graduation and drop out rates, and college enrollment trends.

3. New Business

- a. Subcommittee meeting to complete report template
  - i. Date: January 6, 2019
  - ii. Location: Benton Harbor High School.
  - iii. The purpose of this meeting is to finalize the data and fill in the template for the assessment portion of the report.
- b. A third-party company will be reviewing the current academic environment and assist in developing an academic improvement plan. Treasury will be assisting with this vendor.

4. Nothing further to report.

# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

## Benton Harbor Area Schools

Who: **YOU!**

What: Please join us in participating in our **2019-2020 Benton Harbor Area School District Community Engagement Pre-Assessment Survey**.

Where: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/engagecomm2>

When: The survey closes January 31, 2020.

Why: The Community Engagement Advisory Committee for Benton Harbor Area Schools has developed a quick survey to gather input from community members like you and to provide an avenue to start conversation. We are looking forward to hearing from you!

Learn more about the Benton Harbor Area Schools Community Engagement Advisory Committee at [www.Michigan.gov/engagecomm](http://www.Michigan.gov/engagecomm)



2019-2020 Benton Harbor Area School District  
Community Engagement Advisory Committee Pre-Assessment Survey

**Benton Harbor Area Schools Community Engagement Advisory Committee has been established to facilitate community input on matters related to your school district. Our team wants to learn more about your ideas on the long-term viability of the district.**

**Your feedback is important for the Benton Harbor Area School District.**

1. What category do you most identify with?

- Student
- Parent
- Educator
- Business Member
- Community Member
- Other (please specify)

\* 2. Do you live within the school district boundaries of the Benton Harbor Area Schools?

- Yes
- No

3. If you are a student or parent of a student, what school district are you affiliated with?

- Benton Harbor Area Schools
- Home School/ Virtual School
- Charter School
- Other School District and Name of School District.

4. How would you rate your general understanding of the Benton Harbor Area Schools Community Engagement Advisory Committee?

Not At All Aware

Slightly Aware

Moderately Aware

Very Aware

Extremely Aware

\* 5. What ideas do you have to help improve Benton Harbor Area Schools?

\* 6. How can the district attract students?

\* 7. How can the district retain students?

**Please provide clear and specific responses. It is important to know what specifically needs to be addressed**

\* 8. What do you think Benton Harbor's School District greatest strengths are? Please select top two (2).

Facility Conditions

Academic Programs

Sport Programs

Music Programs

Extra-curricular Activities

District Communication

Community Engagement

Other (please specify)

\* 9. What do you think Benton Harbor's School District weaknesses are? Please select top two (2).

- Facility Conditions
- Academic Programs
- Sport Programs
- Music Programs
- Extra-curricular Activities
- District Communication
- Community Engagement
- Other (please specify)

10. What additional comments/feedback you would like to provide?

\* 11. How do you primarily receive news on Benton Harbor Area Schools matters? (Please select one)

- Newspaper/Newsletters
- Facebook
- Twitter
- YouTube
- Television
- School Board Meetings
- Radio
- BHAS Website
- Communication from BHAS Educators
- Other (please specify)

\* 12. How would you like to receive news in the future on Benton Harbor Area Schools matters? (Please select one)

Newspaper/Newsletters

Facebook

Twitter

YouTube

Television

School Board Meetings

Other (please specify)

**Contact Information (OPTIONAL)**

**More detailed information on the Community Engagement Advisory Committee can be found on [www.michigan.gov/engagecomm](http://www.michigan.gov/engagecomm)**

13. If you would like to submit your contact info for future updates and newsletters, please provide your contact information.

First Name

Last Name

Email

Phone Number

**Dempkowski, Angela (Treasury)**

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**From:** Elnora Gavin <elnoragavin@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 17, 2019 4:56 PM  
**Subject:** Benton Harbor Racial Equity Committee 2020 Day of Action Updated Invite  
**Attachments:** 20191217\_150824\_0000.png

Greetings,

The City of Benton Harbor Racial Equity Committee is in its formulation stage and you are invited to help us launch into solution mode! Please find a copy of the [Fresh Start Plan](#) that we intend to develop further. As you may have heard, this plan has received positive feedback and enthusiasm from diverse groups within the city, state and across the nation. In response to a community outcry for an opportunity to participate in an inclusive strategic plan, our [Benton Harbor Racial Equity Committee](#)(Interim) will host a [2020 Day of Action and Meeting of the Minds Event](#) welcoming all stakeholders of diverse backgrounds and ages. With the assistance of our teacher liaison under advisement from Mrs. Marilyn Ross-Golden, an esteemed retired teacher, our committee consists of student leaders, a parent, a city official and community organizers alongside a host of statewide collaborative partners, I have been awarded the opportunity to provide consulting services for the overall initiative. We will rollout the Fresh Start Project with a video presentation, disclose various budgets, engage community input, and roll up our sleeves to move forward on setting strategic S.M.A.R.T goals within a People's Assembly Interactive Framework. We intend to submit the finalized Fresh Start Plan to the city officials for consideration as an integral segment of the master plan for the inner city. Following that event, we intend to set up monthly progress update meetings in the City Hall Chambers. The experience would be most beneficial if all decision-makers are present at this event to witness and provide authentic feedback into this body of work. Teens tickets are available. In fact, youth that participate in this leadership experience will be provided with portfolio ready community service documentation and letters of appreciation on site.

Please save the date for **January 11, 2020, at 1 pm - 3:30 pm at Sinbad's Imaginasium located on 1400 Jennings Avenue in Benton Harbor, MI. Doors open at 12 for check-in** and food will be served after the event. We will have live radio streamed coverage as well. Please plan for 7 days of loving forgiveness and honor of your neighbors as we prepare our hearts and minds for longterm growth within our city. If you would like to present updates or share pertinent information from your office or committees at this event, please [register online](#) and we will work to reserve the space within the agenda and/or provide designated info tables. Please RSVP as soon as possible because the speaking space is limited and is filling up quickly. We are asking presenters to shave their presentations to 5 minutes or less. We are requesting that speakers and guests offering to set up info tables provide the following information within your presentations:

1. Provide the name of the organization you represent.
2. Identify the resources that you provide specific to the demographics of Benton Harbor.
3. Explain how and when residents may contact you or access your services.

We welcome healthy collaborations and look forward to receiving your genuine feedback. In the meantime, please save the date and **share this email invite with your networks**. Register for free at [WakandaBH.com](#) or visit our [Facebook Event Page](#) for event updates. Follow us on [Facebook](#) for committee updates throughout the coming years.

Again thank you for your time and consideration. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me or Gwen Swanigan at (269) 888-1551.

Peace and Prosperity,

Elnora Gavin



City of Benton Harbor  
 Racial  
 Equity  
 Committee  
 Relief, Recovery, Reform

Attachment #6



**SATURDAY 1/11**

**1PM-3:30PM**

**DOORS OPEN AT NOON**

**@ SINBAD'S IMAGINASIUM**

**1400 JENNINGS AVE,**

**BENTON HARBOR, MI 49022**

**RSVP AT WAKANDABH.COM**

- NO ADMISSION COST**
- \*COMMUNITY SERVICE HOURS CLOCKED FOR YOUTH VOLUNTEERS**
- \*FREE ENTERTAINMENT**
- \*FREE REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED AFTER THE EVENT**
- \*CHILDCARE ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE**

**\*COMFORTABLE ATTIRE**

**POWERED BY:**

*save the date*

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT &  
 STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSION

**2020**

**MEETING OF THE MINDS  
 & DAY OF ACTION**



**POSITIVE VIBES  
 ONLY**

**LET'S COMMIT TO**

**7 DAYS OF ATONEMENT PRIOR TO THE EVENT.**