



# YOU ARE INVITED TO A COMMUNITY MEETING

Dear BCSC Family:

Benton Community School Corporation (BCSC) will host four community meetings concerning the school district's finances in January. We encourage you to attend.

The agenda for each meeting will be the same. School officials will present information about the school corporation's current and projected financial circumstances and explain contributing factors. The presentation will continue with a summary of options considered in recent weeks by a Financial Advisory Committee composed of community members.

One community session will be hosted at each of Benton Community School Corporation's four school buildings. Choose the meeting that works best for you!

- **January 8 at 7:00 p.m. Boswell Elementary School, 414 West Main Street, Boswell**
- **January 15 at 7:00 p.m. Prairie Crossing Elementary School, 2758 South 400 East, Oxford**
- **January 22 at 7:00 p.m. Otterbein Elementary School, 111 West Oxford St, Otterbein**
- **January 29 at 7:00 p.m. Benton Central Jr-Sr. High School, 4241 East 300 South, Oxford**

Unable to make a session? Visit our website at [www.benton.k12.in.us](http://www.benton.k12.in.us) to learn more, or contact Superintendent Gregg Hoover at [ghoover@benton.k12.in.us](mailto:ghoover@benton.k12.in.us) or 765-884-0850.

## BACKGROUND

For the past year, the BCSC school board has been closely examining its finances, utilizing both school corporation employees and independent experts. While the corporation has a long and well established record of careful money management, the district's expenditures are now outpacing revenue for several reasons, most notably that state aid has not kept pace with inflation-based costs and that declining enrollment has resulted in reduced revenue from the state. Next year, the school corporation will have a \$2 million structural deficit that could be solved through budget reductions, which would mean, among other things, reducing staff and increasing class sizes; increasing revenue, through an operating levy that increases property taxes; or a combination of the two.

In July, BCSC commissioned a phone survey of a representative sample of community residents. The results indicate strong support for our schools' work and understanding of the financial situation.

In November, BCSC convened a Financial Advisory Committee, composed of about a dozen community members, to examine the current financial situation and discuss options.

Our next step is to broaden the discussion and obtain additional feedback through these community engagement meetings. We know any option we choose for managing this deficit will directly impact you. We hope you will be able to attend to learn more.

Thank you,

Benton Community Board of School Trustees  
Edward Schroeder, Gabe Widmer, Jennifer Barce, Chad Tolen, Robert Sondgeroth