Letter of Intent - John Benson

John Benson
[redacted]

May 24, 2026

Ann Arbor Public Schools
Board of Education
3700 Earhart Road
Ann Arbor MI, 48105

Dear AAPS Board Of Education Members,

My name is John Benson, and I am applying for the current Board opening. I am a Senior Manager of Investment Operations and Governance at an Ann Arbor pension fund managing approximately $60B in assets for United Auto Workers retirees. I have 25 years of experience in finance, which includes building risk monitors, budget forecast tools, and other governance structures. I enjoy building transparent bridges from detailed financial information into simpler views and reports through collaboration with internal and external stakeholders.

Outside of work, I'm a husband and father of three children, with one currently at King, another starting this fall, and a third still a few years away. AAPS has been a great community for my family, and I would welcome the opportunity to contribute through Board service.

I joined my current firm in December 2019 and was initially responsible for building a more transparent cash management and policy targets review process. It covers several hundred investment accounts, hundreds of millions of dollars in monthly benefit expenditures, and multiple policy requirements, including cash balance targets I established, all reviewed regularly by internal leadership, the Board and outside consultants. The process was put in place in early 2020 and has since supported monthly strategy and cash use discussions including during periods of significant economic uncertainty and market disruption.

A major part of my work, throughout my career, is helping people with different professional backgrounds and areas of expertise work through complicated financial information in a practical and understandable way. I believe those same skills would translate well to the work of the AAPS Board.

While no organization can fully control economic conditions or revenue fluctuations, organizations can continuously improve how financial information is reviewed, communicated, and understood. I would welcome the opportunity to work with the existing Board, the recently hired CFO, consultants, and district staff to continue strengthening those processes within AAPS.

John Benson

References:

1. Brian Baumhover - reference letter enclosed
    - Current employer more senior coworker
    - Senior Managing Director UAW Retirement Medical Benefits Trust
    - Ann Arbor resident
2. Shari Burger - reference letter enclosed
    - Prior employer more senior coworker
    - Treasury Director Stellantis (formerly FCA) - retired
    - Michigan resident
3. Andrew G. Shuman, MD FACS HEC-C
    - Personal reference, Ann Arbor neighbor
    - Professor
      Division of Head and Neck Oncology
      Department of Otolaryngology - Head & Neck Surgery

      Assistant Dean of Veterans Affairs

      Chief, Clinical Ethics Service
      Chair, Adult Ethics Committee
      Michigan Bioethics

      University of Michigan Medical School
4. Kayte Spector-Bagdady, JD, MBe
    - Personal reference, Ann Arbor neighbor
    - George E Wantz Professor of Bioethics
      Director, Michigan Bioethics
      Associate Professor, Obstetrics & Gynecology
      Associate Editor, American Journal of Bioethics
      University of Michigan Medical School

Enclosures:

1. Recommendation Letter from Brian: JohnBenson_BOEapplicant_LOR_fromBrian.pdf
2. Recommendation Letter from Shari: JohnBenson_BOEapplicant_LOR_fromShari.pdf
3. Resume: JohnBenson_BOEapplicant_Resume.pdf
4. Affidavit: JohnBenson_BOEapplicant_Affidavit.pdf

Ann Arbor, MI 48105

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John Benson

SUMMARY

Finance, budget and risk expert with passion for bringing governance, policy, and transparency together into clear frameworks. Collaborate with leadership, operations, legal, consulting and finance teams to enable fluid processes of tracking, reporting and review. Experienced presenting budget and finance risk summaries to broad audiences. *Letters of recommendation submitted from directors of the first two jobs listed below.*

EXPERIENCE

UAW Retirement Medical Benefits Trust, Ann Arbor - $60B Assets Under Management
Senior Manager Investment Operations and Governance

December 2019 - PRESENT

- Worked with lead investment and accounting groups to head the design of a clearer, regular cash forecast and risk scenarios framework. Used for billions in transfer timing decisions and follows multiple policy targets. Deployed in February 2020 and used for all budget discussions thereafter.
- Chair the Data Governance Investment Subcommittee. Quarterly review of governance policies, vendor contracts, and reporting structure updates for risk and budget transparency. Includes presentation materials, votes and feedback from a diverse group of leadership.
- Lead of multiple cloud software migrations for finance, investments, and budgeting systems.

FCA (formerly Chrysler), Auburn Hills
Treasury Special Projects

January 2019 - November 2019

- Worked with several senior directors in a short time to enhance processes, reporting, and transparency. Example projects: Executive facing market conditions presentations, bond and credit facility structuring, energy and commodity investment report enhancement, and equipment purchase or lease review process improvements.

Elliott Management, New York NY - $40B Assets Under Management
Investment Professional

2008 - 2018

- Specialized in risk and compliance oversight, training, and related reporting systems design. Responsible for one page weekly summary report of teams' approximately $3B in risk assets.
- Deep collaboration and communication skills with global finance, accounting, regulatory, investment, consulting, and technology staff, both internal and external.

Various Consulting Positions, NY, IL, DC

2001 - 2007

- Energy technology and billing consultant for commercial (plus schools) and industrial buildings
- Data science and trend analysis consultant for National Council On Aging
- New York State Hospital network elderly health stats reporting tools consultant
- Boeing (Chicago) implementation consultant bridging requirements of legal, accounting, insurance

Education: University of Wisconsin, Madison - Chemical Engineer, Class of 2000

Letter of Recommendation for John Benson

Shari Burger

[redacted]

May 19, 2026

Dear AAPS Board of Education,

It is my pleasure to recommend John Benson for a seat on the Board of Education for Ann Arbor Public Schools. As the retired former Treasury Director of Financial Risk, Corporate Cash Investments and Pension Fund Investments at Stellantis (formerly FCA), I had the opportunity to work with John during his tenure with the FCA Treasury group beginning in 2019.

I worked with John directly, where he developed a reporting structure within our Treasury Management System that allowed me to view outstanding derivative positions in alignment with our management reporting framework. The task required both technical proficiency and a clear understanding of how financial information needs to be communicated to leadership, and John delivered a practical and effective solution. This gave me firsthand insight into his ability to listen carefully, understand a business need, and execute.

More broadly, John was well regarded across the Treasury group for his contributions to several high-visibility initiatives encompassing debt capital markets analysis, credit facility and bond structuring research, and macro-economic reporting for executive presentations. He coordinated effectively across multiple teams, engaged constructively with colleagues at all levels, and consistently delivered under tight timelines. He made a positive impression on myself and others throughout his tenure.

I recommend John without reservation and believe his collaborative nature and depth of financial experience would be a valuable addition to the Ann Arbor Public Schools Board of Education. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like to discuss further.

Sincerely,

Shari Burger

Brian Baumhover
[redacted]

May 20, 2026

Dear Ann Arbor Public Schools Board of Education,

My name is Brian Baumhover, I am an Ann Arbor resident, and I’m writing to recommend John Benson as an excellent candidate for the Board of Education for Ann Arbor Public Schools. I am a Senior Managing Director at the Ann Arbor Investment Office for the UAW Retiree Medical Benefit Trust and have worked with John since he joined the team late in 2019. The Trust manages $60B in retirement assets.

John joined the Trust as a Risk Manager, initially building our operating cash forecast and target balance levels guidance. This project required quick understanding of our cash and spend trends as well as close collaboration across our accounting and investment teams, one of which I lead. The build out proved timely, rolled out in February 2020, two months after he started at the onset of covid lockdowns in the U.S. He was able to present current cash balances and forecasts, in the context of our investment policies, to help me understand the investment scenarios I was considering with my portfolio team and how they would interact with other likely investment and cash movement decisions occurring throughout the office. Individual investment decisions generally move several hundred million dollars through multiple accounts, and in 2020 alone, we utilized John’s framework and consultation for dozens of such activities.

John has since become a Senior Manager of Analytics and Data Governance. He trains incoming investment operations staff that support my team and he runs our Data Governance meetings in which he brings summaries of data policy, vendor contract changes or renewal requests to myself and other leadership members. He helps me link business world questions to financial data, systems, and related governance frameworks in ways that are easily understandable.

John would make a strong addition to your Board given his skill set and ability to quickly help with ongoing projects and across diverse groups of stakeholders. He has my overwhelming support and confidence. Please reach out to me for follow up questions as needed.

Thank you,

Brian Baumhover