

## Academic Practices Team Mtg - 4/8/25

**Committee Members:** Meghan Booth (Erdkinder Coordinator), Kim Bell (Special Education Teacher), Angela Kaul (E2A Teacher), Kris Swogger (Reading Title and EL Teacher), Amy Schillerstrom (E1A Teacher), Henry Schantzen (Head of School), Anna Aarre (CH3 Teacher), Sherry Lohmeyer (Assistant Head of School)

### **Bluffview Montessori Vision Statement**

Empowered learners unfolding their full potential as whole and unique persons in a global community.

### **Bluffview Montessori Mission**

Bluffview Montessori School empowers self-directed learning through a materials-based Montessori curriculum that encourages independence and natural curiosity. Bluffview cultivates learners' deep respect for self, community, and a peaceful environment, while nourishing the intrinsic desire for academic, civic, and personal fulfillment.

### **Attendance:**

Meghan Booth (Erdkinder Coordinator), Kim Bell (Special Education Teacher), Angela Kaul (E2A Teacher), Amy Schillerstrom (E1A Teacher), Henry Schantzen (Head of School), Sherry Lohmeyer (Assistant Head of School), Anna Aarre (CH3 Teacher), Kris Swogger (Reading Title and EL Teacher)

Topic	Responsible	Notes	Minutes from meeting
<b>WELCOME! Circle Chat</b>	2 min	To empower all voices that are present and create shared ownership and accountability in our committee work.	
Check in <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>What is one word to describe you today?</li></ul>			
<b>Language Alignment</b>	8 min	Sherry	
Goals of alignment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Determine writing check-points as we continue to discuss a schoolwide writing assessment process (How do we assess for support for writing?)</li><li>Identify standards that may also be easily assessed or checked by IXL</li><li>Vertical Alignment of reading content</li><li>What do we want our end product to be? Ex: Topic Guides for Science</li></ul> Suggesting 3-4 workdays (professional dev. discussion)			
<b>Professional Dev.</b>	15 min	Meghan/Henry	

### Master Calendar

The plan would break the alignment into these three components:

Day 1: Review and discuss ELA standards

Day 2: Align ELA standards with Montessori works, lessons, and materials, including texts and novels

Day 3: Continue alignment and determine any gaps or needs

#### Discussion:

- Day 4: April conference day 2 hours (?) to wrap things up/catch up day?
- There may not be monies for updating materials. TBD based on current budget/political cuts to DOE
- What other PD would you like us to bring in?
  - Previous survey wanted focus on License requirements and Montessori/Standards alignment
  - [Save your license Saturday](#) (offered all of the below requirements this year and costs are covered by the school)
  - [License Requirements/descriptions](#)
    - Positive Behavioral Intervention Strategies/Catalyst
      - This Category includes accommodations/modifications
    - Reading Preparation/ CORE
    - Key Warning Signs for Early-Onset Mental Illness in Children and Adolescents
    - Suicide Prevention (1 hour)
    - Cultural Competency
    - English Learners
    - American Indian History and Culture (NEW)
    - Reminder that you can submit Language Alignment hours for PD

#### Subscriptions

10 min

Kim/Henry

What subscriptions do you feel are most essential for Bluffview

- IXL (current only math/reading, and reason to add science/social?)
  - \$6900 for math/rdg, \$9100 for sci/soc
- Educlimber
- GoGaurdian
- Typing Pal
- Online record keeping (potentially new)
- Others?

Action: Vote on IXL so HOS can renew contract

#### Mentor/Mentee

15 min

Meghan

Thank you to Mariah, Kim, Angela and Anna for meeting on Friday

#### Suggestions for changes to the program

- Remove observation requirement for mentors as we now have peer evaluators
  - Mentors after year one should be available to observe upon request
  - Remove Reflection Requirement
  - Mentees should still observe classrooms at their level year 1
- New to teaching/less than 3 years experience
  - Meet weekly but alternate with team lead and a non level mentor
    - Have Mentor be peer evaluator for year 1
- Coming with at least 3 years experience
  - State requires 1 year mentoring.
  - Meet minimum once a month (bi weekly) one with team lead, one with mentor

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Thoughts? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Any concerns about mentor being a peer evaluator? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- We do not have team members be peer evaluators, so this model would require a non-team member to be the mentor</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>- Follow up next month with more formal changes to review in the handbook/guide</li> </ul>			
Additional New Business			
Next Month			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Wrap up Mentor/Mentee handbook</li> <li>- Online Record keeping</li> </ul>			
Closing			
Next month is our final meeting. Is there anything you would like to address or put on the radar for the fall?			

#### Notes:

Professional Development - thought is to do more robust things other than Save Your License Saturday since we have this as an option; Mental Health would be a good one to bring in; other thought is to wait until the following year to have these offered during workshop days when we are not in a language alignment  
April conference day - save some time for ELA

#### Subscriptions we use the most

- EduClimber - currently underused though
- E1 - IXL math/rdg, kids love the sci/soc but no real reason to keep them
- E2 -
  - IXL math primarily, some IXL reading, currently trialing science and social studies. Social studies is not very useful/robust, but the science side does add value to what is happening in the classroom
  - Typing Pal - have access but it is only used as a choice and not a set time for practice. Not utilizing it enough to build typing fluency, not enough time to make a priority
- Erd -
  - GoGuardian is how they spy on what the kids are doing online
  - Typing Pal part of Personal World (10-15 minutes and then it's choice work).
- Mariah commented that her 3rd years may be interested in typing; may be better to wait until 7th grade. Henry suggests building this in more formally at the Erd level makes most sense than at another level due to 1-to-1 devices.
- Henry will renew IXL for reading and math

#### Mentor/Mentee Conversation

- Henry and Sherry will be mentors more often
  - What is the motivation for it? They can take the professionalism piece and the PLC and cover the teaching piece.
  - Would still have a peer evaluator
  - Could offer pop in observations (outside of the evaluation process, more about coaching)
- Definite benefits to having mentor outside of your team
- Meghan made the lists and showed the team
- Might be helpful to have a couple of people (maybe each level) trained and ready if there is a year of larger turnover
- If the new staff member is more experienced, may the mentor could be admin
- Next steps
  - Review Meghan's list and bring any questions or concerns to the next meeting
  - Can bring to the team to discuss their thoughts, especially if they have a member who is new to staff
  - Next agenda
    - Ask PLC teams if there is anything you'd like us to consider for fall
    - Record keeping discussion
    - Meghan's list