

## Family & Community Engagement Committee

Date: Tuesday, April 8th, 2025

**Committee Co-chairs:** Mariah White and Drew Althoff

**Committee Members:** Megan Baker-Hunger, Sandy Borkowski, Chris Dubis, Cindy Smith, Tina Smith (Bluffview Parent), Jeff Van Fossen (Bluffview Parent)

### Vision Statement

To foster strong and sustained connections with families and community partners to best serve BMS students.

### 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.

### Goal Focuses

- Community outreach and public relations
- Volunteer recruitment and retention
- Family/Parent/Guardian events at BMS
- Increasing attendance at student conference nights
- Staff and student wellness
- Wellness policy review and compliance

**ATTENDING:** Megan, Sandy, Chris, Cindy, Tina, Mariah, Drew, Sherry

**MINUTES BY:** Drew

**\*\* Action Items are HIGHLIGHTED for quick reference**

Topic	Notes
WELCOME BACK and Circle Check-in	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Circle Question:</b> What was the first social issue you remember being passionate about?</li></ul>
EVENT RECAPS / DISCUSSION	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. WOW Mindfulness and Resiliency</li><li>2. WOW Relax the Mind and Body</li></ol>
	Both events went well and were also lightly attended. The last class was a completely different group than before which is nice to see.
UPCOMING EVENTS	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. WOW May Session: Sat. 5/3<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. "Parents-choice" class – survey results</li></ol></li></ol>
	<p><b>SURVEY:</b> One response → "would love to see it wrap up at Kinstone like it started. Maybe something like affirmations?"</p> <p><b>GROUP CHAT about May event:</b> What now? How do you sustain the goal? We discussed tangible ways to continue the work of stress management.</p>

**SPRINGING INTO CHANGE IDEA:** anyone can attend but it all comes back around to the roots of stress management. Goals and habits oriented. Have a group in circle together to talk about what's next, what you're going to do to continue your work, address challenges, answer questions, and ultimately culminate the work we've done over the entire school year.

**NEW / ONGOING IDEAS:**

1. BMS 5K
2. Mural work with Sarah J.
3. Wellness Policy Review
4. Volunteer Appreciation
5. Swap Meet idea
6. Visioning for next school year

**SANDY:** Needs to reconnect with Sarah J. on the mural

**VOL. APPRECIATION:** Something small as a token of appreciation for this year. Next year, a big event to offer gratitude. The FCEC should have that under it's umbrella of work for next year.

- This year, something to show names on front bulletin board?
- Send out thank you cards this year
- Billboard at the front bulletin board
  - Generalize the message: *thank you to all the volunteers who did all these things for the BMS community this year*
- Idea to have a volunteer appreciation page in the yearbook
- Levels can decide if they want to do something to acknowledge volunteers

---

**FCEC Event/Program Ideas Google Doc**

- *Please don't add items without prior committee discussion*

**AGREEMENT OF ACTION ITEMS**

What are the priorities for us in the next month?

**LIST ACTION ITEMS HERE:**

1. Send Tina Circle expectations
2. Language for May WOW promo needed
3. Host May WOW session in circle format and focus on "what's next" for folks on their journey towards managing stress.
4. Megan and Cindy (and Tina?) will connect to talk about the swap meet – will have a report at the May committee meeting
  - a. Andy needs to be involved in the discussion of the swap meet
  - b. "Pay it forward" bags – folks donate the cost of bags so people can get what they need
  - c. Bring your own bags!!!
  - d. Where can we find paper bags to donate for the swap meeting?