

## Family & Community Engagement Committee

**Date:** Tuesday, May 13th, 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, 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>• <del>Circle Question:</del> When you think back to your youth, which school year stands out as one of the most memorable?</li></ul>
EVENT RECAPS / DISCUSSION	1. WOW programming recap
	<p>Better communication of events. How to ask about when people would attend (time of day, day of week). People said they were interested in wellness work but not many folks showed up.</p> <p>Could programming be rooted in restorative practices? Circle orientation?</p> <p>If we use Tina's services again, do a bio of what she offers + send flyers home + tap into videos she has that we can use to send out to the BMS community. We need to bolster the approach to communicating programming.</p>
UPCOMING EVENTS	1. Volunteer Appreciation <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Bulletin board / thank you's</li></ul> 2. Swap Meet discussion

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Cindy/Megan</li> <li>3. Mural w/ Sarah J. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Sandy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. <a href="#">FCEC's role in this effort?</a></li> <li>ii. How to engage parents and families in the project?</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This year, done at levels</li> <li>• Talk with Sherry about next year about spreadsheet</li> </ul> <p><b>SWAP MEET:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Megan spoke with Andy – by August it should be fine</li> <li>• Correspondence to BMS community to hold onto your stuff! One at end of the school year and one in July to remind folks</li> <li>• Tables set up and folks can pay \$10 to fill a bag</li> <li>• Would need a day or two for dropping off goods to be swapped/sold</li> <li>• Event day for swap meet?</li> </ul> <p><b>MURAL PROJECT:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Garden themed mural - growth and interconnectedness</li> <li>• Ongoing project? Depends on interest and money</li> <li>• All-school assembly or back to school bbq to unveil the project</li> <li>• ACTION NEEDED: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ How to engage families at the start of the project? (SEPTEMBER)</li> <li>○ Planning for parents/families to engage with the project (JAN - MARCH) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Other events to tie into to show off the completed project</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<b>NEW / ONGOING IDEAS:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Wellness Policy Review</li> <li>2. Volunteer Appreciation next year <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Volunteer tracking part of FCEC?</li> </ul> </li> <li>3. Wellness programming for next year</li> <li>4. Parent education for next year <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. <a href="#">Can't Look Away</a> documentary viewing?</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>ACTION/IDEAS:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Student leadership in wellness / restorative programming</li> <li>• Regular opportunities for students to practice with parents/families present</li> </ul> <hr/> <p><a href="#">FCEC Event/Program Ideas</a> <b>Google Doc</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Please don't add items without prior committee discussion</i></li> </ul>	
<b>AGREEMENT OF ACTION ITEMS</b>	What are our next priorities?
<p><b>LIST ACTION ITEMS HERE:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Speak with Sherry about vol. Appreciation spreadsheet idea</li> <li>- Henry needs to approve the swap meet idea</li> <li>- Talk with Megan about swap meet then send out to community (after confirming with Henry)</li> <li>- Talk with Sandy about engaging parents/families at the unveiling of the project</li> <li>- Mariah and Drew meet to be ready for MnMTSS Leadership workday in June</li> </ul>	

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