

Family & Community Engagement Committee
Date: 12.12.23

Committee Co-chairs: Mariah White and Drew Althoff

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

SPECIAL GUEST: Tina Smith

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: Sandy Borkowski, Trisha Bozadjieva, Chris Dubis, Cindy Smith, Mariah White, Drew Althoff, Tina Smith

NOTES BY: Drew

Topic	Notes
WELCOME	Quick check-in circle 1. What is one of your biggest hopes for 2024?
The group offered their hopes for 2024 and much of the circle discussion aptly revolved around wellness in a variety of ways.	

UPCOMING EVENTS	<p>End of January + End of February (in connection with Montessori Week)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Solidify dates for both months 2. Jan = movie night? Parent education? 3. Feb = Montessori education / how to support students at home? 4. Other topic ideas? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. SCREENAGERS is a no-go (\$700 for one-time viewing)
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- **Group agreed to forego setting a date for a January event and focus on wellness offerings (next agenda item)**
- **February event was agreed upon:**
 - Friday 2/23 (week before Montessori Week)
 - Event will be directed towards Montessori education and how parents can better support Montessori students at home

WELLNESS @ BMS	<p>Please welcome Tina Smith to our committee meeting!</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Wellness survey / game planning for 2024 and beyond <p>Overall focus on Wellness:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Wellness policy review – Where do we begin? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Nutrition promotion and education b. Physical activity c. Communications with parents 2. Wellness Coordinator position 3. Reporting and Assessment on policy (3-year cycle)
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- Much of the conversation at this meeting was on wellness at BMS. Tina Smith, from Ark Wellness, LLC attended the meeting to guide our discussion and offer insight from previous wellness efforts here.**
1. **Tina offers a variety of wellness opportunities that can be tailored to fit specific audiences and environments**
 - a. Including staff, student and family engagement
 - b. Also including in-person education events and also both live and recorded virtual offerings
 - c. FOCUSED ON REMOVING BARRIERS TO WELLNESS
 2. **Tina created a survey designed to gather information from all stakeholders on what topics folks are interested in**
 - a. Survey will go out on Wed. 1/3 upon return to school after winter break
 - b. Data will guide FCEC in determining next steps and event planning
 3. **TABLED to next month's meeting:**
 - a. Wellness Coordinator position discussion

b. Reporting and Assessment discussion

OPEN DISCUSSION

Anything else to cover today?

1. SANDY: Mural @ BMS and community collaboration with Sarah J.

Sandy explained current discussions of creating murals and other community artwork at BMS with the help and guidance of Sarah Johnson from The Joy Labs

- Looking ahead to early spring 2024 to begin the project
- FCEC is welcome to share ideas and spaces that could be used!

NOTES & REMINDERS:

1. Stay awesome and please remember that your work on this committee is greatly appreciated!
2. Questions, clarifications, tweaks or edits? Reach out anytime!