

## Family & Community Engagement Committee

Date: Tuesday, Nov. 14th, 2023

**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)

### 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 Baker-Hunger, Jeff Van Fossen, Mariah White, Drew Althoff

**MINUTES BY:** Drew

Topic	Responsible	Notes
Welcome / Circle	All	<del>We're off to a nice start and are a quarter of the way through!</del> <u>GIRCLE Check-in</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><del>● What are your favorite cold weather/winter activities?</del></li><li><del>● How are you feeling being we're one quarter of the way through the school year?</del></li></ul>
<b>We decided to skip our circle check-in due to limited attendance.</b>		

<b>Follow-up on Events</b>		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Fall Festival</li> <li>2. Conferences</li> <li>3. BREADS &amp; SPREADS</li> </ol>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Fall Festival was a fun time and well attended. Admin will continue coordination of this event.</b></li> <li>2. <b>Conferences were once again very well attended with 94% participation.</b></li> <li>3. <b>Breads and Spreads was also a fun night and well attended. A FEW NOTES FOR NEXT YEAR:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Shift time frame back to 5:30-7:00pm</li> <li>b. Considerations on the supervision of students just popping into other classrooms (<u>too busy</u>)</li> <li>c. Teachers should have a chance to get some food, whether “first dibs” or someone brings food to them</li> <li>d. Add a column to the spreadsheet for “quantity”</li> <li>e. Specify job descriptions for volunteers helping with the event.</li> </ol> </li> <li>4. <b>Happy Harvest</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Keeping in mind bringing in more families next year to make it a school wide event</li> </ol> </li> </ol>		
<b>Rest-of-year events (for reference)</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Happy Harvest 11/21</li> <li>● Winter Bazaar 12/15</li> <li>● <del>Breads and Spreads 1/23 ???</del></li> <li>● Montessori Week 2/26-3/1</li> <li>● E2 Spaghetti Dinner 2/29</li> <li>● Cookie Recital 3/21</li> <li>● Spring Conferences 4/4 and 4/8</li> <li>● May Display 5/31</li> </ul>
<b>Keeping in mind the events already on the schedule for the rest of the year for our planning purposes</b>		
<b>Brainstorming for the rest of year</b>		<p>Some ideas thus far:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Parent education nights <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Range from light topics to heavier topics</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Movie nights <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Child care and movie night for holiday shopping</li> </ul> </li> <li>● OPEN DISCUSSION: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ What do we want to accomplish by year’s end?</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

The group agreed to focus on planning two events, one towards the end of January and one to coincide with Montessori Week at the end of February.

**ACTION STEPS:**

1. Survey families → What topics are they interested in? Best days of the week for events?
  - a. More to come at our December meeting

2. Connect with community resources → Helping with bringing in parent education nights
  - a. Jeff will speak with Marcy (topics related to adolescence)
3. Parent education night ideas → topics for events yet this school year:
  - a. “Screen-Agers” documentary with a Q&A after viewing
  - b. Montessori works and toys to help at home - how parents can engage with learning at home
4. Wellness chat → We’re hoping to welcome a special guest next month to discuss a survey created regarding potential wellness opportunities here for parents and families
  - a. Tina Smith
5. Next goal focuses → we’re on a good track and will start to look ahead to the bigger picture from here