

Family & Community Engagement Committee
Date: 09.19.2023

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)

Committee Vision Statement

To foster strong and sustained connections with families and community partners to best serve Bluffview Montessori School and 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, Sandy Borkowski, Trisha Bozadjieva, Chris Dubis, Cindy Smith, Jeff Van Fossen, Mariah White, Drew Althoff

MEETING MINUTES: Drew

Topic	Responsible	Notes
WELCOME!	M&D	<u>What brings us together and what makes the work important...</u> Review Vision and Goal Focuses: <ul style="list-style-type: none">● 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 Roles and Expectations of Committee Members

Circle Chat		<p><u>To empower all voices that are present and create shared ownership and accountability in our committee work.</u></p> <p>Guidelines + Process</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) What brings you to this work and what do you envision? 2) What do you foresee as being your strengths in this work?
-------------	--	---

BMS Event Calendar	M&D	<p><u>Review upcoming events and what's needed from FCEC</u></p> <p>Fall / Winter 2023 (Important Dates)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Thu. Sept. 28 – Back to School BBQ & Open House? 2) Oct. 18-19 – <i>No School (MEA break)</i> 3) Thu. Nov. 9 – <i>School Conferences</i> 4) Mon. Nov. 13 – <i>School Conferences</i> 5) Tue. Nov. 21 – Happy Harvest 6) Fri. Dec. 22 – Winter Bazaar & Community Breakfast
------------------------------------	-----	--

1. **Back-to-school BBQ** will remain an event that Erdkinder puts on.
 - a. Don't mix in an open house on this night - keep it separate
2. **Happy Harvest** will continue this coming Nov. 2023
 - a. Think about organizations we can partner with in our community
 - b. Enhancing community service connections for BMS students
3. **Attendance at conferences** was briefly discussed (Tabled)
 - a. REMINDER: Consider childcare for conferences (Erdkinder-led)

BRAINSTORMING	M&D	<p><u>How we can engage more parents/families and ideas for events might you have</u></p> <p>Fall Fest Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Briggs Farm (years past) <p>Open House in October?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What type of setup (Breads and Spreads example) <p>A few ideas in mind:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parent/Guardian education (e.g. on Montessori philosophy) • Family Fun Nights (e.g. Bingo) • Possibly tie in with school conference nights? • Friday night or early evening family movie nights in gym with favorite stuffie, blanket pillow. . popcorn
---------------	-----	---

1. **Fall Festival** will remain an admin-run event for this year and will continue to be held at Briggs Farm
 - a. Date and rain date: Sun. 10/15 and if inclement weather: Sat. 10/14

2. **Open House** events will resume starting with Breads & Spreads to bring folks in for mingling and seeing their childrens' classrooms
 - a. **Date set: Thu. 10/26 from 4:30-6:00 pm**
3. **Cindy's idea** to provide tie-ins to education on Montessori philosophy at Open House events
 - a. Ex: a video on Maria Montessori playing in the gym during an event
4. **Jeff mentioned** the documentary "Screenagers" as an idea for a parent education opportunity

MEETING RECAP and ACTION STEPS

Focus of our first meeting was welcoming members to the committee and reviewing our goal focus for 2023-24. We also discussed building up events for BMS families over the course of this year, both fun and educational.

SPECIAL NOTE: For all intents and purposes, our committee would like to acknowledge that the word "parents" is to include all guardians and caretakers of our students.

ACTION ITEMS:

- Looking for a few committee members to take on Breads & Spreads event
 - Will discuss and confirm at next meeting (10/10)
- Create a sign-up sheet for Breads & Spreads
 - Ex. A-M last names bring a bread / N-Z last names bring a spread
 - No requirement to sign up!
- Need to send out Save the Date for Breads & Spreads event and Fall Festival
 - Newsletter, website, letters home to families, etc.
 - DREW and MARIAH
- Brainstorm ideas for organizations to partner with on Happy Harvest

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 4:40 PM