

Family & Community Engagement Committee
Date: 04.09.24

Committee Co-chairs: Mariah White and Drew Althoff

Committee Members: Megan Baker-Hunger, Sandy Borkowski, Trisha Bozadjieva (Bluffview Parent), 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, Chris, Cindy, Tina, Jeff, Mariah and Drew

NOTES BY: Drew

Topic	Notes
WELCOME	Check-in circle <ul style="list-style-type: none">● How does the circle find you and what is a guilty pleasure of yours?
The circle check-in to start the meeting continues to go well. It feels important to do more of our committee work in circle format to allow more space for all voices to be heard.	
EVENTS	Recent / Upcoming in Spring <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Conferences (attendance #s)● Book Fair

- Run Club
- BMS 5K
- May Display
- End of year festivities

Fourth quarter brings a lot of action and energy to the school community.

- **Conferences:** Continue to focus energy on bringing more parents in to see Specialists
 - Difference between Specials Teachers and ADSIS/Title Teachers
- **ACTION:** Mariah will reach out to Sherry re: end-of-year picnic festivities and how the FCEC can help

PARENT EDUCATION EVENTS

Review recent event and discuss future programming

- Recap and attendance
- Viewing and conversation
- Child care update
- Food and beverage
- What did we learn?
- What's next?

The group recapped the parent education night and what we'd like to do with these events next year

- **Workshop Days:** These days work very well for parent education nights
- **Child Care:** Available at every event and use that time to talk about topics adults are covering
- **Movie Viewing:** Keep viewing time to right around an hour max
- **Food/Snacks:** Better setup for future events
- **Surveying:** Hearing from families about how to enhance the overall experience
- **Collaboration:** Continued conversations around priority topics (e.g. device use and screen time)
 - Bringing "experts" in to strengthen learning opportunities
- **Next Year:** Decide at the next committee meeting how many events we'd like to host
 - Begin planning and development

SPECIAL NOTE: Montessori Education for Parents and Families at the start of the 2024-25 school year

WELLNESS @ BMS

Review wellness survey results and discuss next steps

- Focus on 2024-25 school year

We discussed what directions to go for building consistent wellness opportunities within the BMS community

- **Partnership:** Tina Smith (Wellness Coach and Health Educator) and Ark Wellness, LLC
- **Wellness Focus:** Stress Management
- **Logistics:** To be determined starting next meeting
 - Weekday nights or Weekend days?
 - One-time events or Ongoing workshops?

<p>OPEN DISCUSSION</p>	<p>Anything else to cover today?</p> <p>FOCUSES moving forward:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mural @ BMS and community collaboration with Sarah J. 2. Engagement at BMS around Restorative Practices 3. Education on substance use – alcohol example 4. Rewriting the code of conduct 5. Consistent Wellness programming 6. Parent info library - resources and Montessori related materials 7. Parent Education events 8. School Beautification of common spaces
	<p>Our <u>primary focuses</u> in the present are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Parent Education events 2. Wellness programming 3. BMS Wellness Policy

NOTES FOR NEXT TIME:

- Wellness webinars from Cindy
- How to extend more information to parents/families
- Having parent/family resources and educational materials
 - Front entry bulletin board space
- BMS Wellness wear
- Start of year Swap Meet idea

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, May 14th