

## Family & Community Engagement Committee

**Date:** Tuesday, Dec. 10th, 2024

**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, Cindy, Jeff, Mariah, Drew

**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>• <b>Circle Question:</b> Think of a time (hopefully recently) that you “treated yourself.” What did you do to boost your energy? How did you care for you?</li></ul>
EVENT RECAPS / DISCUSSION	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Happy Harvest</li><li>2. Working On Wellness: Food and Stress</li></ol>
	<p><b>Happy Harvest:</b> Went well and the students were more engaged with the approach of having representatives come in from the service organizations. Keep it the same next year.</p> <p><b>WOW Session 3:</b> Some quotes from participants shared at the meeting →</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Thought it was “awesome” and “fantastic”</li><li>• “Could’ve been there all day long”</li><li>• “Tina is doing impactful work for us”</li></ul>
UPCOMING EVENTS	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. WOW January Session<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. <b>Confirm Date</b></li></ol></li><li>2. <b>28-day Micro-challenges</b></li></ol>

<p><b>WOW January Session:</b> Date change → Saturday Jan. 11th instead of Jan. 4th</p> <p><b>Micro-challenges:</b> The concept is set and work will begin to create the bulletin board and flyers to go home for students and families to participate in the monthly micro-challenges project. Action items are listed below.</p>	
<b>FUNDRAISING</b>	Continued exploration for options to raise money for sustained wellness programming
<p><b>GROUP AGREED TO:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Start our fundraising efforts with a school-wide swap meet in August of 2025: dates TBD</li> <li>More details to be discussed in January</li> <li>Jeff's insight on successful fundraising – “touch points” as a way to persuade folks to donate to our wellness programming (e.g. reaching out to raise funds through Winona Community Foundation)</li> </ul>	
<b>ONGOING IDEAS: Quick check-ins</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>School Mural with Sarah J.</li> <li>Family Engagement at BMS around Restorative Practices</li> <li>Wellness Policy Cohort</li> <li>Winona County ASAP Coalition</li> </ol>
<p><b>No time for new reports here</b></p> <p><a href="#">FCEC Event/Program/Fundraising Ideas Google Doc</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Please don't add items without prior committee discussion</li> </ul>	
<b>AGREEMENT OF ACTION ITEMS</b>	What are the priorities for us in the next month?
<p><b>LIST ACTION ITEMS HERE:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Connect with Erdkinder – do they still plan to do fundraisers with Culver's / Pizza Ranch / Gilmore Ave?</li> <li><del>Sandy share ideas for the bulletin board document (DONE)</del></li> <li>Chris/Sandy/Drew - connect as soon as possible to get bulletin board project started</li> <li>Megan/Drew - connect as soon as possible to get flyers started and to be sent home with students <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Send micro-challenge language from Tina to Megan</li> <li>Initial flyer to go home with kids 12/18</li> <li>Reminder flyer to go home with kids 1/08</li> </ul> </li> <li>Spread the word to others about attending WOW events!</li> <li>Student micro-habits will be done in counseling time: E1, E2, Erd</li> <li>Keep tech education nights for parents on the list for next year</li> </ul>	