

Family & Community Engagement Committee
Date: 02.13.24

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, Sandy, Trisha, Chris, Cindy, Jeff, Drew

NOTES BY: Drew

Topic	Notes
WELCOME	Quick check-in circle <ul style="list-style-type: none">● How are you today and what's on your mind as Spring comes around?
The group continues to enjoy a brief check-in circle to start our meetings.	

**PARENT
EDUCATION NIGHT**

Thursday, Feb. 22nd from 5:30 - 8:00pm in BMS Band room

- Refreshments: _____ in the rotunda by the Band room
- Special event invite:
- Child care in the gym:
- Volunteers to help with the event
- Discussion after viewing – prepared prompts
- “Parking Lots” for questions / concerns / ideas
- Tech setup for viewing
- “Resource” kits for folks to take

1. **DATE:** changed to Monday, April 1st (PD day) starting at 5:30pm
 - a. [Social Dilemma](#) documentary on social media and its impacts
2. **REFRESHMENTS:** TBD but easy for Cindy and kitchen crew
 - a. To be set up in the rotunda
3. **CHILD CARE:** in gym – jammies and a movie with treats
4. **DISCUSSION:** after movie there will be a guided discussion with prepared prompts
5. **WHAT NEXT:** gather information from attendees on biggest concerns and questions
 - a. Then plan and develop how to address those concerns
6. **RESOURCE KITS:** information to go home with attendees
 - a. Look to organizations that could help (e.g. Winona Health, Gundersen)
7. **PARKING LOTS:** post-it notes for people to write down thoughts / questions / ideas / concerns

IDEAS:

- Cindy’s idea → planting seeds with kids at child care (tomatoes and basil)

WELLNESS @ BMS

Review wellness survey results and discuss next steps

- Focus on 2024-25 school year
- Sandy’s idea on saving time and eating healthier

1. **SURVEY:** We saw good participation from staff and families
 - a. Date/time of programming = different preferences for staff and family
 - b. Barriers = time, healthy eating, budget/costs
2. **PROGRAMMING:** Focus is on developing robust wellness programming for 2024-25 SY
 - a. More group discussion next month
3. **IDEAS:** Sandy and Cindy spoke to offering make and freeze meals (like HyVee does)
 - a. Community partnership w/ HyVee or Co-op?
 - b. Great engagement opportunities with families and students - simple and meaningful
 - c. More info on BMS website (e.g. a “Kitchen” tab for folks to find more resources)

OPEN DISCUSSION	Anything else to cover today? <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. SANDY: Mural @ BMS and community collaboration with Sarah J.2. DREW: Engagement at BMS around Restorative Practices3. DREW: Education on substance use – alcohol example
	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. SUBSTANCE USE PROGRAMMING: partnering with Winona Health (Jen, our nurse) on building in more lessons on drug and alcohol use2. RESTORATIVE PRACTICES: looking at the 2024-25 SY, how can we bring restorative practices and circle experience to our families?

ACTION STEPS: For next meeting

- TBD