

Family & Community Engagement Committee

Date: Tuesday, Nov. 12th, 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: Tina, Jeff, Megan, Sandy, Chris, Mariah, Drew, Sherry

MINUTES BY: Drew

**** Action Items are HIGHLIGHTED for quick reference**

Topic	Notes
WELCOME BACK and Circle Check-in	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Circle Question: What's one thing you wish you knew more about when it comes to being a kid these days?
EVENT RECAPS / DISCUSSION	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Breads and Spreads2. WOW November Session (Sat. 11/2)
	<p>BREADS AND SPREADS: The event went well and had good attendance - keep the same for next year</p> <p>WOW NOV. SESSION: Attendance was lower than the first month yet it went well and there was good discussion.</p>
UPCOMING EVENTS	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Happy Harvest – anything needed to support?2. Parent Education Nights (Tech related)3. WOW December Session (Sat. 12/7)4. 28-day Micro-challenges
	<p>HAPPY HARVEST: Sherry agreed to continue taking care of the materials spreadsheet for teachers</p>

PARENT EDUCATION NIGHTS: Group agreed to push this to December. We talked briefly about the [Common Sense Education](#) organization and their abundance of quality resources related to tech use and young people.

WOW December Session (FOOD): Group agreed on a communication plan:

- First promo: 11/14 – Second promo 11/21 – Final Reminder: 12/2

28-Day Micro-challenge

- Group agreed to call this the Monthly Micro-challenge
- Bulletin board created where people can post their individual commitments
 - Change Sings theme with music notes
- Program launch in January 2025
- Group agreed to have feedback opportunities for folks participating
- Visual reminders (aka copies of goals) provided to folks participating

FUNDRAISING

Continued exploration for options to raise money for sustained wellness programming

Group discussed setting a \$2,000 fundraising goal to sustain the wellness programming initiative beyond this year.

- More discussion in December

ONGOING IDEAS: Quick check-ins

1. School Mural with Sarah J.
2. Family Engagement at BMS around Restorative Practices
3. Wellness Policy Cohort
4. Winona County ASAP Coalition
5. Rewriting the code of conduct

FCEC Event/Program/Fundraising Ideas Google Doc

- Please don't add items without prior committee discussion

MDE Local Wellness Policy Cohort

- Drew will talk with Cindy about this work and how it impacts our school

AGREEMENT OF ACTION ITEMS

What are the priorities for us in the next month?

LIST ACTION ITEMS HERE:

- **Monthly Micro-challenge:**
 - Drew, Sandy and Chris connect on the bulletin board creation to confirm approach and timeline
 - Drew and Megan connect on the correspondence home to families
- **Monthly Micro-challenge with Students at BMS:**
 - CH does monthly classroom goals - more discussion needed
 - E1, E2 and ERD do monthly goals during counseling specials
- **MDE Wellness Cohort:**
 - Talk with Cindy about her thoughts on this work moving forward