

Family & Community Engagement Committee

Date: Tuesday, Sept. 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: Sandy, Chris, Tina, Jeff, Mariah and Drew

MINUTES BY: Drew

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

Topic	Notes
WELCOME BACK and Circle Check-in	As we resume our work together, how does the circle find you today? What's something you did for you this summer?
The circle check-in continues from last year and the committee sits in a circle for our meeting time. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• ACTION: Consider talking piece and proper circle format for future meetings	
WELLNESS PROGRAM RECAP	Small group met on 8/22 and plan is in place <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Review plan and discuss team commitments
Tina reviewed and the committee discussed the proposal for 2024-25 Wellness Programming (<i>Please see 08.22 meeting minutes for summary of proposal</i>). Group agreed that there will be a <u>cost per event</u> of \$5 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Folks pay for "what they get" and are welcome to attend one or all of the anticipated 8 monthly events ACTION ITEMS: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Follow up with Kinstone and confirm space usage on Saturday 10/5 (DREW)2. Develop and submit a short blurb to go out to "all school" this Friday 9/13 (TINA)3. Create and transmit invite for participation to go out next Friday 9/20 (TINA & TEAM)	

4. Provide workbook and materials in school for folks who are interested (TINA)
5. Determine waiver needs (DREW / MARIAH / HENRY)
6. Track participation (ONGOING / TEAM)
7. Provide water for first event at Kinstone (DREW)

FUNDRAISING FOR WELLNESS PROGRAM

Options for the group to raise money for wellness and cover the cost of programming. Also, promoting program sustainability.

IDEAS

- Gilmore Ave. Car Wash
- Bluff Country Co-op bean jar
- In-house ideas (e.g. BMS Swap Meet)

ACTION: Keep thinking of ideas out in the community to raise funds!

UPCOMING EVENTS DISCUSSION

1. Parent Education Nights
 - a. Technology focused
2. Happy Harvest
3. Breads and Spreads

PARENT EDUCATION NIGHTS

Connect with Sherry on community partnership for the next event which will be later in the school year.

HAPPY HARVEST

Discussion and tentative plan proposed:

1. Classrooms and levels decide the approach they want to take
2. Focus on community connections to organizations we can partner with
3. Work to bring those organizations into the school to help participate

BREADS AND SPREADS

Proposed Tuesday 10/22 to host the event this year - more details to come

ONGOING

- 1. FUNDRAISING**
2. Mural and community collaboration with Sarah J.
3. Swap meet idea
4. Take home meals idea
5. Engagement at BMS around Restorative Practices
6. Parent education on substance use – alcohol/vaping/tobacco/prescription pills
7. Rewriting the code of conduct
8. Parent info library - resources and Montessori related materials
9. Front entry bulletin board
10. School Beautification of common spaces
11. Health and Wellness Spa idea (Sandy)

Keeping these ideas in mind for future committee meetings