

Family & Community Engagement Committee

Date: Tuesday, Jan. 14th, 2025

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, Megan, Chris, Cindy, 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: Who is someone who made a big impact on your life as a teacher or mentor?
EVENT RECAPS / DISCUSSION	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Bazaar2. WOW Fitness and Play
	<p>The Bazaar went well and there was a great turnout from families per usual. Struggles in getting accurate attendance for classroom teachers is a challenge yet it's to be expected during events like this</p> <p>WOW Part 4: Fitness and Play went well as well. It was a small group this month. Tina continues to provide excellent learning opportunities for participants. The work we're doing to start this effort in its inaugural year is very encouraging!</p>
UPCOMING EVENTS	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. WOW February Session<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. Confirm Date: 2/12. 28-day Micro-challenges

We will move forward with holding WOW Part 5: Time Management on Saturday 2/1. The first promo email will go out this week Thursday (1/16).

Micro-habit Challenge: We spent most of our time talking through this effort. We're behind on getting it launched and the group agreed we will have it underway to start the month of February. ACTION ITEMS listed below.

NEW / ONGOING IDEAS:
Quick check-ins

NEW

1. BMS 5K
2. District Advisory
3. Bluffview PTA

ONGOING

4. School Mural with Sarah J.
5. Family Engagement at BMS around Restorative Practices
6. Wellness Policy Cohort
7. Winona County ASAP Coalition

NEW ITEMS DISCUSSION:

1. **We discussed what the committee's role would be in assisting with the 5K**
 - a. Amy O'Connell and Ann-marie Dunbar were big supporters of this effort and are no longer here at BMS.
 - b. Ask Henry: what specifically would we take on as a committee?
2. **District Advisory and PTA ideas:**
 - a. See below in action items

[FCEC Event/Program Ideas](#) Google Doc

- *Please don't add items without prior committee discussion*

**AGREEMENT OF
ACTION ITEMS**

What are the priorities for us in the next month?

LIST ACTION ITEMS HERE:

Micro-habit Challenge: Change Sings

- Creation of the bulletin board will begin this week on the brick wall outside the gym entry
 - Megan will figure out what materials we need either today or tomorrow (1/15 or 1/16)
- Outreach to staff to post their micro-habit challenge on 1/24 (teacher workshop)
- Information goes home to in green folders to families Wed. 1/29 for the official launch the first full week of February

BMS 5K:

- After speaking with Henry, the FCEC will join forces with the 5K Committee to assist with the event
 - The 5K Committee will be convening for their first meeting soon. STAY TUNED!

District Advisory and BMS PTA:

- These are both for future consideration. Keep these on the back burner for now.