

Family & Community Engagement Committee

Date: 10.14.2025

Committee Co-chairs: Mariah White and Drew Althoff

Committee Members: Megan Baker-Hunger, Chris Dubis, Savana Johnson, Heidi Meyer, Marlie Voigt

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: Marlie, Savana, Mariah, Drew and Sherry

Topic
CIRCLE CHECK-IN
• What's one thing on your mind or on your heart as you arrive here today?
AGENDA
1. Breads and Spreads a. Discuss event flow and what to expect 2. Approach to Welcoming New Families a. Review letter draft b. Other ideas for how we can welcome new students/parents/caretakers 3. Regular FCEC Newsletter a. Resources / Tips / Information for BMS families 4. Restorative Practices Family Events a. Three themes: Montessori Education, Technology, Wellness b. Erdkinder student volunteers to help facilitate c. Saturday Nov. 22nd – breakfast donations needed d. Creative flyer for first event 5. Open Discussion

QUESTIONS FOR TODAY

1. What role are you able to have at Breads and Spreads?
2. What should our role be as the FCEC in welcoming new families?
2. What needs to be included in the welcome letter?
3. What do we want this to look like and when do we launch it?
4. Any initial questions about the information shared regarding the RP Family Events?
5. Are you able to help or fully take on creating a flyer for the first RP Family Event? (Due date: _____)

ANSWERS / ACTION ITEMS

**** Person(s) responsible for the action are listed next to the item. If no name is listed, it's an idea for further discussion. A strikethrough means it's been completed.**

BREADS AND SPREADS OPEN HOUSE

- Talk with after school care about being out of gym by 4:45 (Drew)
- Talk with Heidi: check on paper plates, cutlery, tongs, bowls, and beverages (Drew)
- Talk with Diane about helping that night (Mariah)
- White board welcome sign (Marlie)
- Setup in gym begins at 4:45 (All available committee members)

WELCOMING NEW FAMILIES TO BLUFFVIEW

- Personalize the form letter to include small photos of all committee members in the footer
- Add in language that encourages new parents/guardians to actively participate in their students' learning by volunteering at school and in the classroom
- Incorporate a family dinner event for new families with a mentorship component – families who know BMS and have been around for a while could support new families
- Send the form letter and a personalized card
- Do we also offer a welcome "gift"?

NEWSLETTER

- Tabled to next meeting

RESTORATIVE PRACTICES FAMILY EVENTS

- ~~Talk with Henry about bringing in Jonathan Wolff without new NED grant (Sherry)~~
 - *We are no longer going to be hosting an event in November*
- Consider how to incorporate family participation into Happy Harvest (Mariah and Drew)
- Further discussion at November meeting
 - speakers, child care, breakfast ideas, creative flyers

END-OF-YEAR VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION EVENT

- Send volunteer tracking sheet to teachers ASAP (Drew)