

Family & Community Engagement Committee

Date: 09.09.2025

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: Megan, Chris, Savana, Marlie, Tina, Mariah, Drew and Sherry

Topic
Circle Check-in
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• What is the number one reason you work at a school?• What is one of your pet peeves?
Committee History / Future
Explained past work the committee has done over the first two years. Then we discussed what our current and future goals are which led us into action items / committee vision
Action Items / Committee Vision
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Back-to-school BBQ Flyer2. Community membership in FCEC3. Need to get parent survey data4. RP listening sessions programming

5. Welcome letter idea for new families/students
6. Regular FCEC newsletter
 - a. Montessori education resources
 - b. Wellness resources
 - c. Tech literacy and well-being
 - d. FCEC contact info
7. UPCOMING EVENT: Breads and Spreads
8. OPEN DISCUSSION

MEETING MINUTES

1. FLYER: Group agreed we don't need to have a flyer for folks to take with them
 - a. Have a poster explaining what we're aiming to do this year with three family events
2. STUDENT LETTERS: instead of writing to specific students at the BBQ, parents/guardians can write words of encouragement to all Bluffview students
 - a. Letters to be posted on the front entry display board
3. COMMUNITY MEMBERSHIP: We will make specific asks to find another committee member
4. RP FAMILY ENGAGEMENT EVENTS: Three events this school year on Saturdays
 - a. November, January and April
5. WELCOME LETTER IDEA: Small package to help integrate new families to the BMS Community
 - a. Possibly have a small gift included (e.g. stickers, bumper stickers)
6. NEWSLETTER: More conversation and work time needed for this to be ready to launch
7. BREADS AND SPREADS OPENHOUSE: Switch date from 10/28 to 10/21
 - a. Update flyer to be ready for sending to families
8. OPEN DISCUSSION: Group talked about having some sort of app for families to connect and arrange meet-ups (e.g. play dates, community events)
 - a. Teams App?

ACTION ITEMS

- ★ Create poster for BBQ
- ★ Determine table setup for letters of encouragement to students
- ★ Send welcome letter draft to committee
- ★ Create new BMS pamphlet for welcome package
- ★ Consider what might be the best way to go about our FCEC newsletter