I. PURPOSE

The Board of Directors recognizes the value of parent and family involvement to enhance and support school effectiveness and student achievement. Parent and family involvement is an integral part of our program. The major components of parent and family involvement are participating in the Montessori education program, and contributing to the school community through active engagement.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

In order to facilitate a collaborative partnership, the Board of Directors supports and encourages active parent and family involvement.

A. Families as Participants

Parents and families are welcome in the school. Coordination is provided to school staff and parents to implement and sustain multiple opportunities in which parents and family volunteers can support the school and contribute to the students’ education and well-being. Development of strategies and learning experiences will enable parents and families to participate actively in their children’s education.

B. Communication

Family and school communication is two-way, regular, meaningful and respectful of family diversity.

C. School Decision Making

The Board of Directors solicits parent input regarding matters of Board concern. The school involves families as partners in shared decision-making, committee, and advisory functions.

D. Parents as Teachers and Learners

Parent education and strategies are employed to enable families to participate actively. It involves parents understanding and applying the same pedagogical approach that the school uses in interactions with their child.
E. Collaborating with Community

The school will utilize the community to connect students and families with resources that provide educational enrichment and support.

III. DEFINITIONS

Bluffview recognizes the diversity of family structure, circumstances, and cultural backgrounds.

A. The term "parent" includes participation by all individuals who have parental responsibility for the child.

B. The term "family" includes all those who play an important role in the child’s upbringing and well-being.

IV. ACTIVITIES

A. Participation in Educational Program

1. Welcome to visit classrooms.
2. Partner with teacher to develop the best possible education plan for each child i.e. Title I services.
3. Participate by sharing skills or talents.
4. Accompany classes on field trips as needed.
5. Encourage communication.
   a. BMS website
   b. e-mails
   c. regular notices
   d. newsletters
   e. parent-teacher conferences
6. Encourage borrowing materials from the parent bookshelf located in the library, providing books on Montessori education, child development, and parenting skills. Utilize reading materials in the parent section of the library.
7. Participate in assessment reviews.
8. Fill out parent-school compact if involved in Title I.
9. Attend parent education series and open houses.

B. Contributing to the School Community

1. Serve on the Board of Directors.
2. District advisory committee meets in the late fall to:
   a. Review MCA previous years scores/Northstar reporting
   b. Learn about academic screening program (Fastbridge)
   c. Discuss State Standards
   d. Discuss local academic assessments
3. Work as a volunteer coordinator.
4. Serve on committees like Pedagogy, Technology, etc.
5. Attend the social, cultural and education activities offered throughout the year.
6. Participate in fundraising activities.
7. Fill out annual parent survey; evaluate content and effectiveness of parent involvement policy.

*Legal References:*
Public Law 107-110, Section 1118