



# Bluffview Montessori

## Bluffview Montessori Board of Directors Meeting February 20, 2025 6:30 PM

### **Vision:**

Empowered learners unfolding their full potential as whole and unique persons in a global community.

### **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.

### **School Board Procedures; Rules of Order Policy 203.1**

**Call to order:** Director Aare called the meeting to order at 6:32 PM on 2/20/25 .

### **I. Roll Call Attendance (Secretary)**

Board Members Present or Absent:

Name	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June
Meghan Booth	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Arrived 6:35pm joined at open forum				
Anna Aarre	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y				
Shelly Merchlewitz	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y				
Jessica McIlrath	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y				
Marcy Faircloth	Y	Y	Arrived 6:36, joined at item VI	N, planned	Y	N, planned	Y	N, planned				
Kim Bell	Y	-	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y				

Stephanie S. Dunn	-	Y	Y	Y	Y	N, planned	Y	Y				
Henry Schantzen	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y				

**Guests and Community Members Present: N/A**

Name	Relationship to Bluffview
Crystal Hegge	Parent

**II. Declaration of Conflicts of Interest**

None indicated

**III. Approval of Agenda as per Policy 203.5**

**Action Item:** Approval of this Board Meeting Agenda:

**Motion:** made to approve February board meeting agenda

Made by: Shelly Merchlewitz      Seconded by: Kim Bell

Discussion notes:

Vote: passed    Yea: unanimous    Nay: 0      Abstain: 0

Decision notes: none

**IV. Approval of previous months Minutes as per Policy 204**

**Action Item:** Approval of Board Minutes from previous meeting:

**Motion:** made to approve minutes from January 2025 meeting

Made by: Jessica McIlrath      Seconded by: Stephanie Dunn

Discussion notes:

Vote: passed    Yea: unanimous    Nay: 0    Abstain: 0

Decision notes: none

**Old Business-** none

**New Business**

**V. Open Forum/Public Comment as per Policy 206**

A. Speaker name and comment summary:

1. Crystal Hegge came to express gratitude for board work

## **VI. Consent Agenda as per Policy 203.6**

- A. Administration Report(s)
- B. Committee Reports
- C. Other/General information docs

**Action Item:** Review and approve the consent agenda.

**Motion:** made to review and approve consent agenda

Made by: Kim Bell

Seconded by: Shelly Merchlewitz

Discussion notes: Minor errors noted in finance committee minute dates; discussed enrollment projections for next year;

Vote: passed Yea: unanimous Nay: 0 Abstain: 0

Decision notes: none

## **VII. Financial Reports**

- A. Financial Report and Supplemental Report Review: January 2025

**Action Item:** Review and approve the monthly financial and supplemental reports.

**Motion:** made to approve January 2025 financial and supplemental reports

Made by: Shelly Merchlewitz

Seconded by: Stephanie Dunn

Discussion notes: ADM 208, Check register 6937-6937, no gaps; Cash flow \$1,113,347; wages expenditures above budget due to sub budget being surpassed for year at this time, among other factors, but finances can be reallocated to cover this; \$96,000 from building corporation fund will be used to replace roof.

Vote: passed Yea: unanimous Nay: 0 Abstain: 0

Decision notes: None.

*\*on financial matters, if vote is not unanimous it must be recorded as a roll call vote.*

## **VIII. Board Training (annual cycle of review)- information only**

- A. Legal Topic Review: School Board MN Statute 124E.07
- B. Montessori Philosophy: Valorization of the Personality
- C. Academic Data: Winter Fastbridge data: Screening and Growth

## **IX. Policy Updates: Title IX Non Discrimination Policy, Grievance Procedure, and Process**

**Action Item:** Approve 522 given the Discussion Notes below.

**Motion:** made to approve Policy 522 updated to reflect current law.

Made by: Shelly Merchlewitz

Seconded by: Stephanie Dunn

Discussion notes: From MSBA: *On January 8, 2025, a federal court issued a decision vacating the federal 2024 Final Rule on Title IX. Consistent with the court's order, the 2024 Title IX regulations are not effective in any jurisdiction, including Minnesota. This court decision affects MSBA Model Policy 522 (Title IX Sex Nondiscrimination Policy).*

*In light of this court decision, MSBA has replaced the 2024 version of Model Policy 522 with the former version that was based upon the 2020 Final Rule on Title IX regulations. MSBA recommends that school boards rescind the 2024 version of Model Policy 522 (if they adopted the 2024 version, which MSBA issued in July 2024). School boards should then adopt the 2020 version, which MSBA issued in August 2020.*

Vote: passed Yea: unanimous Nay: 0 Abstain: 0

Decision notes: None.

**X. Announcements/Additional Business**

**A. Expense Reimbursements, Policy 412, Handbook Language**

1. Proposal to add language giving a timeline for reimbursements-suggestion by HOS is 30 days post event.

**Action Item:** Direct HOS to draft language reflecting the discussion for the March Board meeting.

**Motion:** made by Meghan Booth to amend proposal to be 60 days post expense

Motion made by Meghan Booth Second: Stephanie Dunn

Vote: passed Yea: unanimous Nay: 0 Abstain: 0

**Motion:** Made to direct HOS to amend language in Policy 412 regarding expense reimbursements

Made by: Meghan Booth

Seconded by: Anna Aarre

Discussion notes:

Vote: passed Yea: unanimous Nay: 0 Abstain: 0

Decision notes: None.

**Further discussion regarding reimbursement for Montessori Training tuition:** Cost and reimbursement rate differences between Montessori teaching credential pathway vs master's degree in Montessori teaching pathway were highlighted and potential changes were discussed, removing the \$12,000 cap currently in place for some situations was suggested.

**Motion made to remove cap of \$12,000 for training of non-Montessori teachers**

Motion: Shelly Merchlewitz Second: Stephanie Dunn

Vote: passed Yea: unanimous Nay: 0 Abstain: 0

**B. Montessori Training/Staff Development (Admin)**

1. No language/guidance in the staff handbook.

**Action Item:** Direct HOS to draft handbook language reflecting administrative montessori training and or staff development approval/ reimbursement

**Motion:** HOS is directed to draft handbook language reflecting administrative montessori training and or staff development approval/ reimbursement

Made by: Stephanie Dunn Seconded by: Anna Aarre

Discussion notes: HOS Schantzen is considering obtaining a Montessori Master's degree

Vote: passed Yea: unanimous Nay: 0 Abstain: 0

Decision notes:

**C. Read Act. CORE training stipends**

1. Increase the amount for the work being done. [CORE Stipend information](#)

**Action Item:** Approve the stipend amount increase from \$1500 per teacher to \$1750 for full completion of the course.

**Motion:** to increase the CORE Phase I participate stipend from \$1500 per teacher to \$1750 upon successful completion

Made by: Kim Bell Seconded by: Stephanie Dunn

Discussion notes: FIN dollars will not be available next year, but endowment funds performed

better than expected, so this increased amount is possible financially.

Vote: passed Yea: 4 Nay: 0 Abstain: Anna Aarre, Shelly Merchlewitz

Decision notes: This would normally have been done in the Finance Committee, but two of the three members have a conflict of interest as they are completing the training (hence the board will decide on this with Anna and Shelly abstaining). It has been a challenge to get it done, and this increase could even be more given the work.

## **XI. Adjournment**

**Motion:** Move to adjourn the meeting at 8: \_20\_ PM.

Made by: Stephanie Dunn

Seconded by: Kim Bell

Discussion notes: none

Vote: passed Yea: unanimous Nay: 0

Abstain: 0

Decision notes: none