



Bluffview Montessori

Bluffview Montessori Board of Directors Meeting
July 17, 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 Booth called the meeting to order at 6: PM on 7/17/25

I. Roll Call Attendance (Secretary)

Board Members Present or Absent:

Name	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	Feb	March	April	May	June
Meghan Booth	Y											
Anna Aarre	Y											
Shelly Merchlewitz	Y											
Jessica McIlrath	Y											
Stephanie Dunn	Y											
Kim Bell	Y											
Community member vacancy												

Henry Schantzen (Ex-officio)	Y											
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Guests and Community Members Present: N/A

Name	Relationship to Bluffview

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: to approve agenda

Made by: Shelly Merchlewitz

Seconded by: Kim Bell

Discussion notes: none

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: to approve minutes from previous meeting

Made by: Anna Aarre

Seconded by: Stephanie Dunn

Discussion notes: none

Vote: passed Yea: unanimous Nay: 0

Abstain: 0

Decision notes: none

Old Business

V. Policy Updates: Approve policy 721 (tabled for further review last month for alignment with 797)

Action Item: Approve Policy update

Motion: move to table policy 721 again

Made by: Meghan Booth

Seconded by Anna Aarre

Discussion notes: none

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

New Business

VI. Open Forum/Public Comment as per Policy 206

- A. Speaker name and comment summary: n/a

VII. Elect Board Officers for SY25-26

Action Item: Nominate and elect president, vice president, treasurer and secretary of board for 2025-2026 year.

Motion Meghan Booth for Chair, Anna Aarre for vice-chair, Shelly Merchlewitz for treasurer, Jessica McIlrath for secretary for school year 2025-2026/ fiscal year 2026

Made by: Meghan Booth Seconded by: Anna Aarre

Discussion notes: none

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

Decision notes: same officers in positions as 2024-2025

VIII. 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: to approve consent agenda

Made by: Stephanie Dunn Seconded by: Shelly Merchlewitz

Discussion notes: none

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

Decision notes: none

IX. Board Training (annual cycle of review)- information only

- A. Legal Topic Review: Bylaws review and approval of updates- At request of Jessica McIlrath, By-Laws article IV section 1 was changed to be consistent with Article II section 2 provision that a board member could serve 6 total 3 year terms; to indicate an officer could serve for a total of 18 one-year terms.
B. Montessori Philosophy: 12 Select Principals of Montessori Education
C. Academic Data Review: Local Literacy Plan Data

X. Annual Approvals:

Action Item: Required approval of Homeless Liaison, 504 Coordinator, Literacy Lead, and Human Rights Officer

Motion: “Approve Henry Schantzen, Head of School, as the Homeless Liaison, 504 coordinator, and Literacy Lead on behalf of Bluffview Montessori School (LEA), District 4001-07”

Made by: Meghan Booth Seconded by: Shelly Merchlewitz

Discussion notes: none

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

Decision notes: none

Motion: “Approve Sherry Lohmeyer, Assistant Head of School, as the Human Rights Officer on behalf of Bluffview Montessori School (LEA), District 4001-07”.

Made by: Stephanie Dunn Seconded by: Anna Aarre

Discussion notes: none

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

Decision notes: none

XI. Policies: Annual Reviews

Action Item: Review and approve policies 506, 531, 722

Motion: to approve above policies

Made by: Meghan Booth Seconded by: Stephanie Dunn

Discussion notes: minor grammatical errors corrected

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

Decision notes: none

XII. Policies: Single Read Updates

Action Item: Review and approve policies 414, 418, 501, 515, 516, 534

Motion: to approve above policies

Made by: Meghan Booth Seconded by: Kim Bell

Discussion notes: various grammatical errors corrected, clarification made on provisions of 501 regarding use of weapons for sports, historical or educational demonstrations at HOS discretion

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

Decision notes: none

XIII. Art FTE Conversation

Action Item: Review, discuss, and potentially change the art position FTE.

Motion: decision made that no changes will be made to current art position, therefore no motion made

Made by: n/a Seconded by: n/a

Discussion notes: discussion regarding keeping Kindergarten art within CH environment/program rather than starting separate art class, AA will report how standard would be integrated and how it would be monitored that standards are being met, CH teacher Anna Aarre states this would not be hard to implement within current curriculum and current teachers would be qualified to complete this, noted that one CH teacher is a licensed art teacher.

Vote: n/a Yea: - Nay: - Abstain: -

Decision notes: n/a

XIV. Announcements/Additional Business

A. Discuss appointment of Kevin Mahoney as the Community Member of the Board.

Motion: to appoint Kevin Mahoney as community member of Bluffview Board of Directors, pending completion of board training as required in the by-laws

Motion: Meghan Booth Second: Shelly Merchlewitz

Discussion notes: none

Vote: passed Yea: unanimous Nay: 0 abstain: 0

Decision notes: none

B. VOA version of oath of office chosen, this will be presented at later meeting for all board members to sign

XV. Adjournment

Action Item: Adjourn

Motion: Move to adjourn the meeting at 8:22pm

Made by: Shelly Merchlewitz Seconded by: Kim Bell

Discussion notes: none

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

Decision notes: none