

## **Bluffview Montessori Board of Directors Meeting Minutes- January 20, 2021**

BMS Board Members Present- Erich Lippman, Shelly Merchlewitz, Ann-Marie Dunbar, Katie Kinneberg, Meghan Booth, Henry Schantzen, Molly Leifeld, Dan Kirk

Non-board Members Present- Sherry Lohmeyer

Members Absent-

1- Meeting was called to order at 6:05 PM.

2- Katie motioned and Shelly seconded to approve the agenda for January 20, 2021.

3- Katie motioned and Shelly seconded to approve the minutes for December 12, 2020.

-Katie motioned and Dan seconded to approve the minutes for December 21, 2020.

-Katie motioned and Meghan seconded to approve the minutes as amended for January 7, 2021.

### **New Business**

4- Open Forum: Nothing.

5- December Financials: \$88,000 lost from enrollment; Some savings from salaries and benefits; More Federal money coming: around \$80,000; Discussion of CARES funding.

-Erich arrived at 6:16 PM

6- Consent Agenda:

AHOS: Enrollment hasn't changed. We need to replace an assistant and perhaps add another paraprofessional. Intent to return forms are flowing in consistently as well as some additional applications. No word that MCAs will be canceled. Considering a different approach to math for E2 than Study Island. The lottery date is moving back a week.

HOS: End of year campaign brought in over \$8,000. COVID testing here starts tomorrow. We have a priority list of people ready for vaccinations. Henry has a 5-tier system based on individual data. He is not making it available to the public because of privacy concerns. We will have to establish a finance committee to please VOA. Still waiting on word about PPP forgiveness. Despite high unemployment rates, staffing remains a significant challenge. Substitute teachers will be in high demand, especially anyone who can be a short-call sub. There was a brief discussion regarding what to do with federal money.

7- Letters of Termination: Amber Shanrock--Katie motioned and Molly seconded approval of the letter of termination for Amber Shanrock. Unanimous approval.

8- Annual Cycle of Review--Henry walked us through the independent contractor v. employee piece. Katie walked us through the Montessori piece on normalizations and deviations. When deviations are noticed, Montessori instructors first look at the prepared environment, then look at the adults in the room, and finally look at the child. Normalization to the system is the goal.

9- COVID/Learning Model Discussion--The country and region are fine with us bringing CH and E1 into full and E2 and maybe Erdkinder into hybrid. Because of local competition (WAPS bringing their students back), we will probably lose students if we are too conservative. Barriers are only between adults and children. Students only have to be 3 feet apart. Quarantine shelves will go away, but washing hands before and after all material use. There is concern about the new COVID variants coming through. Projections suggest that we may be locked down again when March comes around, as is currently the case in the United Kingdom despite their effective rollout of vaccines. There is more hesitation in the Erdkinder teaching group about bringing the students back. Erdkinder students also seem conservative about reentry. Meghan suggested that having a little bit extra time before Erdkinder returns might help alleviate concerns both on the student and teacher side. Katie motioned and Molly seconded that we change our learning plan to put CH and E1 full onsite January 27 and Erdkinder in hybrid on February 1. Planning days for CH and E1 would be on January 25 and 26. Planning days for Erdkinder would be on January 28 and 29. E2 will remain in hybrid. Unanimous approval.

10- Additional New Business--

Henry mentioned some difficulties regarding a former staff member and some problematic communication with current staff. Legal avenues are being explored.

Meghan was asked by her team to raise the question of what to do about students who are currently out of state and will be traveling back to Winona via airplane. It sounds like we have little option but to suggest to the parents that they follow CDC guidelines. In theory, given the safeguards we have in place, students still should be safe.

11- Adjourned at 7:46 PM.