

## **Bluffview Montessori Board of Directors Meeting Minutes- December 16, 2020**

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- Esther Hill, Sherry Lohmeyer

Members Absent-

1- Meeting was called to order at 6:02 PM.

2- Katie motioned and Molly seconded to approve the agenda for December 16, 2020.

3- Katie motioned and Molly seconded to approve the minutes as amended for November 18, 2020.

### **Old Business**

### **New Business**

4- Open Forum: Nothing.

5- November Financials: Enrollment is listed as 212, but right now we're at 207. There are potential students on the waiting list, though, so we will likely be able to offer spots to those students if teachers feel comfortable. We are likely to be back in some form of in-person education in January. Like everyone else under the COVID circumstances, we will run a budget deficit this year. Fortunately, we are well insulated for this situation financially and should be able to absorb the shortfall easily.

6- Consent Agenda:

AHOS: Enrollment has held relatively steady. We have made a couple hires in the interim. Meal delivery has dramatically increased. MCA is set to happen on site in April.

HOS: Annual report has been submitted to the state and posted on the site. Copies have been sent to our current and future authorizers. We still have some federal and state money left to spend on issues related to the coronavirus. Most of it will likely be taken up by replacing chromebooks. Henry discussed the role description for members of the Friends of Bluffview Committee. Governor's address today suggests a significant drop in COVID numbers. We will likely bring back K-3 during the week of January 11. Goal = pre-K through 6 back. Staff must wear masks and face shields because 6 feet of social distancing is not likely to be sustainable. We won't see a change for middle school for quite some time. Staggering returns could cause some timeline problems, so we will try to go for a hybrid return for K through 3 during the week of January 11. Could consider having E1 return first, then CH, as well.

7- Katie motioned and Molly seconded approval of Mary Feathergill as charter representative to HVED. Unanimous approval.

8- Katie motioned and Meghan seconded approval of the letter of employment for Amber Shanrock. Unanimous approval.

9- Henry walked us through the Pupil Fair Dismissal Act, highlighting the legal ambiguity of the term “reasonable” in situations like these. Katie walked us through the “freedom and discipline” concept within Montessori philosophy, highlighting the differences between popular connotations of the term “discipline” and what Montessori meant by it as well as the notion of freedom within limits.

10- Adjourned at 7:00 PM.