

## **Bluffview Montessori Board of Directors Meeting Minutes - February 22nd, 2024**

**BMS Board Members Present-**, Mariah White, Meghan Booth, Shelly Merchlewitz, Henry Schantzen, Anna Aarre, Jessica McIlrath

**Board Member Absent** - Crystal Hegge, Marcy Faircloth

**Non Board Members Present** -

---

**1- Meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm**

**2- Approve Agenda -**

Moved - Shelly Merchlewitz 2nd - Jessica McIlrath  
approved unanimously

**3 - Approve minutes from 1/18/24**

Move to approve - Shelly Merchlewitz, Second - Anna Aarre  
approved unanimously

### **Old Business**

**4 - Website virtual tour follow up**

Option 1 - Freeze all images so it is static

Option 2 - just take out hallways, rooms 360

Option 3 - limited select view (example 180 of the rooms), but would be much more expensive

Discussion around that it is not every room, so removing hallways would reduce the ability know exact layout/location of all rooms.

Move to use option 2 -- Meghan Booth Second -- Shelly Merchlewitz  
Unanimously approved

**5 - ESST/PLT follow up**

Discussion around the need to change the amount of days staff are able to "cash out" due to ESST changes. Board does not feel any change is needed at this time.

### **New Business**

**6 - Open Forum**

**7 - January FY24 Financial and Supplemental Reports**

- ADMs are still at 214 despite losing 3 students
- Wages and Salaries are at 46% it should be closer to 57%
- Reimbursement for tuition line item should no longer need to be pulled from this year. Money will be moved to item 466 Instructional Supplies. Would like to direct some funds towards the Arts (in connection with the Perpich Grant) as they are more underfunded than regular ed classrooms.
- Projecting a \$10,000 deficit in food service (this is not unusual)
- Endowment is at \$990,000

Move to approve -- Meghan Booth, Second – Shelly Merchlewitz  
Unanimously approved

## **8-Consent Agenda**

[HOS](#)

[AHOS](#)

Discussion around planning for a new strategic plan in the summer of 2025.

Move to approve - Shelly Merchlewitz, Second - Jessica McIlrath  
Unanimously Approved

## **9 - Winter Fastbridge**

Move to approve - Shelly Merchlewitz Second - Jessica McIlrath  
Unanimously approved

## **10 - Policies: 409, 413, 416, 506**

Motion to approve policies 409, 413, 416, -- Anna Aarre Second -- Meghan Booth  
Unanimously Approved

Move to table policy 506 until March - Meghan Booth Second - Shelly Merchlewitz  
Unanimously Approved

## **11 - Annual Cycle of Review:**

Board Recruitment/election process

Motion to approve call for nominations document -- Anna Aarre , Second -- Jessica McIlrath  
Unanimously Approved

Montessori Philosophy: Mistakes and Corrections

## **12 - Busing and calendar discussion for FY25**

Discussion around the need for additional PD days to address ReadAct legislation. Concerns raised about childcare for families on non-school days when WAPs does not need childcare those days, ex: ASC on first week, Childcare for a potential spring break.

Board would like HOS to begin negotiations with WAPs regarding transportation for an alternative 2024 calendar.

Motion pursue information about bussing in order to start the school year for Sept. 3rd 2024 --  
Meghan Booth Second -- Shelly Merchlewitz  
Unanimously Approved

**13 - Additional new business:**

Concerns around staff absences and sub plans. [See linked doc for details](#)

**14 - Adjourn**

Motion to Adjourn: Shelly Merchlewitz, 2nd Anna Aarre  
Unanimously approved

Adjourn at 8:37 pm