

Bluffview Montessori Board of Directors Meeting Minutes- June 17, 2020

BMS Board Members Present- Molly Leifeld, Erich Lippman, Shelly Merchlewitz, Ann-Marie Dunbar, Katie Kinneberg, Meghan Booth (via Zoom), Henry Schantzen.

Members Absent- Dan Kirk.

1- Meeting was called to order at 6:01 PM.

2- Katie motioned and Molly seconded to approve the agenda for June 17, 2020.

3- Katie motioned and Molly seconded to approve the minutes as amended for May 20, 2020.

Old Business

4- Open Forum--nothing.

5- May Financials--Discussion of debate about whether or not charter schools should qualify for PPP. Recent article in the New York Times questioned the appropriateness of using public funds for charter schools.

6- Consent Agenda--All documents provided for the lease aid application. Discussion about increasing communication with parents to get more substantial feedback regarding options going forward in the age of COVID. Discussion of upcoming board training timeline and RFP procedure. Dan and Henry met to discuss school culture and came up with some ideas for approaching its improvement. We are renewing a three-year agreement with the WA Group for insurance. Henry provided an update on the CARES Act and the possibilities for distributing those funds effectively. Due to actionable items, it was necessary to approve the consent agenda. Katie motioned and Shelly seconded. Approved (Meghan voted affirmatively via Zoom).

7--Policy 403-Non-Montessori Tuition Reimbursement--There was discussion about the possibility that reimbursement might lead to the employee paying more taxes because all of the money would be paid in one year. Henry suggested that it's unwise to write tax-law-related language into policy. Katie motioned and Molly seconded to approve Policy 403. Approved (Meghan voted affirmatively via Zoom).

8--Policy 112-Anaphylaxis--Katie motioned and Molly seconded to approve Policy 112. Approved (Meghan voted affirmatively via Zoom).

9-- Letters of Resignation: Sarah Callahan, Anna Schmit. Katie motioned and Shelly seconded approval of letters of resignation. Approved (Meghan voted affirmatively via Zoom).

10-- Letters of Employment: Amber Wilken. Katie motioned and Molly seconded approval. Approved (Meghan voted affirmatively via Zoom).

11-- Cafeteria Plan-Change for 2020-2021--Katie motioned and Shelly seconded approval of options I and II of the Cafeteria Plan. Approved (Meghan voted affirmatively via Zoom).

12-- BKDV Contracts--They have offered us good contracts with little modification. Some minor modifications have actually been improvements (they used to be able to charge us more if enrollment went above 212, now 300). Katie motioned and Molly seconded approval of Bluffview Building Contract, Bluffview Montessori School Contract, Bluffview Montessori School Preparation Agreement. Approved (Meghan voted affirmatively via Zoom).

13-- SY 2020-2021 Board Meeting Schedule: Board Retreat was set for July 30 beginning at 8 AM. Katie motioned and Molly seconded approval of Regular Board Meeting Dates SY 2020-2021. Approved (Meghan voted affirmatively via Zoom).

14-- Annual Cycle of Review (Planning): Discussion of board review cycle for the next two years--what needs to be included, what people would be interested in seeing, etc. Levels may give presentations about the different cultures of each level of student development.

15-- Annual Cycle of Review (Topics): There was discussion about how to approach the race issue at a school that values peace and inclusivity, but remaining respectful of all perspectives.

16-- HOS Evaluation: Ann-Marie provided a summary of her summary of the Closed Meeting regarding HOS Evaluation that took place on June 10, 2020. There was discussion about the various recommendations for improvement. The overall evaluation was overwhelmingly positive.

17-- Additional New Business: None.

18-- Meeting was adjourned at 7:32 PM.