

## **Bluffview Montessori Board of Directors Meeting Minutes - June 18th, 2024**

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### **1- Meeting was called to order at 6:34pm**

### **2- Roll Call**

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

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

**Non Board Members Present** - Sandy Borkowski, Chris Dubis, Caitlin Crouchet

### **3- Approve Agenda -**

Moved - Shelly Merchlewitz 2nd - Anna Aarre  
Unanimously Approved

### **4 - Conflict of Interest Disclosure**

None disclosed

### **5 - Approve minutes from 5/16/24**

Minor changes regarding who was in attendance and spelling of names

Move to approve as amended - Shelly Merchewitz Second - Meghan Booth  
Unanimously Approved

### **Old Business**

#### **6 - Bluffview Perpich CAPP Strategic Plan Committee presentation**

Discussion around sustainable FTE increases (not ready to commit to a plan at this time), visions on addressing age/skill discrepancies, collaboration with classroom teachers, addition of expanded art room and how that would support the school overall.

Moved - Jessica McIlrath 2nd - Anna Aarre  
Unanimously Approved

### **New Business**

### **7 - Open Forum**

### **8 - May FY24 Financial and Supplemental Reports**

- Executive summary says ADM is 209, in the working budget it correctly states 213.
- Checks are all in line and in sequence

- Planned deficit was \$150,000, we are currently approx. \$74,000 past, there are various line items that are not up to date due to revenue still to be received from state/federal funding sources.
- SPED funding is required to increase every year and BMS is penalized for not sustaining and increasing SPED funding. Board has requested more information about our current SPED set up including ratios of students to staff, what best practices are, and if paras are being utilized as efficiently as possible.

Moved - Anna Aarre                      2nd - Shelly Merchlewitz  
Unanimously Approved

## **9 - Consent Agenda**

### HOS

Read Act phase one has been extended for one additional year. No updates on Secondary teacher requirements at this time.

The board is not interested in drafting a leave of absence/sabbatical policy at this time.

Motion to approve: Shelly Merchlewitz                      Second: Anna Aarre  
Unanimously Approved

## **10 - Annual Cycle of Review**

**Board:** Conflict of Interest

**Montessori Philosophy:** Cosmic Plan, Task, and Education

## **11 - HOS Evaluation presentation (requested as open by HOS)**

Overall, the Board feels the HOS does a wonderful job. Suggestions for areas of growth include accountability of non-Montessori staff including Classroom Assistants as this group of staff have needed more support for a few years. Another area of focus would be the Mentoring program and ways to better provide mentoring and support that is meaningful, but also holds people accountable for having a mentoring relationship. The Board does feel that all new teachers to Bluffview would benefit from Mentoring, but that a one size fits all approach does not make sense.

Motion to approve the - Shelly Merchlewitz                      Second - Meghan Booth  
Unanimously Approved

## **12 - Erdkinder program staffing**

- The Board does not have concerns about integrating language into science and social studies classes from an academic perspective
- There is concern over loss of prep time and student support
  - Short discussion around ensuring interventionist support is more important than a fourth body in the classroom.

- Erdkinder staff do not feel a part-time teacher (only at school for lessons) would be beneficial to the program.
- Discussion around potentially hiring a classroom assistant instead of a 4th teacher
- Erdkinder staff feel that hiring a person to “fill a spot” would be more detrimental than having more work in terms of teaching language arts/managing behavior.

Move to approve the Erdkinder program to run with 3 teachers if needed.

Motion to approve the - Meghan Booth

Second - Jessica McIlrath

Unanimously Approved

### **13 - Next meeting is July 18th. New members begin**

### **14 - Additional New Business**

It was requested the HOS look into the need of childcare during workshop week for staff children.

### **15 - Adjourn**

Motion to Adjourn: Shelly Merchlewitz

Second: Meghan Booth

Unanimously approved

Adjourn at 9:06 pm