

Bluffview Montessori Board of Directors Meeting Minutes- July 16, 2020

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

Others Present- Sherry Lohmeyer

Members Absent- Molly Leifeld

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

2- Katie motioned and Shelly seconded to approve the agenda for July 16, 2020.

3- Katie motioned and Meghan seconded to approve the minutes for June 17, 2020.

Old Business

4- Open Forum--nothing.

5- Executive Positions: Chair- Ann-Marie Dunbar, Vice Chair- Molly Leifeld, Secretary- Erich Lippman, Treasurer- Katie Kinneberg are all renewed unanimously. Meghan motioned and Dan seconded. Katie voted to approve via Zoom.

6- Annual Approvals: Dan motioned and Shelly seconded to "Approve Henry Schantzen, hschantzen@bluffviewmontessori.org, Head of School, as the Identified Official with Authority (IOwA) on behalf of Bluffview Montessori School (LEA), District 4001-07". Unanimous approval. Katie voted to approve via Zoom.

7- Annual Approvals: Shelly motioned and Katie seconded to approve Henry as 504 Coordinator and Homeless Liaison. Unanimous approval. Katie voted to approve via Zoom.

8- Annual Approvals: Shelly motioned and Meghan seconded to approve Sherry Lohmeyer as Human Rights Officer. Unanimous approval. Katie voted to approve via Zoom.

9- June Financials--WAPS hasn't provided authorizer invoice yet. Payroll for next several pay periods are documented here as well because they come out of this fiscal year.

10- Consent Agenda- Sherry presented a report about enrollment (full) and various searches going on (i.e., SPED and E2 positions). Those are going well and have good candidates. Listening to parents and staff talking about expectations for the fall. There are a lot of anxieties about returning as well as about the educational loss of not returning. Parental concern focused heavily on younger children and how to approach them in distance learning. Positions are

shifting with the changing circumstances almost daily. Sherry also ran a MARS report. There was considerable discussion about listening sessions pertaining to distance learning.

Henry started by discussing IT and continued to the termination of WAPS as our authorizer. We were audited for capacity in anticipation of hybrid learning. The question was raised of whether or not there were effective distance learning plans from Montessori perspectives rather than from traditional approaches. We are pulling some resources from strong Montessori schools along those lines. PPP loan would allow us to pay teachers to come in for academic planning in August. The national debate over charter schools and PPP loans is still a problematic factor in all of this. We discussed a variety of facemask options. Discussed screening stations and locations. There was a long discussion about possible scenarios.

11- Authorizer Search- St. Thomas would have been ideal, but they don't expand outside the metro. Bethel is a strong option. Volunteers of America is a strong possibility as well. There are a variety of other possibilities, but the question is how much extra work the new authorizer will require of the school. VoA wants a service component, which we probably already meet. Henry has spent a lot of time excluding several authorizers and consolidating around the few that are left. Dan volunteered to generate a template to help us narrow down to the one we hope to apply to.

12- Resignations- Meghan motioned and Shelly seconded approval of letters of recommendation for Cindy Amberg and Jen Shea. Unanimous approval. Katie voted to approve via Zoom.

13- Library Policy- Considerable adjustments suggested pertaining to checkout by staff and Children's House. Katie motioned and Meghan seconded approval of the library policy as amended. Unanimous approval. Katie voted to approve via Zoom.

14- Board Retreat- Discussion about "culture of excellence" document and discussions with the staff in response to feedback from staff survey and other perceived needs to improve culture in some areas. Discussed elements that will be dealt with at the board retreat. Reviewing job descriptions will be one of the largest elements in this process.

15- Annual Cycle of Review- Discussed articles of incorporation, by-laws, and core values as well as the 4 Planes of Development as our Montessori part.

16- Additional New Business- Discussed the logistics of staff listening sessions.

17- Adjournment- Adjourned at 8:11 PM.