

Bluffview Montessori Board of Directors Special Meeting Minutes- January 7, 2021

BMS Board Members Present- Erich Lippman, Ann-Marie Dunbar, Katie Kinneberg, Meghan Booth, Henry Schantzen, Molly Leifeld, Dan Kirk, Shelly Merchlewitz

Others Present- Sherry Lohmeyer, Esther Hill

Members Absent- None

1- Meeting was called to order at 6:06 PM.

2- Molly motioned and Shelly seconded to approve the agenda for January 7, 2021.

Old Business

New Business

3- Open Forum--Nothing.

4- Learning Model Update including potential mandate for Face Shields--Henry walked us through the state's guidelines on issues related to face shields (no longer mandated, but strongly encouraged, lunches (in classroom), social distancing (3 feet), and other relevant topics to restoring hybrid and eventually in-person learning. The food problem would likely continue even if we were back to full, in-person learning. Erdkinder is still on the county court approach. Charter schools are suffering because resident districts are going to full in-person learning and parents are shifting their children to those district schools in order to have their kids in school as soon as possible. We also discussed feedback sessions and parent/staff survey results. Surveys suggest a desire to get back to full in-person as soon as possible, but listening sessions were less assertive. In general, most parent feedback seems to suggest confidence in Henry's decision-making process. The state suggests that children are not expected to be at risk, but the real threat of returning to in-person learning is for adults in the building. Research suggests that the younger children are really not spreading the virus. We discussed various options for return and there seemed to be a consensus that we don't want to rush back in risking the possibility of alternating between in-person instruction and quarantine, but most people hope for an eventual return to full in-person instruction as soon as it is reasonable. Consistency is a value that was emphasized in parent comments, so a slower process of returning to full-time instruction offers a better chance of maintaining that consistency of experience. The consensus recommended a slow roll-in of starting with hybrid for a couple weeks, while letting parents know that it's possible that we could go back to full in-person learning as early as the 27th, but will re-evaluate at the board meeting schedules for 20 January.

Face Mask Discussion: Since the state is not mandating it, neither are we. Feedback from the staff strongly suggested not forcing that issue.

5- Additional New Business--None.

6- Adjournment--7:00 PM.