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## Celebrating Chartering @ 30 – MINNESOTA'S STORY

**Today, December 10<sup>th</sup> is an important day in the history of Minnesota's charter school story.**

30 years ago today, December 10, 1991, the Minnesota State Board of Education approved the request of the Winona Independent School District #861 to sponsor (authorize) Bluffview Montessori School in Winona. In its letter to the Winona School District Board Chair Mr. Stuart Miller, the State Board stated about the Board approving the request; *"This was an historic moment for both Winona and the State Board because Bluffview is the first charter request to be presented and approved."*

So, Bluffview has the distinction of being the first charter school authorized in the United States. Winona School District was the authorizer of Bluffview Montessori until 2020 when Winona School District withdrew as an authorizer of schools. Bluffview Montessori is now authorized by Volunteers of America - Minnesota.

**Historic Note:** Mr. Stuart Miller, who has since passed, was the uncle of the current Majority Leader of the Minnesota Senate – Senator Jeremy Miller.



L to R: Senator Steve Morse, Senator Ember Reichgott, Principal Michael Dorer, Teacher Rose Dorer, and President Sandy Bauer celebrating Bluffview's charter approval.



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