



UMSI Meeting Agenda: 3/20/2017 8:00 p.m.

In Attendance: Roman Graff, Mark Nardo, Vyju Kadambi, Deb Cyrier, Tara Franke, Kathy Lause, Tiffany Fennig, and Brenda Huth

Mission Statement: With integrity The United Montessori Schools of Indiana will support, unify, and advocate for the advancement of Montessori education.

Treasurer's Report—Same as last month. Brenda will include with the minutes. See attached.

School validation project – We have received two applications (two pilot schools Tara and Vyju). Vyju has already completed the school questionnaire. After speaking with Vyju as to the vagueness of questions 1 and 2, Brenda worked with Christine to add some guiding questions to Questions 1 and 2 to help schools with their writing so that they address all of the Rubric points. Christine is currently working on that. Brenda will make it available for approval to the Validation Committee. This is the great part of running a pilot program. Two Verifiers (Heather Fry-Bunche and Kelly Rowland-Marquette Primary) were contacted to serve on the first visiting team. Both agreed. Vyju is in the process of selecting dates for the visits. All necessary paperwork has been forwarded to Heather and Kelly. Refresher training will be held for the two on-site visitors, code of conduct forms, and confidentiality signatures will be acquired. Tara has been sent the school questionnaire and materials checklist. She was sent the old questionnaire. It will be interesting to see her thoughts and reactions to questions 1 and 2. Anyone from Tara forward will receive the revised questionnaire.

Teacher credentialing project – Mark and Deb have been in conversations with Scott Syverson, Chief Talent Officer with the IDOE. They have a meeting scheduled for March 30 at 10:00 a.m. Mark and Deb will both attend. We are seeking an IDOE Specialist license. Mark and Deb will have a pre-meeting with Christine to help outline important points of conversations. Christine thinks Indiana climate is right for acceptance of the credential to happen pretty quickly. McCormick (Indiana Superintendent of Public Instruction) is very pro school choice. Mark and Deb are hoping that the Validation Project will add a layer of accountability to their information. They will be giving Scott information about UMSI and both projects. This is BIG work! Best of luck on the 30th. We can't wait to hear!

New Business – Grant – Joe Pounds – Dekko Meeting: Grant meeting is scheduled for April 1, 10:00 in Peru Indiana at the Dutch Café. Brenda, Mark, and Vyju will be attending. Brenda has all of the

information Joe requested (thank you everyone for pitching in) and will be forwarding him that information yet this week. He requested it ahead of time to read through and get a feel for our organization. Vyju brought up a concern about the continuation of the Operations Manager Position once the Grant period runs out. This is actually one of the Grant questions. Our response was, "It is our hope with the increased visibility and presence in the Montessori community reaching throughout the entire state of Indiana, our revenue via the annual conference and paraprofessional training will increase substantially. We would like our professional development opportunities to expand beyond the Northern part of Indiana and the Indianapolis area and develop a presence South. The increased revenue may not cover the entire salary of our Operations Manager, therefore, a renewal of the Grant may be necessary. This need will be reevaluated in June 2018.

Keep in mind that the Dekko Foundation funds MANY projects over extended periods of time. If we are able to show strong growth data, the renewal of the Grant may not be an issue. That is a great question for Joe.

Updates; Strategic Plan; The desire to write a new strategic plan has been moved to a priority. It was suggested that we hold a one day, summer Board Retreat. We need to ask: Who are we and where do we want to be in 3-5 years? Brenda would like Board succession to be a part of the plan. This should include building UMSI membership. There is a beginning of two strategic goals: succession and increased membership. **Assignment is for people to look for a user-friendly strategic plan template that we can follow.** It was also decided that given the caliber of school leadership on the Board, the work can be self-guided and we do not need an outside consultant.

AMS Conference: Great conference and Tiffany did an outstanding job presenting. Way to represent!!! Elaine Blasi (Head of School Silver Oaks High School Haywood, CA and AMS School Accreditation Commissioner) gave Indiana a huge compliment that we are WAY beyond other states in our advocacy work and work that our state organization does. We attended MPPI reception. Talk of next year renting a room and/or space for Indiana UMSI to meet during the conference. It's in Denver next year. Submit proposals now until April 10th. Building a state organization may be a great proposal for a presentation.

Assistant Training: It was decided to hold assistant training in one location. Indianapolis George Washington Carver Montessori School July 18-21, 2017 Can we add to the application, "What is your daily role in the classroom?" "What do you feel are the expectations of your lead teacher?" "What do you feel are the expectations of your school?" Facilitators will then have a good idea of their audience. Brenda will include in the mass email blast for anyone interested in being a facilitator may let us know. Is this a good way to get people involved? The candidate must have 5 years teaching experience in a Montessori classroom and experience with adult learners. Brenda also feels it would be good to get a recommendation from the persons Head of School. We want to make sure if they are "teaching" for UMSI---they are experts in their areas. Deb said Jen Peck probably won't be around to teach ("she is going a different direction")

Questions and Concerns

Next meeting: TBD – Date/Time Sunday, April 23 at 7:00 There should be updates on the licensing project and the Grant meeting.

Meeting adjourn – 9:02 PM