

UMSI Meeting Minutes

September 5, 2016

7:00

- 1. In Attendance:** Vyju, Kathy, Tara, Tiffany, Brenda, Deb
- 2. Mission Statement:** With integrity the United Montessori Schools of Indiana will support, unify, and advocate for the advancement of Montessori education.

3. Treasurer Report:

Available on Google Docs

Total balance in Chase Account: \$18,400.71

Total made from assistant training: \$8,140.00

Still a few checks to clear. Christine's second check on the Validation Project has been issued but not cashed.

4. School Validation Project:

Communication to happen at mass meeting about Verifier Training. We will need to get a date on the calendar. Sign up for those interested. The Validation Handbook is done. Christine will/can help with overview information to be handed out at 8:30 meeting on conference date. Pilot schools are chosen: Vyju has volunteered Southwest Montessori Academy, Mark has volunteer George Washington Carver Montessori School, and Tara has volunteer Northside Montessori.

5. Teacher Credentialing Project:

Meeting this evening at 8:00 with Christine. Scott and Janet from the IDOE have responded. There are five to six steps in aligning standards for teacher licensing and Montessori credential. Wisconsin has teacher credential passed, but it is not a one to one. There are other requirements that the teacher candidate must accomplish. South Carolina has a one to one.

6. Conference:

Vendors: Three vendors. Payment from one. Tara has contacted people from AMS's vendor list (not all) and is beginning to contact local people. Does anyone know someone that does 31 Bags (parent?). This was Lynn's contact.

Food: Mark has contacted Broadripple Deli. They have us on the date. Mark will contact at a later date with numbers.

Set Up: Amanda Bennington volunteered herself and her staff to help stuff folders and/or set up via Kathy (Amanda is a parent at Kathy's school) Whatever is needed she has agreed to help with.

Conference Brochure: Done! It's up on the website with the Pay Pal link. Brenda will send out the mass email yet tonight if time. (**done**) The brochure looks great and the offerings cover a wide range of ages and topics!

Insurance: Mark? Is this taken care of?

Security/Custodians: Mark? Does this come with the contract to use Forest Manor?

Tech Person: Mark? Is it possible to get a tech person to help? Do we need one? It would be nice. Kathy said the presenters so far seem to require basic technology. WiFi password in presenters folders and for the vendors as well. The WiFi password is also on the carts in the presentation rooms.

7. Other Topics:

Membership: To charge a fee or not and how do we get more people involved. Start at the conference at the 8:30 meeting. Sign up for people interested in getting involved.

Update data base/email contacts: Tara will help with this by getting Brenda a spreadsheet (or even Word document) of people's name, school, and email.

Montessori Based "Praxis"/National Exam for credentialing: This is a group led by Christine and Diane Talley, a doctoral candidate at the University of South Carolina (and Montessori mom). They are putting together a "Board" made up of AMS, AMI teachers and administrators to examine the possibility of developing a national assessment to be given in order for teachers to receive their AMS/AMI credential. Just FYI.

Fee for the Website: Employment and School listings. Discussion of how this would be maintained and tracked. Is this a possible income stream? Ongoing expenses include \$100 a year for Zoom and \$800 contract for Deb (this includes the fee for Weebly—host). What is the need for schools? Do they need employment listings (this is offered to AMS schools on the AMS website, but schools have to be AMS members) and for their school to be listed? As the Validation project unfolds, this may take care of itself. A "perk" for being a "Validated School" would be listing on the UMSI website.

Future Fall Conference: Do we want a one day "seminar" type offering instead of a full blown conference. Most were in agreement that this would be an option. Add a survey question to conference evaluation about the interest in a conference or a one day professional development seminar. Christine and special needs? Concerns were expressed at limiting our options to one person (Christine) and being too reliant on one consultant. Other ideas for seminars?

Speakers? This will need to be discussed and decided so we can make sure we solidify with whomever we choose to come next year.

MPPI: Kathy confirmed hotel reservations today and will forward the information to everyone. The letter states that the kickoff is at 5:30 on the 29th. However, Deb was told by Alyssa Schwartz that the kickoff is at 2:00 with an optional “tour” of DC at 10:00.

Next Meeting: September 25, 2016 at 7:30