

UMSI Meeting Minutes

October 10, 2016

8:30-9:30

In Attendance: Tara Franke, Vyju Kadambi, Brenda Huth, Mark Nardo, Kathy Lause, Deb Cyrier

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

School Validation: On hold until after the conference. Next meeting needs to be scheduled with Christine. We'll see how many people sign up as verifiers. If we don't get a representative number, Brenda will send out an email. Vyju will be presenting information at the conference with Kathy and Tara's support. The "Overview" sheet will be passed out so that people have it in their hands while Vyju is presenting. There will be a sign-up available for interested people to be verifiers. Verifier training date (s) need to be set.

Vyju sent out these notes this morning (10/11/16) which were discussed at MPPI (Mark, Deb, Vyju, Brenda) for the 8:30 all membership meeting.

1. Mark - Introduce the Board

2. Vyju - Validation project

Overview

Why do we need this?

Montessori schools in our state under scrutiny

Consumer protection

MPPI

Other States

What is it?

Baseline standards - Essential Elements (AMS and AMI)

Self Regulatory

Work with State officials

What has been done

Hired consultant - Christine Lowry

Survey

Standards set

Process has been set in placing

Next Steps

Vyju has Christine's Power Point and will tweak/make it our own for the Advocacy break-out session.

Teacher Licensing: Mark and Lynn spoke on October 7 for 20 minutes on public forum mic. Mark had several talking points and Lynn was the "voice" of Montessori. They shared 5 packets of information to State

Superintendents lawyer. The packet included MACTE information, advocacy information, and the 2015 MACTE accreditation work with the Federal DOE. Next week (or this week yet) Mark and Deb will send a follow-up email to Ritz and Wicker (Wacker). Mark would like to schedule a face to face meeting in November. Deb tried to meet in South Bend by Ritz didn't show up—staffers. Great work as this moves forward! Mark expressed his gratitude to Lynn for being the voice of Montessori. Several questions were asked and Lynn did a great job of answering.

MPPI Conference: Amazing networking. Indiana is a great place with the two advocacy projects. Brenda shared that Indiana hired a consultant and named Christine. We would not be where we are today without her guidance. Our goals coming out of the conference: building membership, building Board participating (possibly looking outside the Montessori community...volunteermatch.org), building awareness of Montessori. Some ideas for the future were shared (state fair, glass classrooms, community events). Access to other states ideas, documents, etc. via Google Docs. This is going to be a great resource moving forward.

Brenda forgot to mention the possibility of joining forces with the Kentucky/Cincinnati state organization for conference next year. They draw 400+ people. It could be an amazing multi-state conference. Brenda has Heather's card and we can discuss at a later date.

Conference:

Attendees: 84 so far + 6 presenters who have not yet registered + 4 Board members who have not yet registered + 4 vendors who have not yet registered= 98 attendees!

Food: Ordered 110 servings for both breakfast and lunch. Number of vegetarian choices was fine last year. Ordered more pasta salad, same Cobb and Deli salad. Mark has some snacks to donate and Kathy and Tara are going to Costco on Thursday morning.

Set up/clean up: Hours can get in to Forest Manor: Thursday-12-8, Friday-12-8, Saturday morning at 6:30 am. Mark ordered 12 extra tables. There are 6 vendors. All needed rooms are booked. Lynn is possibly coming on Friday to help. Kathy has been in touch with Amanda Bennington to discuss set up on Friday (can they come on Thursday?). Brenda can't come (ISACS/AMS accreditation kick off with staff on Friday). Custodian is \$30 an hour. Signs are up for sessions (Forest Manor provides these...wow). Mark will make sure there are clear signs for the "Step Down" in the cafeteria area. Deb will have presenter's gifts when she comes down. Mark's going to ask that they leave the gate open.

Vendor: Giving door prizes. Add UMSI \$75 credit towards future conference, para training, or day symposium depending on what we do. Add a couple Duffy books (Elementary Cosmic book)

Insurance: Done and paid

Tech needs: Tech help will be there until noon. \$40 an hour. She will act as "staff" helper while she is there.

Key note: Mark will pick up Angela at the airport. They have each other's cell numbers. Friday at 2:25 is her flight and she leaves at 7:35 am on Sunday. Mark will try to arrange transportation from hotel to airport. Kathy said the hotel suggested Indy Go (bus) or taxi. Probably taxi.

Lunch: Financials will be disclosed (does Kathy need to present a budget/balance sheet to the membership?). Vyju expressed how this is part of being a 501C organization. You have to disclose your financials once a year. Door prizes at lunch as well.

Other Topics:

Montessori Panel Discussion (What Would Maria Montessori Do?) Venue has been changed. Mark will get us information as soon as he has it. Brenda is meeting Mark at his house on the 26th if anyone wants to go from Fort Wayne. Brenda may put it out to her staff. Tiffany...does anyone from Bunche/Towles want to go? Vyju has a school event that evening. **Should we pass out information about UMSI? Good advertising opportunity?**

Brenda talked with Megan O'Sullivan (Head of School at Oak Farm) about the South Bend Consortium. It was a day- long event hosted by Good Shepard Montessori in South Bend. The break-out sessions were all presented by Good Shepard staff. We would love to have their support and have them join forces with UMSI. Megan expressed this to Eric. He has conflicting ideas about UMSI being public school focused. Is this the perception of UMSI? Is this because of our advocacy work? We discussed the possibility of a presentation to Dekko Foundation as a source of income. Is this needed? Future need?

Next meeting: November 12 at 2:00. Don Hall's Gas House in Fort Wayne. 305 E. Superior Street. Brenda will call and ask to reserve a meeting room.

*Note: This was a response from Phil Dosmann on the MPPI List Serve about the Wisconsin Montessori state group. The question was about funding streams. Check it out....very interesting.

Tammy,

A few questions first. Do you still hold an annual conference? I attended one of your conferences in Columbus three or four years ago and it was great. That is a great way to raise money for the organization. WMA makes \$10 to \$12 thousand each year on our annual conference. We hold them at public Montessori schools so our costs are kept to a minimum. This year we held our first administrator's retreat the same weekend as the MPPI meeting in DC. It was very successful helping many new Montessori administrators with implementation questions and making them aware of the state organization. I am finding you have to start at the top and hope the benefits of the state wide organization trickle down to the Montessori teachers and parents.

Are you a 501 C 3? If so, there are many benefits to being a .org. In Wisconsin, WMA is recognized by the state department of education as the state wide Montessori support organization. What this means is when ever a district starts a Montessori program with federal dollars that come to the state (the state has to apply for these dollars) we receive 3% of the grant. Typically, that can range from \$2000 to \$6000 depending on the size of the grant. That money is used to provide consultant help with the start up such as ordering materials, furniture and support for the new staff and administration with implementation. WMA keeps 10-15% of the grant for state wide support and

networking and the rest is paid to our consultants who are typically retired Montessori teachers. Additionally, the state department of education wants us to come to the next grant writing sessions to inform districts about Montessori education. They also want WMA to present to the school districts that receive a state start up grant at sessions that districts have to attend in order to inform the districts at outset of the regulations that come with these grants.

I would like to see MPPI use some of the funding it is receiving to support state Montessori organizations to hold annual conferences, file for nonprofit status if need be, network with the states' department of education and support authentic Montessori programs who are implementing the Montessori standards with fidelity. I was not able to attend this year's retreat so it would be nice to know what transpired at the meetings. Public Montessori did a nice article on the meeting so that was helpful to know what was covered.

Check out our website and borrow anything that would be useful for your organization.

wisconsinmontessori.org

Phil Dosmann
Executive Director
WMA