[UMSI Board Meeting](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8123362800)

January 21, 2024

[UMSI Strategic Plan Final Draft 2023](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1OxROQE1AjPjLszg8keaiY9m-iSEZl6Jy8pcZUwi656w/edit)

# Board Members Present: Jessica Davis, Kathy Lause, Vyju Kadambi, Ines Oldenburg, Laurie Stockton-Moreno, Laticia Bleck

Opening

Start: 7:02 pm 8:15 pm

* Jess reads the UMSI Mission Statement.
	+ **Mission Statement:** With integrity, United Montessori Schools of Indiana fosters a community that supports, unifies, and advocates for the advancement of Montessori education.
* Consent of minutes: approved, no concerns

Treasurer’s Report

* Kathy will send Quickbooks reports with minutes. Check from Oak Farm and some late conference fees came in; the Finance Committee is meeting tomorrow
* Membership Committee: some people have signed up but didn’t pay yet. Laticia is going to follow up during the next meeting. Are they waiting for an invoice?

# General Items

* Urgent website updates needed: Everyone is in favor for Jess to take this on and will get paid for her services. No objections; Ines is making the motion to approve, Kathy did second, and everyone else was in favor.
* Greg has resigned from the board to concentrate on business but will help wrap up insurance and questions in the future

# Committee Updates

* Finance Committee (Kathy) no updates but the meeting is tomorrow
* Conference (Laurie)
	+ - George Markham advice (conference consultant) to move to a larger community
		- If we have a different location in Indy, the numbers were higher but not double; a sponsorship of a school would be difficult because the space would not be the same
		- Trine is saving us money
		- Unless we are over 100 and it is hard to get vendors
		- Keeping it at Trine also allowed us to attract people from MI and Ohio
		- Maybe with a broader topic
		- Still invest in George
		- Invite other specialists to make the topic more appealing to more people (OT, Speech, Special needs, Reading specialists, etc.)
		- Roundtable discussion (cocktail networking event) and charge good money (Labposium)
		- Jess could make a cocktail/cooking event if we have a spot with a kitchen
		- Conference subcommittee meeting scheduled for Feb 4 at 6:00PM.
	+ Next PD project timeline?
	+ Progress on professional development strategic plan (Vyju)--> nothing new; Vyju is reaching out to the committee for a meeting
	+ Sponsorship: Is this something we would like to pursue? Event and/or annual sponsorships
	+ We need to think about what perks we are providing.
	+ At the Labposium the sponsor Trinenet organized the event and maybe
	+ Performance Indicators-recommendations included in next strategic planning process (and kept in the manual for posterity)
* Profitable professional development offerings
* Governance (Jess)
	+ New board members: Laura and Laticia!
		- Onboarding scheduled 1/25/24
	+ Census update [2023 UMSI Montessori School Census](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1fALvtYWHjmh6-x0Y6p0zJ0hf72FYF_VbGQ9GL13aa8E/edit#gid=539753807)
	+ School outreach update
	+ Progress on governance strategic plan
		- * Outreach to Indiana Montessori schools about advocacy, PD, validation, and membership In progress
				+ Several connections with new schools–need to continue to cultivate
			* Increased multi-year grant relationships from a variety of funding sources Third-year goal
			* Annual organization sponsorships
				+ After conference we will look into this further. DISCUSS
				+ We discuss that Oak Farm does this, but they have sponsors that seem to sponsor them as “community support” (different than our format)
				+ Laurie talks about TriNet-as a potential sponsor and she also experienced them planning the labposium
				+ Laticia mentions maybe we can still have annual sponsors and event sponsors. We discuss highlighting them on the website, social media interview, newsletter blurb, etc. Maybe even parents in schools would help?
* Membership (Katie)
	+ Committee Updates
	+ Progress on Membership strategic plan
		- Objectives
			* More member schools (than 39 in 2018-20)
				+ We currently have 6 schools signed-up for membership - 3 confirmed payment.

Payment follow-up?

* + - * More individual members (than 25 in 2018)
				+ We currently have 13 individuals signed-up for membership - 1 confirmed payment.

Payment follow-up?

* + - * Systems such as a committee manual/calendar or committee roles
				+ We sent 1 email through MailChimp to our largest list & a separate email to our 79 free members.
				+ We had a table to sign-up for membership at the conference - no sign-ups.
				+ We have 2 Google Sheets: one with the information from the form on the website and another with membership start dates and confirmed payment (start date is payment date). We are struggling with the payment being separated from the sign-up process - it adds multiple layers to confirming membership before we can send a confirmation email.
				+ We did not meet in October because of the conference.
				+ No confirmed committee roles at the moment - Katie is checking the sheets daily, communicating with Kathy about payments, and sending out confirmation emails. Katie McClarren assisted with drafting the welcome email.
			* Attract new membership to committees and the board
			* Montessori Masters Course for 10+ years teachers
			* More benefits for 5+ or 10+ years teachers
		- *Projects*
			* 2-3 person media team, expand audience
			* Provide more networking opportunities in various regions (examples: Montessori and Martinis, book club, etc.)
				+ mingles were very successful and feedback was very positive, more people want to come next time
				+ DO WE SCHEDULE NEXT MINGLES?
	+ Validation Committee (Ines)

## Other Business

**Next BOD meetings: – Dates/Times**

***March 17, 2024***

***May 19, 2024***