UMSI Board Meeting

March 20 , 2022 7pm

# Board Members and Staff Present:

* Carolyn Case
* Mark Nardo
* Jess Davis
* Kathy Lause
* Jamie Sellhorn
* [Erika Eicholz](mailto:mrs.eicholz@ourmsw.org)
* [Ines Oldenburg](mailto:ioldenburg@oakfarmschool.com)
* [Tiffany Fennig](mailto:tnfennig23@gmail.com)
* Laurie Stockton-Moreno
* Teresa Heaverin

Mark 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.

# Treasurer’s Report

* Kathy will send Quickbooks reports to go out with minutes.
  + $250 deposit of membership fees
  + Mark received a check for $94.50 from School 91, and will get it to Kathy
  + Kathy discusses that we need to formalize our grant committee to look for more funding sources.
    - Carolyn is meeting with Oak Farm re: grants on April 19.
  + $24,672.58 account balance, per Mark
    - Kathy has deposited all money she has received, including from PayPal, but thinks there is still some outstanding balance for IPS schools.
      * Mark and Kathy will follow up with IPS regarding payment.

# Executive Director Report

* Parent Conference- Spring 2022-Membership Committee Update
  + Virtual conference April 9. Line up and presenters are finalized. It has been disseminated to parent groups and other state organizations and schools, etc.
  + $15 per parent or $22 as membership bundle. A few parents have begun the process of registering.
  + Sessions are 60 or 90 minutes. Covers infants through teens.
  + Carolyn requests we help share the info on the parent conference with our schools, other groups, teachers, etc.
  + Mark asks everyone to personally invite at least two people to the conference.
  + Membership may need to postpone the networking project, due to the heavy lifting getting the parent conference done.
* Summer Training 2022
  + Four presenters have applied so far, others have shown interest. Please spread the word for presenters. It is a paid opportunity, with some travel expenses reimbursed. We especially need elementary presenters.
* Conference 2022
  + Trine told us a few weeks ago that they would not be able to host after all because of fall sports, however, now it looks like there will be spaces available at Trine after all! Conference is October 22. No rental fees for these spaces, so low overhead.
  + October 21 Workshop at Oak Farm with environmental specialist. Theme is “forest learning”/outdoor learning.
    - *There’s No Such Thing as Bad Weather* author Linda McGurk is a potential key note speaker.

# Committee Updates

* Advocacy
  + Ratio law for Montessori schools with validation or higher recognition has been signed!
  + FSSA says they are willing to work with us on a package of waivers for validated or higher Montessori schools and credential recognition as equivalent to EC bachelor.
* Validation
  + One school is working on their questionnaire.
  + Validation needs to meet in April.
  + The Infant/Toddler paperwork has been reviewed by qualified teachers and Tiffany will be updating it.
  + The number one need is verifiers.
* Governance
  + Jamie has submitted her resignation as Vice President of the UMSI board.
* Social Justice
  + Committee is deciding on book and considering the new Montessori biography (*The Child is the Teacher)*.
    - Book club is meant as a summer event.
  + Jamie was chair of this committee, and will need replaced.
  + Book club will be virtual, though Tiffany suggests there may be potentials for hybrid, regional options.

Other Business

* Mark discusses possibility of a Head of School session at fundamentals.
  + Kathy mentions that the needs for public vs. private HOS are very different, and Mark mentions maybe there should be two separate sessions, that then come together for networking.
  + Jess mentions an idea for a conference session for HOS that advertises work of advocacy and validation committees, collecting issues for advocacy committee to be aware of and asking for validators.

**Next BOD meetings: – Dates/Times**

***May 15, 2022***

***Jul 17, 2022***

***Sep 18, 2022***

***Nov 20, 2022***