



# ASSOCIATION MONTESSORI INTERNATIONALE

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## ELEMENTARY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

AMI-EAA, a member run professional association of AMI elementary teachers and trainers, provides a supportive community for the exchange of ideas and promotes the principles of Montessori education.

### **AMI-EAA Board Meeting Minutes** **Saturday, January 30, 2021—Online Meeting**

**Attending:** Amanda Cade (Membership Coordinator/Secretary), Nicole Fedorow (Conference Coordinator), Rachel Kimboko (Treasurer/Vice Chair), Melinda Nielsen (Chair), Regina Sokolowski (Outreach Coordinator)

### **Minutes and Officer Reports**

#### **December 2020 Minutes**

December 2020 Minutes were received and approved.

#### **Agenda**

The January 30, 2021 agenda was amended and approved.

#### **Officer Reports**

Melinda's report was amended to add a meeting with Ayize Sabater, AMI/USA Executive Directory, as a get-to-know-you opportunity for EAA and AMI/USA. Nicole's report was amended to include the recommendation letter for British Columbia to host the Montessori Congress and work on planning the SEED meetings. Nicole will send the letter to Amanda to add to our records. Nicole and Regina worked together on the social media takeovers and the feedback has been positive. Nicole and Regina will continue to work together on it and creating a calendar and having themed weeks. EAA's social media platforms, especially Instagram, are spotlighting what AMI-elementary teachers are doing in their classrooms. It's also useful for engaging people and recruiting new members.

For plugging the RC, emphasize that all of the sessions and content will be available. Amanda will add language for lapsing members to reach out to their schools as a possibility for paying membership costs.

Rachel's report was amended to include items to work on: the AMI pro forma has been turned in but not been returned for payment. Our balance looks greater than what it will be after paying that. Rachel emailed Patrick Fullmer, EAA's accountant, to check in on the IRS notice.

We have discussed changing and adjusting our investments—either how we are investing or what we could do with the money that is in excess of what we need to operate. Rachel will make some proposals. Rachel has added the large meeting option to Zoom for the RC 2021. There was discussion on upgrading to have a branded Zoom option. We can always



add the large meeting option to move from 300 attendees to 500. The SEED proposal will also require budgeting and determining where the money will come from.

There was discussion on the fees from the MES Fund donations.

Officer reports (except Publications) were amended and approved after sharing and questions.

## **Organizational**

### **Refresher Course 2021**

#### **Update Status**

The elementary session is at 224 and is increasing as the event date nears. Melinda has asked Denise Wanits, AMI/USA Director of Membership and Database Operations, to provide a list of elementary attendees who have paid the early bird or full fees.

#### **Host and Tech Person for Each Session/EAA Announcements, Introduction of Speakers**

Samantha Levine, AMI/USA Director of Events, is hosting Zoom trainings this week. There are different ones for host and tech support. Rachel and Nicole will do the hosting responsibilities and tech support and Regina will do the introductions for Chris and Rebecca, Jamie, and Elise. Regina will do the introductions for each day keeping in mind that people might be watching offline and throughout the year, housekeeping items (turning off cameras if moving, distractions, mute self), etc. Regina will reach out to the trainers if there are specifics for their sessions—this could happen at our next check in. Nicole and Regina will connect on it to create a script. Regina might also reach out to members as a possibility for presenting considering that it might add complexity. The presenters will choose the pieces they would like to have: chat, cameras on/off, etc.

Amanda, Nicole, and Rachel will attend the tech meetings, and Nicole and Rachel will forward the emails to join. We will schedule a meeting with the trainers to have a plan for our support, surveys, polls, chat, etc. Melinda will email the presenters to check in with the trainers to see if they can meet, which will be helpful to have after the tech meetings with Samantha Levine.

#### **Details on Zoom Recordings, Internet Issues, Backup Plan**

For our board roles, we could add a slide or short video at the beginning or the end to let people know about their EAA membership and what we offer. Nicole and Rachel will both be recording, and it goes into the cloud because of the paid features.

#### **Honorariums**

We are paying each presenter and Melinda will send a thank you and Rachel will send the checks to include to Melinda. Melinda will ask where Jamie would like her fee to be donated. There was discussion on EAA swag with a possibility of printing masks. Amanda

will have the logo made into one color—black and share with Rachel who will get them created.

### **Announcement of Summer Conference 2021 Scholarships**

Tabled for a later meeting.

### **Refresher Course 2022**

#### **Update Status**

Melinda will reach out to our 2021 presenter to make sure that they are still interested in presenting.

### **Summer Conference 2021**

A couple of the presenters who were scheduled for 2020 are not able to present in 2021. Nicole is thinking along the lines of restore, rejuvenate, reflect, renew, etc., as a theme. There was discussion on possible presenters and including an equity/ABAR element.

We can decide to cancel it in April and will only lose around \$250. There was discussion on deciding when to cancel.

Due to the difficulty of knowing if we will have to cancel or not, we will have a deposit option to help with encouraging people to attend and getting a guess for how many people might be interested. The deposit option is something to discuss when Nicole and Rachel meet with the Formstack support. There could be more discussion on having hybrid options too. Prior to the event, we have to have safety protocols in space and can use our EAA swag masks to give to attendees. There is enough space at the event site to have spacing in and outdoors. The capacity is 60 attendees. This conference might be difficult to have families attend unless they stay off site. The single and double rooms are at different price points.

### **Virtual Events**

Nicole will reach out for virtual summer events and look for presenters for the SC. She would like to plan four summer virtual events. If the summer presenters will do an hour-long abbreviated virtual event, that would be useful to drum up interest in their SC offering. Nicole will create a virtual proposal form. There was discussion on a June 15 End-of-Year Retrospective. In March, there is also the possibility of a RC follow-up event and another event in April/May.

### **UK SC 2021**

It looks like the UK SC is not going to happen with the ongoing COVID pandemic at this time.

## **Committees**

### **ABAR Committee**

Dakota Prosch and Marcela Gomez Sixto have put together a contract for our SEED work. The budget for the SEED work was approved. There was discussion on having a budget line item for ABAR work if it's something that we feel is important and where we should spend our money.

For the SEED work, they can work with a minimum of 10-12 people but the presenters aren't part of the number. Marcela shared that it is better with a more diverse group.

There was discussion on other ways EAA can support elementary trainees financially.

### **ABM**

#### **Attendance**

Since it is online, any of us could attend. We will keep an eye out for the cost and who can go.

### **AMI Global**

#### **AMICUS (from Rachel)**

NAMTA is close to getting their journal ready. They are hoping to have it ready for the Montessori Experience (RC). They are reprinting their parent information/pamphlets. AMI is done with their portal that has their publications and research and will include NAMTA so you can access old articles, and it will be free. They are still considering doing events for Montessori's birthday this year. Educateurs sans Frontières (EsF) will not be in person, instead they will plan something online this year. There is a talk that Rachel will send on the social roots of Montessori. AMI has started monthly talks and some are co-sponsored with EsF and this was one of the first and people have shared that it was good.

There was discussion on AMI's intellectual property. Rachel raised with AMICUS the idea that had been proposed for a professional stream for people who aren't trainers to contribute to the field because it hasn't gone very far. Lynne Lawrence, AMI Executive Director, shared that it hasn't gone as far as they had hoped, and Rachel had offered to let us know if there is a way for EAA to support that. Rachel also shared at the meeting that for AMI elementary training, there are no three-summer options that are currently starting in summer 2021.

#### **Reschedule RC Lunch with AMI**

Lynne Lawrence would like to do lunch with our EAA board soon since we won't be able to meet like we usually do during the Refresher Course. Melinda will send Lynne an invite to meet with us on Sunday morning before the RC starts as the first option and then Saturday as the second option.

### **UNESCO**

Tabled for a future discussion.

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## **Financial**

### **Financial Updates Investment Accounts**

See minutes under officer reports.

### **RC and Finances**

We are past the breakeven point for the RC.

### **Montessori Census/Workforce Registry**

There has been an idea of a Montessori census or a workforce registry. This has been discussed by some Montessori organizational boards with the idea that we have a registry to enter information (training, years teaching, ways taught, different roles) to have information about who is working in the field, who went to training, etc. Knowing who went to training does not mean they are in the field. We have often talked about having more diverse representation in a variety of ways in EAA, and this could be a way to reach out to people and affect policy. This could be something that we could help contribute to financially and have it be available. This is not an urgent conversation but something to keep in mind.

## **Outreach**

### **Gifts for Trainees**

Regina has been continuing to work with Iris Feischl of [elementarytales.com](http://elementarytales.com) on the stories for graduates and is looking to include stories for a global perspective rather than solely the US. When Iris has an opportunity, she will check with the writers to ask for permission to give to trainees. The letter to send to trainees has been updated and Regina will start sending it. AMI has shared the current courses, and Regina will also ask for a list of recently ended courses and will shared the stories with new and recent graduates. Rachel offered support if Regina needs help turning them into a book, and they will connect on it. Text or email Regina on people for the social media takeovers looking for international members, public school people, and more diverse geographically.

## **Review Action Items**

The P&P needs be updated to have language on elementary speaker honorarium. Melinda will come up with the language and Rachel will add it to the P&P.

Rachel and Melinda will get together to create a letter to send to administrators encouraging them to sponsor their elementary teachers.

For the EAA history project, there was discussion on creating a committee to do the work, and we'll discuss at our next meeting.

Add agenda items to the action item list to be included in the next meeting's agenda.