



ASSOCIATION MONTESSORI INTERNATIONALE

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 **Tuesday, June 15, 2021—Online Meeting**

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

Minutes and Officer Reports

May 2021 Minutes

May 2021 Minutes were received and approved.

Agenda

The June 15, 2021 agenda was amended and approved.

Organizational

Refresher Course 2021

Financials

Tabled for the next meeting.

Refresher Course 2022

It is our 40th RC, so we might want to have swag or merchandise.

Conversations with RC 2022 Presenter

Melinda has been connecting with the elementary RC presenter and they are working on the hybrid aspects. There was discussion about how to divide the attendees into a couple of groups for exercises. With the exercises, they are considering doing some active activities that can be brought back to the classroom for ourselves and the children to be mindful, observant, etc. Nicole suggested that it might be helpful to prerecord the activities for the groups/breakout rooms. Nicole offered to join the RC elementary meetings too.

Format, Focus on In-Person

AMI/USA is putting emphasis on the in-person portion while supporting the remote attendees. Samantha Levine is looking into what is going to be live-streamed. For the group sessions, one person could be hosting the group online as a breakout group.

RC Advisory Meeting

There was a Refresher Course advisory meeting today. There were about 30 people in the meeting of AMI/USA stakeholders. They had a lot of ideas. AMI/USA is trying to take them all in and put them all together.

There was a question on whether there will be access to the recorded portions after for folks who attend in person.

The meetings with the trainers will be helpful in moving forward because it really is their event.

Summer Conference 2021

Updates

There are currently 49 people signed up. There are some who are incomplete in their payments or some other missing information. Amanda and Nicole will meet to discuss the best way for information to be shared for membership and business purposes. Nicole will be sharing and reminding people on social media and EAA-Talk. She will also be sending email reminders to people who have signed up. The links and information will be shared once the registration has closed. Part of one of Nicole's announcement will be that the registration will close on July 14.

Nicole would like to check with Regina and Yvonne on what the last month of promotion will look like. Christine Carroll will put together a video as part of the promotion. As part of the reminders, Nicole will send a materials list.

Theme, Structure, Partnerships

There was a brief discussion on swag. Since we aren't sending the materials, we won't be sending swag. Regina will also do a yoga session on Saturday morning and the Sunday closing session. Regina is considering about 30-40 minutes for each. Nicole and Regina can talk about the schedule too. Board members attending the PA meeting can ask if they would be interested in being a part of the SC.

Support

The schedule has who is a technical support and who is the host.

Virtual Events

Tabled for later.

Committees

Development of Events Committee

Tabled for later.

ABAR, Communications, SEED

Tabled for later.

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In Affiliation with *Association Montessori Internationale*



Common Core Mapping Project

Tabled for later.

ABM

When to have it

Tabled for later.

AMI Global

Update on AMICUS (from Rachel)

There is a meeting on Tuesday, June 29 most likely.

Recap from the previous meeting: AMI is looking for a new president. Philip O'Brien's term is ending. There is a search with the idea that there is someone transitioning into the role in December. They will share more about who would be the right person. They are looking from someone who can connect AMI to new places. There is a meeting to discuss blended learning and how it changes the landscape for training centers. There is discussion on an elementary blended training. There are a variety of courses happening. They are at the final stages of the Montessori Knowledge Hub, which was the repository. Global school accreditation is at its final stages looking at fall 2022 for the rollout. They are looking to see who will do the licensing because it seems like there will be an entity managing it instead of them (AMI). Voices of EsF (Educateurs sans Frontieres) is filled. The theme is environmental stewardship.

AMI/USA is trying to figure out what to do for their 50th anniversary as well as WMI. They are trying to figure out if there is something that they may do together and possibly with NAMTA.

AMI/USA has two team members who have left. There is some rearranging of the roles. Ayize Sabater (AMI/USA Executive Director) is looking to hire a new finance staff member. They are looking into an SIS (school information system).

Jacquie Maughan is excited to announce that the digital journal is done. They are continuing their digitization work and will continue to print some of the stuff. AMI is going to be doing some printing runs for some of their digital publications for people who would like to have the print copy.

One conversation that came up that might relate to EAA is language diversity in terms of Montessori materials, training, and opportunities. This might have come up around EsF. This has been an issue in the US because there is a diversity of languages spoken.

Professional Development Meeting

This discussion came out of our meeting with Lynne Lawrence and reaching out to trainers about how they see professional development going and what they would like to see. These meetings have been rolled out with trainers and most of our PAs have shown interest/

attended. There is one on June 30 at 11:00 am CST. Melinda shared the discussion document (see Dropbox > AMI-USA > AMI, AMI-USA, EAA, and Trainers Professional Devt Discussion.docx). The second one is July 6. Melinda will forward the Zoom code for anyone who is able attends.

UNESCO Future of Education

Tabled for later.

Schedule 2021-2022

Fall 2021 Board Meeting Dates

Tabled for later.

Schedule a Pedagogical Advisor (PA) Meeting in June

There are difficulties with finding a time for meeting with our PAs. Melinda will offer June 24, 28, and 29 at 7:00 CST as times for meeting. We will give them an update on what has been going on. Nicole suggests that we ask them if they would like to participate in the Summer Conference with an hour of talking at the beginning or the end. This could be a pep talk or a way to inspire teachers during this difficult time.

RC 2021 PA Rotation

Allyn Travis, Carol Hicks, Anne Dunne, Jamie Rue, Phyllis Pottish-Lewis; the next rotation is Anne Dunne leaving RC 2022.

There was discussion for who would join RC 2022 as a PA.

RC 2022 Board Transitions—none

Financial

Financial Updates/Investment Accounts

Tabled for later.

Publications

Website Status

Form Focus Group

Tabled for later.

On EAA-Talk, Rachel has been asked to post about MMPI (Montessori Medical Partnership for Inclusion). They have an in-depth course about inclusion, which could be helpful to folks in public settings because it helps teachers learn how to work with service providers. Rachel asked someone to post it themselves and then people can share their experience with it.

Newsletter Format

Yvonne has been updating job postings. The newsletter is coming: training, hybrid training, people in classrooms in person and online, etc. Rachel will get someone from Core Principals to include a few words.

Outreach

Update on Graduation Gifts

Regina has contacted the trainers because we are going back to the crowns. Only two folks have responded that they wanted crowns. She is going to send a bulk quantity. She is trying to streamline the process. Iris is working on finalizing the list of stories. Regina hopes to get that done by the end of the month to send to folks who graduated during COVID. The point of the stories was as a replacement gift since they didn't get crowns. There was a discussion on whether to move forward with the crowns or stories. Rachel found some on Etsy and will check on the price and share it with Regina. After Regina exhausts the supply of crowns, we can talk about it more and think of other ideas. She is looking for ways to streamline it.

Membership

Membership Status

As of this writing, there are

644 active (-31 from May 2020)

464 current (-15 from May 2020)

111 international members (-12 from May 2020)

69 current international members (+0 from May 2020)

20 courtesy international members (+3 from May 2020)

8 trainee international members (+0 from May 2020)

11 new grad international members (-15 from May 2020)

3 lifetime international members (+0 from May 2020)

37 lifetime members (+0 from May 2020)

53 courtesy members (+1 from May 2020)

16 ETOTs (-3 from May 2020)

8 General (-1 from May 2020)

29 Trainers (+5 from May 2020)

33 trainees (-30 from May 2020)

57 new graduates (+12 from May 2020)

524 EAA-Talk Members (+15 from May 2020)

Volunteer Questionnaire Idea

Amanda proposed a way to get an idea for how members would like to volunteer. She will create one and share it.

Our membership database is currently using FileMakerPro.

Amanda and Rachel have been working to use invoices for people who have trouble with PayPal or who would like to pay as a school for multiple members.

General

Scholarship for AMI Training

There was discussion on what kinds of services we might want to have for members that we would use our money to support or cover. For example, if we wanted to have a registry of Montessorians, would EAA put seed money into it to benefit the field? EAA has a surplus, and we should consider using it to benefit the field. Some ideas might be translations of key pieces that have come out of our conferences. We could contract with a local training center or have money set aside. Is there something we could do for Thailand for the Montessori Congress?