

AIMS Membership Meeting - April 3, 2019

DATE:	4-3-2019	
LOCATION:	Seton Montessori School	
CHAIR:	Cheryl LaCost	
MINUTES WRITTEN BY:	Carol Martorano,	
BOARD MEMBERS:	Cheryl LaCost, President Blythe Silva (absent) Carol Martorano Erica Kittle Beth Norman	Karen Zehnal Robyn McCloud Springer Rod Shaw Reena Vohra Morgan Denise Monnier, Executive Director
MEMBERS/ GUESTS:	Members: Sara Hruska, Spark Montessori; Kiran Devani, University Village Montessori School; Beth Sorrells, Montessori School of Western Springs; Charlene Alderete, Montessori Academy of Illinois; Kelly Ciraulo, Beverly Montessori; Quinn McAvoy, All Day Montessori; Caitlyn Solomon, All Day Montessori; Ana Maria Deheleanu, Lincoln Square Montessori & Pink Tower Montessori; Hanane Ennassiri, Cosmic Montessori; Silvia Dei Rossi, Cosmic Montessori; Lynn Jessen, Forest Bluff School, Nan Barrett, Montessori School of Lake Forest; Linda Davis, Seton Montessori; Lillian Smith, Montessori Children's Academy; Anna Perry, Seton Montessori Institute; Jennifer Nolan, Seton Montessori School; Eva Parrucci, Seton Montessori; Heidi Geiger, Joliet Montessori School	

Motion to Approve Agenda: Cheryl changed agenda by moving announcements to top. Cheryl motioned to approve.

Second: Karen Zehnal

Membership: unanimous

Minutes from December Meeting:

Motion to approve: Beth Norman

Second: Kiran Devani

Membership: unanimous

DECISIONS / RECOMMENDATIONS / AGREEMENTS

Announcements	
	Anna Perry shared that Seton still has some books from their recent seminar with Simone Davies. The seminar is available online. (Book is like an album for parents for children up to 4 - The Montessori Toddler). Seton is preparing to offer online course for administrators for special education. What are the considerations we need to be making to serve these children. Deadlines are coming up for teacher training program enrollment. Anna shared some other new books/resources that were available at the AMS conference. She also talked about a program started in Nairobi that is in need of some materials - teacher is in 3-6 training at Seton. If school's have Montessori materials that are functional but not longer being used, Seton will collect and ship. She will send out a list of needed materials.
	Lynn Jessen suggested the Inside Montessori documentary - and also Angeline Lillard's recent research. Montessori from the start also has a discussion guide. PDF now available on Forest Bluff website.
	Kiran Devani has a parent who is on local school council for CPS magnet Montessori schools. They are looking for two new members for the council. Suder is currently looking for a new principal.

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Agenda Topic / Presenter / Presentations	Summary
1. Introductions	Cheryl LaCost called the meeting to order at 12:37, welcoming everyone to Seton. Thanked Seton for hosting. Everyone introduced themselves.
2. Executive Director's Report , Denise Monnier	<p>DCFS – We continue to be at a stand still with the Verification project. Carol Morris does not respond to emails, and while Maria Estlund from the advisory council is sympathetic and willing to propose things, Carol is also not responding to Maria either. The advisory council meets the 25th of this month.</p> <p>ISBE – Denise requested an update on the status of the credential recognition process, which was that nothing has changed. This executive committee still has all of the documentation and our request but has not made a decision either way. AMS hosted a group of public school superintendents that they gave awards to for supporting Montessori education. Two were from Illinois, Rockford and Kankakee. Both would strongly support this request for credential recognition and see it as the strongest barrier to their implementation of quality Montessori programs. I have followed up with ISBE with a request as to how these two public schools may add their voices to our request.</p> <p>ICNS – ISBE has not yet made a final decision on the 880 hours and 176 ys issue yet for recognized schools. The new governor is not a fan of the Tax Credit Scholarship Program. There is a new House Bill about student online personal protection sponsored by State Representative Robert Martwick (long term Montessori supporter) -- Placed on Calendar 2nd Reading. Bill Synopsis As Introduced - Creates the Student Online Personal Protection Act of 2019. Provides for legislative intent and definitions. Provides for operator prohibitions, operator duties, school authority prohibitions, school authority duties, State Board of Education duties, and parent rights. Creates the Student Data Protection Oversight Committee and provides for the Committee's membership and support. Requires the Committee to submit an annual report to the General Assembly and the State Board of Education with recommendations, if any, for policy revisions and legislative amendments that would carry out the intent of the Act. Amends the Illinois School Student Records Act. Adds a definition of record. Requires written consent of a student's parent to publish student directories that list student names, addresses, and other identifying information and similar publications. Amends the Consumer Fraud and Deceptive Business Practices Act to make a conforming change. Repeals the Student Online Personal Protection Act. Effective immediately. (Note: This bill presents numerous problems for private and parochial schools. Your lobbyists attended a meeting with many of the stakeholders. The sponsor has promised not to move the bill until many of the concerns have been resolved.</p> <p>From a national level, there is concern for state governments moving into heavier regulation of private schools. Florida scholarship program is one example, and NY situation with equivalency to local LEA offerings with them in charge of decision making is another. Betsy Devos announcement that schools may hire private contractors, say speech pathologists, who are associated with their church or other private affiliation.</p> <p>AIMS Conference 2019-2020 – Denise would like feedback on this year's conference to use for planning for next year. Also, I am considering themes and keynotes for next year as well. We have the Montessori Voices idea from AMS' 2019 conference, and Derrick Gaye who is relocating to Chicago would also be a great keynote on the Double Edged Sword of Diversity, and maybe draw some registration.</p>

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	<p>Leap Innovations Project - moving forward in applying for study with AIMS being considered a 'district'. Anna Perry encouraged schools with 3rd grade and older (child has to be able to participate). Three times/year. AIMS could be identified as a subgroup and can represent a subset of larger group (280 schools). It would be interesting to see how Montessori schools measure up. University level researchers doing data analysis. LEAPinnovations.org Info on website.</p>
<p>3. Treasurer's Report, Roderick Shaw</p>	<p>Just finished fiscal year on 3/31. Shared two reports with membership - 2018/2019 fiscal year financial statement and budget for 2019/2020 school year. This fiscal year we were budgeted to lose \$4,700 but actually had a gain of \$9,870, mainly from conference sponsorship.</p> <p>Motion to Approve P&L: Reena Vohra Morgan Second: Charlene Alderete Membership: Unanimous</p> <p>Rod reviewed budget highlighting difference in expenses from last year, including a small raise in executive director salary and increase in technology fees to provide ongoing technical support throughout the year and conference, and money committed to NCIS to support lobbyist.</p> <p>Motion to approve budget for 2019/2020: Anna Perry Second: Lillian Smith Membership: Unanimous</p>
<p>4. President's Report, Cheryl LaCost</p>	<p>AMS board elections - Sharon Damore was previous AIMS executive director, Geoffrey Bishop from Wisconsin (NCI), and Debbie Senoff-Langford was previous AIMS president, and Sabrina Brinkley (Seton grad from Alaska). There has been some difficulty with voting. Sharon asked Cheryl to remind everyone to vote and contact AMS if having any difficulty.</p>
<p>5. Nominating Committee</p>	<p>Committee is composed of the president, two board members, and two non-board AIMS members, with the Executive Director in attendance to support the conversation.</p> <p>Deb LaPorte will be stepping off the board as she is moving to Tennessee, leaving Vice President position open. Bonsari Modi is also stepping down as it was too difficult for her to make the meetings this year. Cassie Martin did not fulfill her term so that is an open vacancy. Karen Zehnal's term is up as communications secretary.</p> <p>No new nominations were made to the Committee for the year so they began with outstanding nominations from the previous year. The committee looked at representation of types of school, size, geographic representation, for-profit/non-profit, ages, etc. They also looked at categories of skills, finance, marketing, admissions, etc. Jennifer Nolan suggested there be a longer time period of asking for nominations and perhaps at a different time as it was right before the AMS conference. Anna suggested that perhaps it be discussed on Friday of the AIMS conference.</p> <p><u>AIMS Board of Directors Slate</u> <u>New Directors</u> <i>Julie Einstein</i> <i>Kiran Devani</i> <i>Kelley Ciraulo</i></p> <p>Motion to elect slate of new board members: Quinn McAvoy Second: Lillian Smith Membership: All in favor</p>

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	<p><u>Officers - new position or term</u> <i>Robyn McCloud Springer - Vice President</i> <i>Beth Norman - Communications Secretary</i></p> <p>Motion to elect slate of officers: Caitlin Solomon Second: Anna Perry Membership: all in favor</p> <p>It was suggested to consider teacher opportunities/membership or parent membership in the organization, or how we can best share information with these constituents.</p>
Business Meeting Adjourned	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Motion to adjourn business meeting by Beth Norman● Second: Lillian Smith● Motion Approved● Business Meeting adjourned at 2:13 pm