



Montessori Society AMI (UK)

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**The Montessori Society AMI (UK) Annual General Meeting
held on Saturday, 29th September 2018
Maria Montessori Institute, Riding House Street, London**

MINUTES

In the absence of our Vice Presidents and the post of President remaining vacant, the Society's Executive Officer, Diana Bradley will chair the meeting.

Attached to the agenda, available to all, were minutes of the 2017 AGM, the accounts to 31st December 2017, and a volunteer form.

1. **Welcome** to Members and Guests
2. **Apologies for Absence** were received from:

Michelle Bernard Nadeem Butt Menik Ellawalla Anita Grebot Elizabeth
Hood Christine Laubin Beverley Maragh Shital Shah Ann Sproul Marie-Helene
Thiery

The participants agreed to the minutes of this meeting being taken by Dipti Kanani

3. **Approval of the 2017 Minutes** of the Annual General Meeting held on the 28th September 2017 was proposed by eva Stauffer and seconded by Joanna Morfey
4. **Matters Arising from the Minutes:** None
5. **Financial Statements**

H W Associates helped prepare the financial reports, the profit and loss account supplied in the packs. Most of the Society's income comes from membership fees and the sale of books. The profit on Membership was £6,163.15 and on Books, £2,624. However, there was an overall loss of £3,313.47 for the year ended 2017. Similar to that in 2016.



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Following the departure of persons in key positions last year it became apparent that the Society needed to increase revenue, to be able to attract and maintain the kind of administrative and financial support a modern organisation needs.

One way that the GPC has begun to address this deficit is by signing an agreement to become a UK distributor of Montessori materials from the AMI approved manufacturer, Nienhuis. The logistics are that the Society clerically processes the order and the Materials are delivered from the manufacturer directly to the client. It is hoped that profits will be realised from this operation.

Jethryn Hall proposed the approval of the Financial Statements and this was seconded by Lillian Kimata.

6. **General Purposes Committee Report** - summarised and proposed by Diana Bradley, approved by Eva Stauffer and seconded by Jane Leutkens. In summary:

- Over the last year, a care-taking Committee has been reviewing its own form and function. It was revealed that fewer people but with greater expertise are required for the daily work of the Society.
- The new computer systems effectively combine membership, accountancy, sales and website management.
- The position of Chair remains unfilled while the Committee reassesses its expectation of someone in this role. As part of this, it is recognised that an increase in volunteer help must be present to realise the ambitions of the Committee.

Membership

- At the end of 2017, there was a total of 461 members made up of - 91 individual members, 48 MMI Staff and Directors, 183 students and 139 parents. Among them are the people who have looked after the Society for the last year, they are: Diana Bradley, Joanna Morfey, Jane Luetkens and Michele Sigler. In addition, there has been regular assistance from Youngae Kim and Eva Stauffer. Each of them was thanked for their contribution and for agreeing to continue to serve the Society.

- The Society has a captive audience because new parents and students are enrolled automatically each year, but it is understood that data protection inhibits the MMI from sharing their contact details with the Society.



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- In response to this, it was suggested that the Society ask the MMI to offer parents an 'opt out' if they did not wish their details to be shared with the Society.
- It was also recommended that the Society produce an organisational chart depicting the relationship between the entities of the AMI, MMI and Montessori Society, incorporating their unique goals and visions. This would provide parents and students with the Society's raison d'être and why it has come into being.
- Other recommendations from the audience included providing parents with the Society's website details and how they could access newsworthy content and a unique network of parents, teachers and students.

Publications & Media

- An unfinished edition of Direction magazine is in the GPC's hands. It is noted that a handful of members have expressed discontent with the infrequency of publications.
- As part of the financial review, the decision was taken to avoid printing costs at this time and to use the articles in hand for website content. It is hoped that in the near future the GPC will be in a position to regularly publish a print magazine again.
- Although many members had not been polled for which type of media they prefer reading, online or print, it was noted that a few of the members in attendance would prefer reading copies of Direction online, moving away from paper related forms and their negative impact on the environment.
- There was a suggestion on producing an e-bulletin which would be sent out regularly every week/month so that members would come to learn when and how, to expect to receive it.
- Other areas of discussion included publicising the back copies of Direction in the Members Area of the website. This and the members discount are useful ways of acquiring new member details.

7. Election and re-election of Committee Members

Going forward a full GPC of 8 members has been formed for next year:

Those willing to stand are:

Jane Luetkens	Joanna Morfey	Elizabeth Hood	Diana Bradley
Michele Sigler	Anita Grebot	Dipti Kanani	Poinsy Pino



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8. Election and re-election of Vice Presidents

Hilla Patel, Muriel Dwyer and Elizabeth Hood are all willing to stand again and their re-election was proposed by Michele Sigler and seconded by Joanna Morfey.

9. Any Other Business?

- It was stated that the Society seminars were well received and a good way of bringing people together to access a network of like-minded Montessori individuals. The Society is always looking for good ideas on speakers and themes and is open to ideas from members.
- Promoting the Society in schools, over coffee mornings, after school chats, would give access to parents who could join the committee and help volunteer on a regularly basis. This was thought to be a good idea, as parents could be helped to recruit other parents to lend a hand.

Closure and Date of next year's Annual General Meeting, Saturday 28 September 2019.