

## Minutes Annual General Meeting Montessori Europe e.V.

Date: October 7, 2022, 5 - 6:40 p.m.

Location: Montessori Lyceum, Amsterdam, Netherlands

Participants: Board members: Barbara Isaacs, Judith Cunningham, Jörg Boysen, Wendelien Bellinger, Roelant Wijngaards, Carola Lang-Howard, Jaroslaw Jendza  
60 members of Montessori Europe present or represented by delegation of voting rights.  
The complete list can be consulted in the ME office.

Assembly Chair: Barbara Isaacs

Minutes: Jörg Boysen

### 1. Opening and validation of the invitation and agenda.

Barbara Isaacs welcomes everyone to the Annual General Meeting.

The agenda for the meeting is adopted without changes.

It is agreed that Barbara Isaacs chairs the meeting. Jörg Boysen will take the minutes.

### 2. Resolution on the minutes of the Annual General Meeting of November 3, 2021

(sent in original on November 29, 2021)

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting of 03 November 2021 are unanimously adopted without any requests for changes or additions.

### 3. Motions officially submitted by ME members

No motions were submitted by ME members.

### 4. President's Report on the Work 2021-2022: Barbara Isaacs.

Barbara Isaacs presented her report (see attached) with the following topics:

- Review of the time period without personal contact
- Congress-related explanation: Why did the Board choose the Metis Lyceum and why was the number of participants limited?
- Personnel changes: Sandra Springer has replaced Stephanie Probst in the position of General Secretary. Jörg Boysen is not standing for re-election as a member of the Board in the position of Treasurer.

## 5. Presentation of the working groups

Research Working Group - Jarek Jendza

The Research Working Group aims to build bridges between academic research and practice. Jarek Jendza reports that webinars were held last year due to the pandemic and that researchers participated in them.

Secondary Working Group - Judith Cunningham

The Secondary Working Group welcomes Montessori educators with an interest in secondary education and meets virtually on a regular basis to provide a platform for exchange and networking for teachers and practitioners in secondary Montessori environments. Judith Cunningham took over this working group from Christian Grune in February 2022.

Youth will be involved in the form of a "Youth Summit" at the Congress, and there will be an open space for this on Sunday 10-12.

Sustainability Working Group - Carola Lång-Howard

The goal of the Sustainability Working Group is to raise awareness of the Sustainable Development Goals, collaborate with organizations committed to the SDGs, offer practical ideas to implement and promote the goals in Montessori settings from toddler to children's home to secondary level. Due to the pandemic, monthly webinars with invited practitioners were held here during the past fiscal year.

## 6. Financial Report and Business Office 2021/2022:

Treasurer Jörg Boysen reports.

He presents an overview of the financial statements for 2021/2022.

In general:

- Involved in finances: treasurer, general secretary, channel auditor, tax advisor.
- Special circumstances for ME: ongoing membership with annual dues payment, taxable business areas (congress catering, sponsoring), fiscal year deviating from the calendar year, EU turnover tax rules

Last year:

- Special circumstances: no congress, almost no travel costs
- Significant changes compared with the previous year:
  - + 2.000€ membership fee
  - 3.000€ annual depreciation of the website,

- 500€ slightly higher personnel costs,
- -1,800€ lower sponsorship income,
- Surplus 2021-22: 2.448,82€, association assets approx 66.500€.

The detailed annual financial statements are attached.

## 7. Revisors' report: Uwe Thümmel and Rüdiger Biedermann

Rüdiger Biedermann reports; Uwe Thümmel is unfortunately unable to attend. The accounting in the fiscal year to be audited was taken over by a tax consultancy office, so that the completeness of the transaction documents had already been checked there. Thus the audit took place for the first time virtually on the basis of these electronically-stored vouchers. The audit was carried out quickly, as no congress or travel expenses were incurred due to the pandemic. The bookkeeping complies with the guidelines of Montessori Europe. The auditors propose the exoneration of the board.

## 8. Questions / discussion

There are no questions on the financial and administrative aspects of the agenda items presented.

## 9. Exoneration of the Executive Board

The exoneration of the Executive Board is unanimously approved by the members present with no abstentions.

## 10. Board elections

The following two overview charts were sent out to the members to describe the elections:

**ME Board Elections 2022** 

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**Regular elections (four-year term)**

Elections are held in the following sequence:

- (a) Election of Vice-President
- (b) Election of Treasurer
- (c) Election of Board member D without portfolio
- (d) Election of Board member E without portfolio

**Interim elections (two-year term)**

- (a) Election of Board member B without portfolio  
(if Wendelien Bellinger is elected Treasurer)

2018	2020	2022	2024	2026
...	<b>President:</b> Barbara Isaacs			<b>* Board positions without portfolio</b> 2 positions with full four-year term 1 position for two-year term (if Wendelien Bellinger is elected Treasurer)
...	<b>Board member A:</b> Roelant Wijngaards			
...	<b>Board member B:</b> Wendelien Bellinger	See Candidate List *		
...	<b>Board member C:</b> Jaroslaw Jendza			
	<b>Vice-President:</b> Michael Rubinstein	Judith Cunningham	<b>Candidate:</b> Judith Cunningham	<b>Candidates (as of 7 Sept. 2022)</b> Katja Hübner Carola Lang-Howard Malin Ringblad Ellen Zeiss
	<b>Treasurer:</b> Jörg Boysen		<b>Candidate:</b> Wendelien Bellinger	
	<b>Board member D:</b> Camilla Miller	Carola Lang-Howard	See Candidate List *	
	<b>Board member E:</b> Judith Cunningham	Christian Grune	See Candidate List *	

The position of Vice Chairperson of the Executive Board must be re-elected. Since Judith Cunningham is the only candidate standing for re-election, it is agreed to conduct the vote by a show of hands.

Result: Judith Cunningham is unanimously re-elected as Vice Chairperson of the Board. Judith Cunningham accepts the election.

The position of Treasurer needs to be re-elected. Since Wendelien Bellinger is the only candidate for the position of Treasurer, it is agreed to conduct a vote by the show of hands.

Result: Wendelien Bellinger is unanimously elected as Treasurer.

Wendelien Bellinger accepts the election.

In addition, there are three other board positions to be filled. Four candidates are available for election, who introduce themselves to the members (profiles were sent with the invitation):

- Katja Hübner (connected via Zoom): Montessori Foundation Berlin, worked as Montessori teacher, burns for Montessori, wants to prepare children for the modern world, hopes to bring Montessori to the world
- Carola Lang-Howard: needs more time on the board to finish what she started, would be happy to be re-elected to the board
- Malin Ringblad: head teacher in Sweden, her passion is Montessori, she loves to bring people together, challenge is to empower children
- Ellen Zeiss: founded Montessori with her children, worked as a Montessori teacher,

opened a Montessori school, trained Montessori teachers, idea is to connect people,  
focus on children's rights

Three ballots - one for each Board position - will be held. The third ballot is necessary because Wendelien Bellinger was elected to a different board position and two years of her four year term remain.

The candidate with the most votes in each ballot is considered elected and is not available for the next ballot.

The secret election shall take place by means of distributed colored ballot papers.

On the first ballot, the votes for the position of Board Member D for a 4-year term are as follows:

Carola Lang-Howard 36 votes

Ellen Zeiss 14 votes

Malin Ringblad 7 votes

Katja Hübner 3 votes

Carola Lang-Howard accepts the election.

In the second ballot, the votes for the position of Board Member E for a term of 4 years are as follows:

Ellen Zeiss 27 votes

Malin Ringblad 30 votes

Katja Hübner 3 votes.

Malin Ringblad accepts the election.

In the third ballot, the votes for the position of Board Member B for a term of 2 years are as follows:

Ellen Zeiss: 56 votes

Katja Hübner 4 votes.

Ellen Zeiss accepts the election.

### **11. Election of the revisors 2022/2023**

Uwe Thümmel and Rüdiger Biedermann both stand for re-election as revisors. They are both re-elected with 59 votes each, 1 abstention and none against. Both accept the election (Uwe Thümmel had already communicated this before).

### **12. Plans for 2022/2023**

- Next congress, with the theme of social justice, in Gdansk, 27-29.09.2023.
- The Board Colleagues will report on the working groups on an ongoing basis.
- In addition, members are encouraged to check out the website.

### **13. Miscellaneous**

There are no requests to speak on this agenda item.

Chairperson of the meeting

(Barbara Isaacs)

Minutes taker

(Jörg Boysen)

### **Appendix:**

The following documents are attached (separate files):

- Annual Report of the President
- Financial statements 2021-2022