

BOARD REPORT

Anjum Mir, WECAN Board Chair

For the WECAN board, the unfolding new year has affirmed our exploration into the needs of today's children and the questions that are arising from our colleagues in the movement as we meet the future. The February Conference and the 100 Years conference in Dornach this past April brought opportunities for our board to engage in rich discourse around this work.

Many of our board members were able to travel to Dornach and align with teachers' movement-wide, as we collectively meet the challenges of an ever-changing world and understand how we, as educators, can transform to meet the children we hold in our care. From heightened anxiety and increased neuroexpansiveness, the pervasiveness of screens and digital technology in our human environments, to the overwhelming needs of parents, we were all encouraged to reevaluate our classrooms and our teaching, and most importantly, we were all called to be the initiators and guardians of this task.

Part of the WECAN board's work is to listen to the pulse of our membership and, with inspiration from the larger movement, identify the spaces where our work is most needed. With this in mind, we continue to deepen our diversity and inclusion work through a board study of the *Identity Conscious Educator* and with focused work on our Shared Agreements, which we are developing as a lens for our board work. Also ongoing are our efforts to build our board's capacity so that we can engage more effectively and collaboratively with partners in areas such as public policy. We are also looking to optimize our research and publications work so that we can produce more responsive educational resources to support teachers and schools in their current work. One renewed area of activity arising out of the recent discourse around the premature push for academics in early Childhood classrooms is the research on the older child in the kindergarten.

At the end of the month, the board will come together for its annual Spring meeting. We will have the opportunity to share updates and observations of the work in Canada, the United States, and Mexico, to engage in study together, and to plan for the future.