

Spring 2025 Board Update

Anjum Mir, Board Member

This coming year marks 100 years of Waldorf Early Childhood Education and our board is looking forward with great anticipation to marking this profound milestone. Planning for the year-long festivities and the April 2026 World Conference in Dornach is already underway at the International Association of Steiner/Waldorf Early Childhood Education (IASWECE) and our board is exploring ways, unique to our diverse continent, to unite us in celebration.

In preparation for the work ahead, our board studied *The Essentials of Education, Lecture Two*, by Rudolf Steiner. We have committed to continued study and to deepening our understanding of our curriculum's pre-literacy work and the growing need to hone our work with neuroexpansiveness in the Early Childhood classroom.

Summer will be a time of growth and change for the WECAN Board as we support a transition in our association's leadership. At our recent meeting in Spring Valley, we celebrated Susan Howard's final board meeting as a Co-Director. She will continue to bring her wisdom to our work in North America as a board member and keep us connected to the work happening worldwide through her leadership role in IASWECE.

As our organization strives to be responsive to the needs of educators and children in the ever-complex and evolving landscape in which they are forming their lives, we are grateful to welcome two new board members to our team to help carry the work: Meggan Gill and Amber Chavez. Meggan will take on the role of Co-Director alongside Heather Church. Meggan is a Waldorf early childhood educator who has worked in Parent and Caregiver Classes, as well as in Nursery and Kindergarten programs at several Waldorf schools, including Brooklyn Waldorf School, City of Lakes Waldorf School, and Olympia Waldorf School. She has been active with both AWSNA and WECAN and, since 2021, she has served on the administrative team at Sunbridge Institute. Meggan is also a member of Alma Partners. Amber has been involved in Waldorf education as a parent for 12 years and a teacher for nearly as long. She has taught in traditional, nature-based, and Waldorf early childhood classrooms. She has a background in Early Childhood Education and Community Engagement and is currently a 2nd year PhD student in Public Rhetoric and Community Engagement. We look forward to engaging their wisdom and talents as we move into the future.

Our association is growing as is the landscape of education. The board continues to look for ways to meet the needs of many new small initiatives and programs that have emerged throughout North America. We are deepening our connections with our colleagues in Mexico and supporting their work. To increase our association's capacity to serve, this year will see an increase in dues to meet the growing need for support and resources amongst our membership.