

Minutes

APEEE Board meeting on 21 June 2018

Participants: Kathryn Mathé (APEEE President), Mirco Barbero (APEEE Vice-President), Irene Bonvissuto (Sec.IT), Paola Caruso (Prim.FR), Gregorio Davila Diaz (Prim.ES), André De Woot De Trixhe (Sec.FR), Henning Ehrenstein (Berk.DE), Anne-Marie Hammer (substitute Prim.DA), Karin Hundeboll (APEEE Vice-President), Eduardo Lanza Saiz (Maternelles), Roberto Marigo (Prim.IT), Pere Moles Palleja (elected at GA), Balazs Palvölgyi (Prim.HU), Fairouz Rotenberg (substitute Sec.FR), Line Fredslund Volkers (substitute Sec.DA).

A minute of silence observed in memory of Francis from the English maternelle section.

1. Adoption of the agenda.

The agenda was adopted with an added AOB item on seconded Italian teachers at the request of Irene Bonvissuto. The President confirmed, in response to a request from Henning Ehrenstein, that the agenda of the next Board meeting will include the issue of formal representation of Berkendael and SWALS' parents in the Board.

2. Approval of the draft minutes of the CA meeting on 25 April.

Several amendments received, including one that had to be double-checked against the recordings of the meeting. Expected approval of the amended minutes by written procedure.

Line Volkers wants to stress the importance of a manageable size of the Board and proportionality concerning the number of future Berkendael members. She emphasizes that the options presented at the 25 April meeting seems not proportionate.

3. Procedure for approval of requests for financial support from the APEEE – proposal from the legal working group.

Several suggestions for changes of the proposal from the legal working group. Consensus on the following points:

- at least two annual calls for proposals open to all members of the school community;
- some flexibility for ad hoc proposals between calls;
- use of standard template to ensure that all essential info is provided at the time of submission;
- a financial commitment to an approved project is valid for 12 months;
- criteria for sponsorship agreements to be finalised separately.

The discussion also focused on the appointment of "financial experts" (somewhat along the lines of the Financial Committee). Overall, the Board did not agree.

A final version reflecting the above consensus will be submitted to the Board for approval.

4. Call for a new coordinator of the APEEE data protection working group – information note from the former coordinator.

The coordinator of the data protection working group has resigned due to setbacks in the protection of the pupils' data and his dissatisfaction with the lack of tangible results - particularly regarding the school's use of O365 (European cloud) to store the students' data. Parents with data protection experience/interest are encouraged to join the group. The Board decided to publish information on the APEEE website about the vacant coordinator position together with documentation on the considerable and important work done by the data protection group.

The APEEE Services, also on behalf of the APEEE, has signed a contract to bring the 2 non-profit organisations into compliance with the new regulations. Thanks to this contract signed with a law firm specialized in this field, we already have a DPO and a mapping of services is being done.

The APEEE Services are expected to prepare an information note for the next Board meeting on the measures taken to protect parents' personal data within the APEEE Services and the APEEE.

Those attending the next SAC (Kathryn, Mirco, Karin, Pere and André) are asked to have an update on the progress made by the European Schools Data Protection Working Group.

5. Renovation of the toilets/sewage system in the Gutenberg building: further delays announced by the Regie des Batiments due to a pending signature by the minister.

The Board mandated the APEEE President to send a letter to Jan Jambon, the Belgian minister in charge of the federal Regie des Batiments, urging him to ensure that the long delayed works are carried out during the summer break. Commissioner Oettinger and the EU ambassadors will be in copy for visibility of the +4 years of inaction by the Belgian authorities. The letter, which is to be sent before the summer break, will be prepared by the parents' representatives in the school's health and safety committee, approved by the Bureau and signed by the President.

6. Post-school party sales of umbrellas with 60 years logo - proposal from the Fete coordination group.

The Board decided to give small umbrellas to the S7 pupils at the upcoming BAC ceremony as a gift from the APEEE and sell the remaining stock of umbrellas during a big sales push at the beginning of the next school year. Sales revenue earmarked for playgrounds/free time spaces. The umbrellas will be sold at a reduced price of €10 for the big and €5 for the small.

Ms Caruso (FR section) requested clarification regarding the purchase price of these umbrellas. The Fete Committee ordered 1,200 umbrellas for a total expenditure of €7,493 (i.e. half of the profits from last year's fete), compared to the 840 umbrellas at the price of €3,754 announced to the April Board meeting. Kathryn Mathé agreed that the estimate (in terms of number of umbrellas) was too ambitious, but that the financial reserves confirmed by the APEEE treasurer did not endanger the budget of the fete and that the final decision had been entrusted to the Fete Committee.

The President announced that she would prepare an info note on the role of the APEEEs in the BAC celebrations in the other European Schools in Brussels.

7. School party on 26 May: financial results and lessons learned - info note from the Fete Committee.

The info note from the Fete Committee had not been finalised, but is expected to be ready in time for the next Board meeting. The APEEE communication officer is working on a more general newsletter to all parents on the outcome of the school party.

8. Debriefing on EEB1 Whole School Inspection (WSI) 14-17 May - info note from the APEEE President and VPs.

The President informed that the APEEE's contribution to the WSI was based on the received inputs from CA and CE members on the WSI assessment criteria. The Presidency had conveyed the APEEE's frank and honest assessment of the school's strengths and weaknesses during a 45 min. meeting with the inspectors, which had overall been very constructive. The high quality of the teachers in general had been emphasized. Critical comments on some WSI criteria had been framed within the broader context of systemic issues such as overpopulation, overburdened management team, lack of real middle managers, financial constraints and poor maintenance of school infrastructure by the Belgian authorities. The Presidency reiterated its full commitment to work constructively with the school in addressing all challenges that may be identified in the final WSI report. The APEEE has encouraged the school to share the final WSI report with the parents and uploading it on the school website following the good example of the Woluwe school.

Paola Caruso and Fairouz Rotenberg found the tone of the document too direct and hard vis-à-vis the school. For this reason and in order to maintain relations of cooperation and good understanding with the school, they asked the presidency to meet with the school's management and to share orally with them the discussions with the inspector. These were reported to the Board members at the meeting. On the content, Paola Caruso did not agree with a specific comment on the Vivre Ensemble initiative and Fairouz Rotenberg did not agree with a specific comment on drugs' prevention. André De Woot De Trixhe remarked that the English writing style is more direct than the French. Pere Moles Palleja noted that the issues of concern raised by the APEEE in the context of the WSI were already well known by the Board of Governors, who had recently decided to carry out an external performance audit of the European Schools.

9. School Advisory Council (SAC): approved minutes of 16 January meeting and agenda for 3 July meeting.

Kathryn Mathé, Karin Hundeboll and Sven Matzke - possibly joined by Pere Moles Palleja and André de Woot will represent the APEEE at the 3 July SAC meeting. The APEEE will inter alia raise the issues of the 2018-2019 school calendar, communication policy, project weeks, transparency of school documents, primary playgrounds/common areas and school infrastructure.

10. AOB

The President informed that Guendalina Cominotti has been recruited as APEEE communication officer on a part-time basis (12,5 hours/week).

Irene Bonvissuto informed that 16 Italian seconded teachers are leaving at the end of this school year and that the Italian government has not yet confirmed the recruitment of their successors. The Italian parents' representatives, the school director and the deputy directors are trying to put pressure on the Italian authorities to speed up the recruitment process and are in parallel working on a plan B of locally recruited teachers in case the seconded teachers are not in place by the start of the next school year.

The APEEE secretariat encouraged CA and CE members to register for the upcoming APEEE BBQ.

Rapporteurs:
Karin Hundeboll
Esther Proficz