

Minutes

APEEE Board meeting on 21 March 2019

Participants: Kathryn Mathé (APEEE President, EN Sec), Monika Behrendt (PL Sec), Bobis Marek (GA elected), Irene Bonvissuto (IT Sec), Henning Ehrenstein (GA elected), Arnaud Fremiot (FR Prim), Brian Gray (DA Sec), Marc Guitart (ES Sec), Anne-Marie Hammer (GA elected), Karin Hundeboll (APEEE Vice-President, DA Prim), Zoltán Krasznai (elected at GA), Gundars Ostrovskis (GA elected), Orsolya Sallai (suppléant HU prim).

Non Board members present: Samantha Chaitkin (CE IT Prim, CE EN Sec substitute).

1. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

2. Approval of draft minutes of the Board meeting on 22 January 2019.

Draft minutes are still to be finalised. See agenda item 7 on the staff situation in the APEEE secretariat.

The question of voting in the Board was raised. There was a consensus that votes in the APEEE Board should conform with common practice. From this point forward, abstentions will count as votes "not in favour"; proposal should thus receive more than half the votes in the room to pass.

Points for decision:

3. Mandates:

a) Renewal of APEEE PedGroup mandate

The Board approved the proposed Pedagogical Working Group mandate (10 votes in support; 0 votes against; 2 abstentions). The PedGroup can act within its mandate and the established APEEE positions decided by the Board. The PedGroup will no longer run as subgroups, the exceptions will be Educational Support and STEM. It can also propose new APEEE positions to the Board. APEEE working groups are expected to report back to the Board at least twice a year.

The PedGroup mandate is attached in Annex 1.

b) Request for a mandate to set up a task force on the Gutenberg lavatories

The Board approved (12 votes in support; 0 votes against; 0 abstentions) to a request from Magali Barral (CE FR Prim) to set up a temporary APEEE task force to assess and look into possible solutions to the Gutenberg lavatories situation. There are no funds committed with the task force. The Board asked the task force to work closely with the two APEEE representatives in the EEB1 Security and Hygiene Committee and report back to the Board on its findings.

The mandate of the task force is attached in Annex 2.

4. APEEE Funding.

- Funding request of 15.000 EUR for football pitch surfacing:

The Board approved (11 votes in support; 0 votes against; 1 abstention) a request from the School for the APEEE to co-fund of 15.000 EUR for the surfacing of the Uccle football pitch, using soft grass-like material with impact-resistant padding underneath. The contribution from Student's Committee is expected to be 10.000 EUR. The School will paid the rest of the estimated cost of approximately 30.000 EUR (based on an initial quote). The school will also pay for extra costs like white line paint and fencing as well as future maintenance costs. The APEEE will use funds from: the Fete, sweatshirts and umbrella sales.

- Proposed updates to APEEE Financial Procedure to Award Funding:

The recently appointed APEEE Financial Advisor, Gundars Ostrovskis, recommended a few updates to the APEEE Financial Procedure to Award Funding with a view to improve clarity and ensure equal treatment of new and recurrent projects. The proposed updates were presented and explained. There were concerns expressed about the proposal to end the possibility of applying the simplified procedure to recurrent projects suggesting that this might create more obstacles for projects; others felt the proposal was more fair as it allowed old and new projects to compete on equal footing.

Zoltan Krasznai requested a delay of the vote on the proposed updates, which had been circulated to members earlier the same day. The President accepted the request. There was consensus to decide on the updated financial procedures by written procedure the following week. This would still be in time for the foreseen APEEE Call for Projects on 1 April.

- Proposed APEEE Call for Project Proposals, Spring 2019:

The Board approved (12 votes in support; 0 votes against; 0 abstention) the proposed Call for Projects with one minor change in priority area 9: "Create ~~safe and~~ friendly spaces for pupils on the EEB1 sites" and some clarifications to the selection criteria text. The Call will be launched on 1 April with a deadline for submission of proposals by 17 May 2019. The Board will at its June meeting formally decide on which projects to fund. The total funding amount available is 10.000 EUR with a maximum amount of 2.000 EUR per project. The money come from previous school party surpluses and sales of sweatshirts and umbrellas. APEEE fees can only be used to fund projects if explicitly mentioned in the APEEE budget, which is approved by the annual General Assembly.

The Call for Proposals is attached in Annex 3.

5. Appointment of Masa Devinar Groselj as EEB1 APEEE Interparents representative.

The Board approved (10 votes in support; 0 votes against; 2 abstentions) Masa Devinar Groselj (substitute CA EN Prim) as new EEB1 APEEE Interparents representative following the resignation of Mavi de-Yturriage-Saldanha (substitute CA ES Sec). Masa Devinar Groselj previously worked on the APEEE position paper on addiction prevention and is an APEEE representative in the EEB1 Prevention Working Group. She is likely to become the SWALS representative in the Board.

6. Overcrowding in EEB1 and the other Brussels Schools – APEEE position.

The Board discussed the need for a balanced APEEE position that represents the interest of Uccle parents to end the overcrowding as well as the interest of Berkendael parents to have certainty regarding their children's secondary schooling. Graduating P5 Berkendael pupils have priority when available places in the four Brussels schools are offered by the Central Enrolment Authority (CEA), but they do not have any guarantee of being accepted in their preferred school. The Uccle site is currently 300 pupils over the school's recommended capacity. There was solidarity in the room for the Berkendael families and their right over new families to remain at EEBI for secondary schooling.

There was consensus in the Board to pursue the following APEEE line: "Stress need for improved forward planning by the Central Office to address the overcrowding in the Brussels schools. Category I pupils may have to be rejected if the schools do not have the infrastructure to accommodate them."

Points for information:

7. Secretariat update – interim measures and recent developments.

- APEEE coordinator on extended leave:

The APEEE coordinator, Esther Proficz, has been on sick leave since 10 January, has officially extended until the end of April, and it is unclear when she will be back in the office. The APEEE communication officer, Guendalina Cominotti, has been doing 25 hours a week to cover the tasks of the APEEE coordinator.

The situation is unsustainable and the APEEE needs to hire an interim person for 15 hours/week to ensure business continuity of the basic secretarial tasks. APEEE Services have temporarily provided appreciated help, including to ensure bank transfer of salaries to the APEEE coordinator and the APEEE communication officer.

- Student Committee account:

The APEEE has taken over the Student Committee account at the request of the school. The account is now managed by the APEEE Treasurer, Brian Gray, and the APEEE coordinator.

- Publication of amended APEEE Statutes in Moniteur Belge:

The amended APEEE Statutes approved by the APEEE General Assembly in January needs to be published in the Moniteur Belge. The APEEE communication officer has sent the amended Statutes to Moniteur Belge, but needs to resend them due to some missing information.

- Data protection:

The APEEE is far behind on ensuring GDPR compliance. The APEEE President and the APEEE communication officer will work on this issue as a matter of priority in the coming weeks. This needs to be in place by May.

8. APEEE Services updates.

- Canteen damage by fallen tree:

The APEEE Services President, Zoltan Krasznai, informed that removal of the fallen tree and stabilization of the canteen building will be done during the Easter holidays at best. This has caused a lot of extra work for the canteen and APEEE Services staff but they have worked well with the school. An external company will provide hot meals until the works are finalised. The costs have not yet been estimated.

- Extracurricular activities at Berkendael:

Creation of a Management Committee at Berkendael for Cesame with the same structure as Uccle.

- Convention between APEEE Services and the School:

The APEEE Services President, Zoltan Krasznai, informed that a convention clarifying the responsibilities between APEEE Services and the School had been in the pipeline for 5-6 years. APEEE Services was awaiting feedback from the current EEB1 director, Brian Goggins, on a draft convention negotiated with the former director, Antonia Esturla-Ruiz. Zoltan Krasznai preferred a convention exclusively between the school and APEEE Services, which did not include issues related to the APEEE.

The APEEE President noted that since the APEEE Services and the APEEE are two separate ASBLs, the APEEE might need a separate convention with the school to clarify responsibilities related to the APEEE office and staff as well as the use of parents'/pupils' data.

9. Future of the Brussels schools update.

The President informed about the outcome of the Groupe de Suivi meeting on 14 March 2019 on the future of the Brussels schools, including RdB considerations of prefabs at the former NATO's site. Prior to the Board meeting all members received a detailed written report from the President on the 14 March Goupe de Suivi meeting.

10. Interparents updates.

- New Marking Scale:

The President informed about concerns that the roll out of the New Marking Scale has not been particularly good. There are worries about what is going to happen when the new scale is introduced in the Bacc cycle next year. INTERPARENTS will probably make a statement about not wanting to roll out the new marking scale in S6 and S7 before the system is ready. INTERPARENTS is likely to lose this battle.

- Pre-Bacc/Bacc developments:

The President informed that the Pre-Bacc/Bacc exams are under discussion. New procedures for accessing pre-Bacc marks were introduced this year. At the moment there are no major substantial changes to the Bacc, but the Board of Governors are reconsidering it entirely; to

restructure it, with more external marking, less of the pupil's own teachers marking. They are thinking of getting rid of the Pre-Bacc altogether.

- **Cost-sharing agreement:**

The President informed that Member States are supposed to second teachers to make up for an insufficient number of seconded English teachers and to generally support the system. In practice, there is a shortage of secondments and many local teachers have been hired instead. Berkendael and Laeken have a high percentage of locally recruited teachers. This year, Commissioner Oettinger decided to change the cost sharing and put a lot of pressure on the Member States for them to contribute appropriately. This resulted in 113 additional seconded teachers, which is very positive, but 27 locally recruited teachers were laid off in Laeken. The EEB1 director handled it much better; our school is going to get something like 17 new seconded teachers and we are keeping the locally recruited teachers for the sections that are growing.

- **New language policy for the European Schools:**

The President informed that the Board of Governors is expected to approve a new language policy at its next meeting. It is a generic policy document with a few measures that are not expected to affect our school too much. The new policy will be circulated to Board members as soon as it has been formally adopted.

11. **PedGroup updates.**

- **Pre-Bacc results:**

The APEEE did a parent survey on the Pre-Bacc experience and results; among findings were that there was a quite low average of 4.5 out of 10 in some secondary science classes, which is a concern; it is going to be very hard for these students to get into universities with such low average.

- **Language setting/streaming:**

The EEB1 director, Brian Goggins, is apparently looking into the organization of L2 language classes. He has announced to SWALS' parents that he intends to phase out the bilingual L2 language groups. The APEEE has asked for further clarification.

12. **AOB**

- **Diversity and inclusion:**

INTERPARENTS has requested a task force on diversity and inclusion. The INTERPARENTS proposal was read out. Related to this, the APEEE agreed after the fact to sponsor an EEBI event on homophobia and film. The APEEE's name had been attached to the posters without prior written permission due to a miscommunication with the school.

A bullying case has come up in EEB1; the School policy on bullying seems to be incomplete. The APEEE Well-Being working group may want to look into EEB1 bullying policy and the policies of other European Schools. Woluwe has apparently a very good one, which also includes cyber-bullying.

There was also a call for submissions to the Berkendael Newsletter.

13. CE meeting update: oral report.

Agenda item postponed due to the late hour.

14. Approved APEEE funding since the last Board meeting on 22 January.

A document on approved APEEE funding since the last Board meeting was circulated to Board members prior to the meeting.

The document is attached in Annex 4.

15. Results of written procedures since the last Board meeting on 22 January.

A document on the results of written procedures since the last Board meeting was circulated to Board members prior to the meeting.

The document is attached in Annex 5.

Attachments to the minutes:

- Annex 1: APEEE PedGroup mandate
- Annex 2: Mandate to set up temporary task force on the Gutenberg lavatories
- Annex 3: APEEE Call for Project Proposals
- Annex 4: Approved APEEE funding since the last Board meeting (22 January)
- Annex 5: Results of written procedures since the last Board meeting (22 January)