

Minutes

APEEE Board meeting on 21 May 2019

Participants: Kathryn Máthé (APEEE President, EN Sec + 1 proxy for EN Prim), Monika Behrendt (PL Sec), Irene Bonvissuto (IT Sec), André de Woot de Trixhe (FR Sec), Arnaud Fremiot (FR Prim), Anne-Marie Hammer (APEEE VP Administration, elected at GA), Karin Hundeboll (APEEE VP Pedagogy, DA Prim), Zoltán Krasznai (elected at GA), Eduardo Lanza Saiz (Maternelle), Roberto Marigo (IT Prim), Stefan Obermaier (DE Sec), Gundars Ostrovskis (elected at GA), Balazs Palvölgyi (HU Prim), Marcin Zarzycki (PL Prim), Marc Guitart (ES Sec), Georg Becker (DE Prim) Thomas Bardram (substitute DA Prim), Maša Devinar Grošelj (substitute EN Prim), Julien Reichstadt (substitute FR Prim), Tibor Scharf (substitute DE Sec), Line Fredslund Volkers (substitute DA Sec)

Non Board members present: Samantha Chaitkin (CE IT Prim, substitute CE EN Sec), Sara Dagostini (substitute CE IT Prim), Monika Velikonja (CE SWALS Sec), Christina Morte (presenting).

1. Adoption of the agenda.

The agenda was adopted with the addition of "APEEE Financial Procedure to Award Funding" as a new sub-item under agenda item 6 at the request of Zoltán Krasznai.

2. Approval of draft minutes of Board meetings on 22 January and 21 March.

Draft minutes have not yet been finalised. See agenda item 19 on the APEEE secretariat staff situation.

Points for decision:

3. BAC complaints system: volunteer for EEB1 parent liaison.

There was consensus in the Board to appoint Irene Bonvissuto (IT Sec) as EEB1 parent liaison for the INTERPARENTS-run BAC complaints system. The system allows parents and students to report BAC exams problems directly to INTERPARENTS.

4. Amended proposal to modify Interparents Statutes and Rules of Representation.

There was consensus in the Board to submit an amended proposal to modify INTERPARENTS Statutes and Rules of Representation that takes into account concerns raised by the APEEEs in Alicante and Ixelles. Alicante was concerned about overrepresentation of big schools and unclear rules regarding payment of participating representatives. Ixelles was concerned about delegates serving more than 3 years; such delegates should be appointed by a unanimous vote and only if they still have children in the European schools.

5. APEEE end of year calendar (BBQ, Board meeting).

There was consensus in the Board meeting of the school year was scheduled for 24 June and the Board agreed that the APEEE BBQ on 27 June.

6. **APEEE Funding Call, Spring 2019.**

- **APEEE Financial Procedure to Award Funding:**

The Board rejected a request from Zoltán Krasznai to vote to go back to the former version of the financial procedure. The current financial procedure was approved by written procedure by the Board on 29 March 2019 (14 votes in favour; 3 votes against; 0 abstentions). Several members did not agree with the provision that recurrent projects, such as the Hungarian drugs prevention program, had to be submitted in the context of APEEE calls for project proposals, instead suggesting that the simplified procedure that currently applies only to small projects (<€300) should apply to recurrent projects as previously. The simplified procedure allow for decision by the APEEE Bureau at any point in time during the school year. Other Board members wanted recurrent projects to be assessed and prioritized by the Board together with new project proposals with a view to ensure best value for the limited APEEE funds.

The President proposed that Zoltán Krasznai prepare a proposal with his suggested changes for decision at the next Board meeting.

There was consensus on communicating the results of written procedures to all members in a transparent way, including who voted for, against or abstained.

- **Decision to appoint awards panel:**

The Board decided (15 votes in favour; 0 votes against; 1 abstention) to appoint a panel to assess received project proposals and make a recommendation to the Board. The award panel is composed by the APEEE Financial Advisor, the coordinator of the relevant APEEE working groups (PedGroup, Well-Being and Community Building) and one representative respectively from the school management, the school staff and the Students' Committee. It was suggested that APEEE working group coordinators should refrain from voting on their own projects.

Orientation debates:

7. **Working Methods of the APEEE.**

The President invited members to give feedback on the circulated list of questions concerning APEEE working methods and roles of the APEEE Board, the APEEE working groups and the APEEE secretariat. Questions were raised about the work distribution within the APEEE, role of Board members and Bureau, relation with the working groups and CE representative, and clarity of votes. Feedback should be submitted to the APEEE secretariat by the end of the following week.

8. **Security and Hygiene.**

- **EEB1 Security and Hygiene Committee meeting in June:**

The Security and Hygiene Committee meeting has not been held consistently over the past few years. The Security and Hygiene Committee must have 3 meetings each year according to the written rules. Board members suggested that the APEEE representatives raised the following issues at the next meeting of the Security and Hygiene Committee: (1) push for an evaluation of the bad conditions of the school buildings; (2) request updated list of pending repairs / maintenance works by the RdB; (3) express concern of too much responsibility being handed over to parents (e.g. security for Cesame party); (4) Parent access to campus, including

recognition of EU institutions badges; (5) the school may now be over-cautious in its approach to safety which can serve to limit our access, programmes and activities; and (6) suggest an environmental evaluation by IBGE of the Gutenberg toilets. It was suggested to rebrand the Gutenberg toilets as adult toilets, which would require the RdB to put them into conformity immediately. It was suggested that Thomas Bardram (substitute DA Prim) work closely with the Security and Hygiene representatives on issues related to school infrastructure.

- **Gutenberg Taskforce report update:**

No feedback available from the APEEE Gutenberg Taskforce established in March 2019.

9. S8 survey.

The Board gave Balazs Palvolgyi (HU Prim) a mandate to look into the so-called S8 survey on what European School graduates are doing and what skills learned at school they are using etc. Balazs Palvolgyi would report back to the Board on his findings on what is currently being done and challenges faced, particularly in getting feedback from the Brussels schools. He would focus on last year's survey but also gathering data from upcoming graduates.

The President expressed some concern regarding the longevity of the survey as well as who would be responsible for running it given the limited APEEE secretariat staff. Ideally the survey should be run by the central office or the school, as previously. The APEEE President would raise the S8 survey with the EEB1 Student Committee President and the APEEEs of the three other European Schools in Brussels. There may be a written procedure.

10. School practices for grouping L2 and L3 language classes.

Karin Hundebøll (VP Pedagogy) and Monika Velikonja (CE SWALS Sec) informed that the EEB1 Director in bilateral contacts with SWALS parents had announced that the bilingual L2 language groups for FR and EN primary and secondary would be phased out starting from the next school year. The same message had been passed to the Education Council for Secondary on 20 May. The details of the new organisation of L2 and L3 language classes were unclear. The proposed change was of particular concern to SWALS parents, who are immersed in FR/EN L1 during the primary and have high exposure to those languages but who are nevertheless placed in FR/EN L2 language classes in the secondary.

Several Board members expressed concern about the lack of transparency and consultation in the process leading to the Director's decision. For instance, there has been no concrete proposal document for circulation. There was consensus in the Board to mandate a small working group (Monika Velikonja and Line Volkers) to prepare a proposal for a balanced APEEE paper on the issue of L2/L3 language classes. The proposal will be presented at the next Board meeting for decision.

11. Data protection.

Update on GDPR compliance done by APEEE Services since one year: contract with DPO was signed for both Services and APEEE. Contract with DPO renewed for APEEE Services. APEEE Services do not intend to pay again for APEEE. The Board gave mandate to APEEE to pay its part for the DPO contract (2000€). The APEEE Legal Working Group to advise if better to sign a joint contract or a separate one. To be checked with the APEEE Treasurer if funds are available.

Points for information:

12. 180-days – status report.

The APEEE VP for Pedagogy informed about state of play regarding the APEEE objective of ensuring that all EEB1 pupils are offered 180 days of school in line with the rules. Small incremental improvement achieved in this school year (cancelled days at the end of the official school year reduced from 7 to 5 days for S1-S4 students) and the EEB1 director had indicated further improvements in the next school year. Parents' concerns confirmed by the EEB1 Whole School Inspection in May 2018: low performance score to the school management on the quality control criteria related to "effective use of teaching time". The APEEE will continue to pursue the 180-days issue based on the 2018 February APEEE position paper decided by the Board.

13. New Students' Taskforce.

Postponed to the next meeting due to the late hour.

14. CE meeting reports – oral.

The APEEE VP for Pedagogy debriefed from the latest CE meetings highlighting the EEB1 director's announcements the day before of the phasing out of bilingual L2 language groups starting in September and the possible opening up of Friday afternoon for S1-S3 students from September for pedagogical reasons. Zoltán Krasznai remarked that if the director opened up Friday afternoon for S1-S3, the APEEE Services would discontinue the early Friday bus transport for MAT-P1-P2 pupils. The elected CE parents' section representatives are expected to provide feedback from CE meetings to the parents within their section.

15. Board of Governors / Interparents reports.

Masa Devinar Groselj (substitute EN Prim) debriefed from INTERPARENTS meeting in Varese on 4-5 April. Main topics discussed: BAC complaints system, the new European School Language Policy, evaluating language level of non-native L2 teachers, attractiveness measures for teachers, cost sharing, future of the Brussels schools/Arts Loi and the New Marking Scale. Informal written reports from the INTERPARENTS meeting as well as the Board of Governors meeting in April had been circulated to Board members prior to the meeting.

Tibor Scharf (substitute DE Sec) reported on the New Marking Scale and the German equivalence table: the parents' attempt to postpone introduction of the new scale for S6 and S7 failed at the Board of Governors meeting in April. Parents' criticism was related to the process/lack of preparedness rather than the scale itself. The value of the BAC had been downgraded in some Member States in parallel with the introduction of the new scale. Woluwe sent a letter to their director incorrectly suggesting that the EEBI APEEE Board had sent a letter on the New Marking Scale to the School. In fact, we circulated a position paper for use by sections with their ministries but there was no common position yet agreed. A Board decision to support a common letter with the other APEEEs by written procedure is foreseen.

16. Legal working group update: school discipline procedures and bullying policy.

The school has a cavalier attitude related to bullying and substance abuse cases and the procedures in place are not well worked out. The Legal Working Group was looking for a Belgian lawyer to assist on Belgian law issues.

17. School party update/Community building.

The President noted that the current EEB1 school party model is unsustainable. The workload for the APEEE is far too heavy and other models have to be considered. In Ixelles, they have

for example an annual school party on a weekday – usually a Friday – with more involvement of teachers and students. The parents’ main role in Ixelles is to provide the food. Their opening ceremony is the evening before with a talent show and prizes to students who have demonstrated outstanding work. Ixelles parents usually come on Friday afternoon to hang out and work in food stands. Their financial intake is similar to ours. The Community Building working group will look into different school party models and make a proposal for Board decision.

18. Funding debriefing reports.

Christina Morte debriefed on the Values Workshop Project (€300 in APEEE funding). Feedback from the participating students had been positive. A written debriefing on the INTERPARENTS conference on Special Education Needs (€75 in APEEE funding) had been circulated to Board members prior to the meeting.

19. APEEE secretariat update.

The staff situation in the APEEE Secretariat remain difficult due to the extended leave of the APEEE Coordinator since 10 January. The Board welcomed new interim APEEE staff member Christiane Breur, who has been hired until the end of this school year to support the APEEE Communication Officer on secretarial tasks during the absence of the APEEE Coordinator.

20. Written reports from meetings attended by APEEE representatives.

A document with written reports from meetings attended by APEEE representatives during the period January to April 2019 was circulated to Board members prior to the meeting. The document is attached in Annex 1.

21. Results of written procedures since the last Board meeting on 21 March.

A document on the results of written procedures since the last Board meeting on 21 March was circulated to Board members prior to the meeting. The document is attached in Annex 2.

Attachments to the minutes:

Annex 1: Written reports from meetings attended by APEEE representatives January-April 2019

Annex 2: Results of written procedures since the last Board meeting on 21 March 2019