

Minutes

APEEE Board meeting on 24 June 2019

Participants: Kathryn Máthé (APEEE President, EN Sec), Georg Becker (DE Prim), Monika Behrendt (PL Sec), Henning Ehrenstein (member elected by GA), Karin Hundeboll (APEEE VP Pedagogy, DK Prim), Zoltán Krasznai (member elected by GA), Roberto Marigo (IT Prim), Gundars Ostrovskis (member elected by GA), Balazs Palvölgyi (HU Prim), Thomas Berdrum (proxy for Brian Gray, DK Sec), Eduardo Lanza Saiz (Maternelle), Alejandro Martínez Turégano (ES Prim), Pere Moles Palleja (member elected by GA), Marc Guitart (ES Sec), Anne Marie Hammer (member elected by GA), Irene Bonvissuto (IT Sec), Marek Bobis (member elected by GA), Maria Victoria De Yturriaga Saldanha (deputy, ES Sec), Maša Devinar Grošelj (deputy, EN Prim), Julien Reichstadt (deputy, FR Prim), Orsolya Sallai (deputy, HU Prim), Tibor Scharf (deputy, DE Sec), Krisztina Szabó (deputy, HU Prim)

Other invited guests, not members of the APEEE Administrative Board, were present:

Samantha Chaitkin (CE, IT Prim), Emese Savoia-Keleti (CE, HU Sec), Monika Velikonja (CE, SWALS Sec), Sara Dagostini (deputy CE, IT Prim)

1. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda is adopted.

(Approval of draft minutes of Board meetings on 22 January, 21 March and 21 May.

Draft minutes have not yet been finalised. See agenda item 12 on the APEEE secretariat staff situation.)

Points for decision:

2. Umbrellas: proposal to gift remaining "EEBI: 60 Years!" compact umbrellas to graduating class of 2019

The Board approves (16 votes in favour; 1 vote against; 0 abstentions) the proposal to gift the remaining 60 Years umbrellas to the graduating class of 2019. Umbrellas will be distributed at the Baccalaureate ceremony.

The 60-Years Umbrellas for Graduates Proposal is attached in Annex 1.

3. L2 and L3 Class Grouping: Proposed Parent Statement

The Board approves (15 votes in favour; 0 votes against; 1 abstentions) the statement on L2 and L3 class grouping drafted by Monika Velikonja (CE, SWALS Sec), Line Fredslund Volkers (deputy, DA Sec) and Caroline Cambas (PedGroup Languages Coordinator, CE, EN Sec). The statement sets out the parent understanding of proposed changes; urges that minimum levels are maintained for all groups of students; and requests particular follow-up measures, including good communication to the parent body and a re-evaluation of the situation in six months.

It is suggested that the message should urge the school to prevent the deterioration of the L2 offer for bilingual children, who may suffer disproportionately from the changes and may not be able to develop their full potential. It is suggested that the word bilingual should be avoided. The Board approves (11 votes in favour; 1 vote against; 4 abstention) the addition to the statement.

The approved APEEE Statement on Grouping in L2 EN/FR is attached in Annex 2.

Action point: Statement to be sent to the School Direction.

4. S8 Survey: APEEE support of S8 Survey project and permission for the APEEE to store and manage former student contact data if no other option can be found.

The Board gives a mandate (16 votes in favour; 0 votes against; 0 abstentions) for the Secretariat to store and manage former student contact data if no other option can be found. Balazs Palvolgyi presents the S8 Alumni Survey. The Board is asked to circulate a link to the 2018 S8 survey, which has been re-launched, to former students through various channels. Parents are also collecting the information on this year's graduating class so that the survey can be run next year. Two consents have been drafted by Emese Savoia-Keleti, coordinator of our DP Task Force, to allow us to contact alumni.

5. Financial procedure to award funding on school related projects (approved by the Board on 29 March 2019): proposal to return to previous version.

The Board approves (11 votes in favour; 5 votes against; 1 abstention) an updated version of the financial procedure to award funding presented by Zoltan Krasznai (member elected by the GA). The version includes the re-introduction of the simplified procedure for recurring projects, updates to the limits set for awards under the simplified procedure, and changes in the composition of the awards panel. Several members raise concerns about the lack of fairness if recurring projects are not reviewed with new applicants. The new procedure will be used beginning in September, while the old procedure will be used for projects awarded under the current call.

Action point: June 2019 procedure will be placed on website alongside March 2019 procedure which is still valid for projects awarded funding under current call.

Point for discussion and vote:

6. Project funding decision.

The Board votes to approve (14 votes in favour; 3 votes against; 0 abstentions) the funding of 11 projects out of 33 applicants in line with the recommendations of the Awards Panel.

Gundars Ostrovskis (member elected by the GA) provides an overview of the project proposals received for funding and the methodology used by the Awards Panel, which included working group coordinators (Community Building, Bien Etre, PedGroup), the Financial Advisor, the School Director (Mr Goggins), the incoming Head Educational Advisor (Jan Belien) and the Student Committee President (Laszlo Molnarfi).

The APEEE received 33 projects for a total amount of 38.902 euros from which:

- 4 were not eligible (amount not mentioned),
- 1 requested over the budget limit (5.500 euros – reminder: the maximum allowed was 2.000 euros)
- 8 received negative opinion from the working groups
- 5 received mixed opinion from the working groups

These were eliminated. The remaining 16 projects received positive opinions from the working groups. Five of these were encouraged to refine the project scope or methodology based on the criteria laid out.

Of the remaining 11 projects, some received partial allocation of funding, generally due to limited scope (e.g. only one language section) relative to budget requested. The final recommendation of the Awards Panel amounted to 9.550€ for 11 projects. This fell within the 10.000€ limit set and also leaves some extra budget for previous spending under simplified procedure.

Action point: Applicants will be informed by mail of the final decision.

Points for discussion and reflection:

7. Letter from four EEB APEEEs on New Marking Scale: follow-up of the written procedure

There is consensus in the Board to draft an updated version of the letter agreed by written procedure (16 votes in favour; 1 vote against; 1 abstention) and already passed by the Woluwe and Laeken boards.

The Spanish section has concerns that the letter would dis-serve students in the Spanish section, who have suffered with university admission under the old marking scale; there is concern that the letter overly represents a German perspective. Some members suggest that in fact the problem relates to the communication by the central office to national education ministries and that the German issue is highlighted only to indicate of a broader problem. After discussion, it is agreed to:

- remove the requests to postpone the introduction of the marking scale:

We believe that as it stands the European Schools are not ready to take the next step. We urge you to seriously consider postponing the introduction of the marking system in the BAC cycle until such time as adequate preparations have been made. We urge you to ensure that all appropriate measures have been put in place before introducing the marking system in the BAC cycle.

These multiple problems with the preparation, implementation and communication of the new marking system can only have a negative impact on the BAC results and university options for the current S5 students and likewise on the overall reputation of the European Baccalaureate. We therefore call on you to suspend the roll-out of the new marking system into the upper cycle until you can ensure a stable and consequent deployment. We therefore call on you to take appropriate measures to ensure a stable and consequent deployment in the Baccalaureate cycle.

- remove appendix V, which is seen to present unnecessarily detailed analysis of the DE marking conversion;
- soften references to the DE equivalence table

Pere Moles-Palleja (member elected by the GA) proposes that fewer written procedures are run.

The approved New Marking Scale Four APEEEs Letter is attached in Annex 3.

Action point: The letter will be updated and circulated to the three other 3 Brussels APEEEs for re-approval.

8. Cyberbullying: presentation given to the local staff committee by four APEEEs

Kathryn Mathe (APEEE President) reads a statement on bullying and cyberbullying in the EEBs presented on 11 June to the Local Staff Committee on behalf of the four APEEEs. The statement describes in broad terms a case at EEBI. It is suggested that the school management, teachers, parents and students are unprepared to deal with this issue. In particular, at EEBI the current bullying policy remains incomplete. The APEEEs have asked the Commission to provide funding for staff as well as specific expertise and support in our effort to confront this new and complex challenge. It is proposed that the four schools work more closely to develop professional policies informed by the latest research on these issues. The details of the case should not be circulated among parents.

9. Provisional EEBI pupil population 2019-2020 following the 1st enrolment phase: possible APEEE action together with the APEEEs of the other Brussels schools

The school continues with very high number and remains nearly 10% above its recommended capacity and there are no signs that this will change. Berkendael has been able to absorb primary population, but Berkendael itself is reaching its full capacity and in the longer term may be unable to support the structure that has been put in place in the lower levels. The risk assessment for EEBI lists overcrowding as the most serious pedagogical risk in our school and it very likely has high impact on teaching quality, accidents, supervision problems and bullying. The purpose of discussion is to determine whether we should address the issue more proactively.

We should seriously consider whether we should continue to accept category I pupils. The Board of Governors has made it possible for the Central Enrolment Board to refuse category I pupils, but the option has not yet been taken up. If the APEEE chooses to act it should be in close collaboration with the other Brussels schools and in consultation with Staff Committees.

There is consensus to give a mandate to discuss this issue with the other Brussels APEEEs and the Staff Committees.

The EEBI Evolution of Pupil Population is attached in Annex 4.

10. Changes to S1-S3 Friday Timetable and Effects.

The school parents were officially notified on 18 June of the school's intention to change the S1 to S3 timetable by increasing the Friday afternoon hours, starting from the September rentrée.

The effects of this to early secondary students will be:

- if they use transport, they will now take the late bus on Fridays
- they will no longer be able to participate in extracurricular activities on Friday afternoons
- they will have more free periods in their timetable during the week

The effects on M1 to P2 students will be:

- The services will no longer offer an early Friday bus to those not enrolled in the OIB garderies.

- If parents cannot pick them up, then pupils can be enrolled in Cesame garderie, which the APEEE Services believes will be able to accommodate the number of enrolments. The school has offered all needed locales.

The APEEE has received complaints about the school's late communication and lack of consultation with parents as well as the Services response to cancel the early bus service. After a discussion of the repercussions, it is proposed to draft a letter to the Director raising concerns about the timing and lack of proper consultation, highlighting the problems for families and concerns about planning. Roberto Morigo (IT Prim) volunteers to draft the letter on behalf of the APEEE by Friday, 28 June. Based on an indicative vote (9 votes in favour of a letter asking for postponement; 1 vote for the letter but against the request for postponement; 1 vote for the letter but abstaining about whether to ask for postponement), it is agreed that the letter should urge the Director to postpone the timetable change.

Concerns are raised that the vote is not legal as the point was for discussion and therefore was not based on prior consultation with section parents. Some members insist that the Services should respond to parents needs; the school must act in the pedagogical interest of the pupils, while the Services should respond to the logistical needs of families.

The APEEE Letter to Director about S1-S3 Timetable Change, eventually approved by written procedure (14 votes in favour; 8 votes against; 3 abstentions), is attached in Annex 5.

Action point: After its completion and final approval, the letter should be sent to Mr Goggins.

11. Rentrée 2019-2020: plan to welcome parents in the first weeks of school – volunteers solicited.

Agenda item postponed due to the late hour.

Points for information:

12. Secretariat Report: including update on website.

Not taken due to late hour. See written report circulated with Board documents.

13. Prevention meeting report.

Not taken due to late hour. See written report circulated with Board documents.

14. CE and Pedagogical Meeting Report.

Not taken due to late hour. See written reports circulated with Board documents.

15. Cancellation of APEEE BBQ.

Not taken due to late hour.

16. Written Reports from Meetings.

Not presented for meeting.

17. Written Procedures Results.

The document is attached in Annex 6.

Attachments to the minutes:

Annex 1: 60-Years Umbrellas for Graduates Proposal

Annex 2: APEEE Statement on Grouping in L2 EN/FR

Annex 3: New Marking Scale Four APEEEs Letter

Annex 4: The EEBI Evolution of Pupil Population

Annex 5: APEEE Letter to Director about S1-S3 Timetable Change

Annex 6: Results of written procedures since the last Board meeting (21 May 2019)