

Brussels, 10 September 2019

APEEE Board Meeting Tuesday, 10 September 2019 at 20:00

Teachers' Canteen (Van Houtte building)

Av. du Vert Chasseur 46

B – 1180 Brussels

MINUTES APEEE Board Meeting 10/9/2019

ATTENDEES:

Voting Board Members: Georg BECKER (DE Prim), Monika BEHRENDT (PL Sec), Marek BOBIS (Berkendael SK, member elected by GA), Henning EHRENSTEIN (Berkendael DE, member elected by GA), Arnaud FREMIOT (FR Prim), Brian GRAY (APEEE Treasurer, DK Sec), Marc GUITART (ES Sec), Anne-Marie HAMMER (APEEE VP Administration, CA/CE DK Prim, member elected by GA), Karin HUNDEBOLL (APEEE Vice-President Pedagogy, DK Prim), Roberto MARIGO (IT Prim – also representing by proxy Irene BONVISSUTO, IT Sec), Kathryn MATHE (APEEE President, EN Sec), Sven MATZKE (Elected by GA, DE), Pere MOLES PALLEJA (Member elected by GA, ES – also representing by proxy Eduardo LANZA SAIZ, Mat), Gundars OSTROVSKIS (Berkendael LV, member elected by GA), Balazs PALVOLGYI (HU Prim), Valentina PAPA (EN Prim)

Deputy Board Member (non-voting): Maria Victoria DE YTURRIAGA SALDANHA (ES Sec), Nora KAJTAR (HU Prim), Kremena MILEVA (Mat), Julien REICHSTADT (FR Prim), Orsolya SALLAI (HU Prim), Emese SAVOIA-KELETI (HU Sec, CE HU Sec)

Participants: Guendalina COMINOTTI (APEEE Secretariat), Selena GRAY (APEEE Secretariat), Dietrich ROMETSCH (CE DE Sec), Monika VELIKONJA (deputy CE SWALS Prim, CE SWALS Sec)

1. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda is adopted, two agenda points foreseen will not be covered: point 13) Results of APEEE Services' Survey of MAT – P1 – P2 parents on transport needs on Fridays after school; point 18) Meeting with the EEB1 Director on STEM. Balazs PALVOLGYI (HU Prim) requests to add the concern for S1-S3 timetable under AOB.

2. Approval of draft minutes from meetings on 22/01, 21/03, 21/05 and 24/06

The attendees are given time to read through all draft minutes attached to the agenda which are adopted unanimously by the Board, dependent on the following minor changes:

22/01: Attendance of Anne-Marie HAMMER inserted in Participants list

21/05: Monika VELIKONJA (deputy CE SWALS Prim, CE SWALS Sec) amendment to sentence P3, Point 10 (School practices for grouping L2 and L3 language classes), end of 1st paragraph to read: *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.

24/06: Page 5, Pt 10, to amend the following sentence on voting: *Based on an indicative vote (9 votes in favor 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),*

The President expresses the wish to start the new term with goodwill and respect towards each other and to keep tenure in the room. She will endeavour to have shorter meetings.

Selena Gray, temporarily replacing Esther Proficz at the APEEE Secretariat, is introduced.

Action: Changes to be made to draft minutes. Translate final documents into French. Upload both versions onto website.

Decision points

3. Proposal to raise funds through sale of school sweatshirts in the Autumn 2019

The Board approves (16 votes in favour, 0 against, 1 abstention) to sell 'Old Skool' logo sweatshirts to Primary students and their parents in the Autumn, with permission to purchase samples and to donate the box of 15 unsold sweatshirts (large sizes) remaining in the APEEE office to charity. The APEEE Secretariat will establish online purchase and organise delivery. The idea is to raise extra discretionary funds.

Among other comments, it is noted that it is important not to compete with CDE who sell sweatshirts to Secondary and to keep prices relatively low to make it easier for families to purchase. The APEEE may do a joint sale with the CDE at a future date and split profits.

Action: Order sample sweatshirts. Organise online purchase and coordinate delivery.

4. Proposed Call for Projects for Autumn 2019

The Board approves unanimously (18 votes in favour) the idea to have an Autumn Project Call, this time smaller for budgetary reasons. The first call for 10,000 Euro reduced to 8000 Euro (all of which does not HAVE to be allocated. 2000 Euro per project lowered to 1500 Euro per project).

The Financial Adviser explains the rationale/guiding principles of the new call. This call is seen as a complement to the Spring 2019 call and projects are intended to be carried out over the latter part of the same period. APEEE will continue to give priority to projects that meet the objectives of the previous Call but is also actively seeking projects to meet objectives under-represented in the earlier call (Doc 4 attached to agenda lists the 10 Objectives)

Following a request for figures from the Spring 2019 Call, it is clarified that over 30 projects totalling 40,000 Euro were requested, and 11 projects totally 9,500 Euro were approved using the criteria laid out in the Call.

The APEEE aims to have 2 Project Calls per year, depending on the financial situation. APEEE already committed to an Autumn Call in the Spring. APEEE has used non-structural funds up to this point, but for next year will likely have to introduce a budget line for Projects. This must be approved by December GA.

Action:

APEEE to maximise outreach by better promoting the Calls.

APEEE to better showcase achievements in terms of use of APEEE logo, articles and photos in newsletter and website.

Successful projects to be included in announcement of new call.

5. Proposal to appoint Gundars Ostrovskis as new member of APEEE Bureau

Following the resignation of Zoltan Krasznai, the President proposes to elect Gundars Ostrovskis as new Bureau Member, citing his extensive involvement despite his short tenure.

Gundars Ostrovskis introduces himself to the Board (Berkendael Board member with 2 children attending Berkendael), duties as APEEE financial adviser, assisting with project proposals, Economist with business and financial background, working at DG Financial Services).

The Board votes in favour (16 votes in favour, 0 against, 1 abstention) of appointing Gundars Ostrovskis as new member of the APEEE Bureau.

Orientation discussion

6. Preparation of the next School Advisory Council, 17 September

Board briefly discusses topics proposed for SAC Agenda; main discussion rests on empty hours/etudes/ lack of rooms. Board agrees to hear the administration's proposals to propose Free Times & Free Spaces WG.

The management has not consulted parents in a proper and timely manner when rolling out major changes to the system and has repeatedly failed to reply to APEEE's formal letters.

It is raised that it is important to be taken seriously.

It is suggested that the APEEE request regular meetings with Mr. Goggins to formalise communication and motivate response to APEEE's positions. Another Member adds that communications from management should be more factual, discussions must be backed more often with objective facts.

Overcrowding is also raised as an urgent and pressing issue.
(Parent Agenda points for SAC in Annex.)

Information points

7. Rentrée debrief

The APEEE organized a welcome table during the Information Session for new parents (the day before the start of term) as well as an early morning information table on the first day of school. Class visits were also organized for most MAT and P1 classes for Q&A. Only 5 volunteers participated.

The President makes a point to ask all members to have more empathy for new families and asks for more support during welcome sessions at the start of the School Year. It is emphasized that parents don't need to be Board members to help out and give support. There will be more class meeting visits scheduled for the end of September, a Doodle will be sent around to request volunteers.

It is underlined that the transition into our school is particularly difficult for exchange students as there is lack of guidance and welcome. There should be a better welcome, orientation and communication with more focus on the student.

It is noted that the APEEE welcome letter had some very positive feedback.

Action: Doodle requesting volunteers for class meeting visits for Q&A September.
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8. Secretariat update: continued sick leave of Esther Proficz and hiring of temporary replacement

Esther Proficz has officially extended her sick leave until 18 October. Selena Gray has been hired as temporary staff for 30 hours a week with possibility to extend until December depending on the situation.

It is noted that the Data Protection Officer (DPO) contract will be signed soon, comments have been submitted by the Data Protection Task Force.

Action: DPO contract to be signed

9. Presentation of tentative calendar of APEEE meetings in the 2019-2020 school year

The Calendar is presented and members encouraged to look over it and to plan ahead.

It is noted to avoid Parliamentary week.

Xmas party is tentatively planned for 17 December, short meeting followed by party.

(Calendar in annex)

10. Publication of updated APEEE Statutes in the Moniteur Belge: next steps

The New Statutes will enter into force as from the date of the General Assembly. All elections leading up to the GA will follow the new Statute.

In the meantime the Vice-President for Berkendael can already be elected.

11. Announcement of posts to be filled: INTERPARENTS representative, Community Building coordinator

The INTERPARENTS Representative can be from either Uccle or Berkendael; neither the INTERPARENTS representative nor the CBWG coordinator has to be a voting Board Member but should ideally be an attending Board member. Board members are also invited to consider these positions. It is noted that the INTERPARENTS Representative role involves a lot of work with meetings in and out of Brussels, including trips to European schools, resulting in 2-3 weeks per year off work.

12. School Response to APEEE communications: S1-S3 Timetable Change letter; L2 Language Grouping statement; New Marking System four APEEEs letter; Mobile Phones; Addiction Prevention Guidelines

The President reads out Mr Goggins informal reply on the subject of the above APEEE communications. On mobile phones, a meeting will take place to re-explain the APEEE's position and seek a less radical response from the school. The Addiction Prevention WG is already active and parents are involved.

Action: Presidency will continue to urge the school to write formal responses to APEEE letters, statements and positions.

13. Results of APEEE Services' survey of MAT-P1-P2 parents on their children's transport needs on Fridays after school.

Agenda point not covered.

14. Results of S8 Survey campaign

Balazs PALVOLGYI (HU Prim), presented the Results of the S8 Survey campaign. For the 2019 graduating class only 108 of a potential 270 signed up to be involved. The campaign to reach last year's students had similarly low response, requiring a need for a more structural solution.

A consent declaration will be introduced, so that students can allow the school to contact them for the purpose of the survey after they graduate. APEEE DP Task Force coordinator to check about the age of consent. If students when their parents have given consent, they have to be asked for their consent again.

15. Berkendael Update

The growing population (550 increased to 750 students) and lack of classrooms is presented, as well as the double booking of rooms for OIB Garderie on Friday afternoons and lack of rooms for extracurricular activities. Also, the problem of recruited teachers not showing up at the start of term. The polemic around badges to pick up kids in MAT/P1 (15 EUR each) and the problem of toilets not functioning (Dixie toilets for kids!) is also highlighted.

16. OSGES Communications: New Marking Scale being introduced in the BAC cycle, reply from DSG to the EEB APEEEs; New European School Language Policy; New secondary (S1-S5) Maths and Science syllabuses implemented; Data protection and Office 365 (docs.16.1.a., 16.1.b., 16.2. and 16.4. attached)

Issues touched on briefly are marking scale and equivalence tables; the primary importance of mother tongue to be taken into account in Language Policy; the Secondary Maths Syllabus now being phased in in S1 and S4; lack of clarity if calculator is no longer required for S4 students; DP and Office 365.

Action: Summary of meeting held with OSGES will be written up by Kathryn Mathe.

Other

1) **Written reports from meetings attended by APEEE representatives since the last Board meeting on 24 June**

2) **Mtg with the EEB1 director on STEM (1 July)**

Not covered.

3) **CEA (July, August) (doc 19. Attached)**

4) **Results of written procedures since the last Board meeting on 24 June. (doc 20. attached)**

AOB

List of Annexes

Meeting closes at 22:56