

Brussels, 17 December 2019

Tuesday, 17 December 2019 at 18:00

In the Teachers' Canteen (Van Houtte building)
Av. du Vert Chasseur 46
B – 1180 Brussels

MINUTES APEEE Board Meeting 17/12/2019

ATTENDEES:

Voting Board Members: Noemie BEIGBEDER (Berkendael), Marek BOBIS (Berkendael), Henning EHRENSTEIN (Berkendael), Brian GRAY (APEEE Treasurer, DK Sec), Marc GUITART (ES Sec), Patryk MALESA (PL Prim), Christina KARAKOSTA (Berkendael), Alejandro MARTINEZ TUREGANO (ES Prim), Pere MOLES PALLEJA (member elected by GA), Valentina PAPA (EN Prim), Emese SAVOIA-KELETI (HU Sec), Diana SENCZYSZYN (PL sec), Thomas SPOORMANS (FR Sec) Ivan TORRE (IT Sec), Istvan VANYOLOS (HU Prim)

Represented by Proxy: Georg BECKER (DE Prim, proxy Tibor SCHARF), Nils BEHRNDT (DE Sec, proxy Tibor SCHARF), Kathryn MATHE (APEEE President, EN Sec, proxy Pere MOLES PALLEJA), Gundars OSTROVSKIS (Berkendael, proxy Henning EHRENSTEIN), Monika VELIKONJA (CA SWALS, proxy Neva ALES VERDIR), Julien REICHSTADT (FR Prim, proxy)

Deputy Board Members (non-voting): Neva ALES VERDIR (EN Sec), Nathalie KALOGERAS (FR Sec), Rafael PAPI BORDERIA (ES Sec), Tibor SCHARF (DE Sec), Krisztina SZABO (HU Prim)

Other Participants: Samantha CHAITKIN (CE IT Prim), Andrew LYSTER (CE EN Prim)

APEEE Secretariat: Selena GRAY, Guendalina COMINOTTI

1. Adoption of the agenda

The President is unable to attend due to cancelled train from the UK. Pere MOLES PALLEJA and Brian GRAY co-chair the meeting. 2 items are added to the agenda points under AOB: announcement of new appointment in the Drug Prevention Working Group and Drug Policy Task Force and Fete update from Alejandro MARTINEZ TUREGANO. The agenda is adopted.

2. Approval of draft minutes of the Board meeting on 17 October and 21 November; action points reviewed

There is consensus to approve both minutes (Documents 2.1 and 2.2 circulated with the agenda), however it is noted that agenda documents were received too late (same day as meeting) by Board Members, leaving them too little time to study them and prepare, especially when approval of such

documents is required. Pere MOLES PALLEJA explains that the minutes were delayed as extensively proof-read and sections of the voice recordings needed to be listened to, but that this also means members can be sure they accurately reflect the meetings. The criticism is not of the current minutes, with recognition for the hard work involved, but a request for adequate consultation time before approval of documents, especially documents for discussion and decision. There is general support to have a cut-off date at least 4-5 days before the Board meetings, whereby documents which have been received in time can be discussed and documents which come late delayed for the next meeting. Brian GRAY underlines that it is always an ambition to circulate them earlier but that extensive work goes into these documents and it is not always possible. However, he agrees this would be ideal and suggests that many of the information documents could go up on the website instead (in an information section).

Points for decision

3. Projects proposed for funding by the Awards Panel

For the benefit of the newly appointed Board members, the Chairs briefly summarise the situation for financing projects. The Treasurer explains that as the Association underspent last year, there is a larger budget for projects this year. With a power point presentation, he outlines the Calls, Procedures and how the Awards Panel is set up to be transparent, comprising of parents, student and representatives of the School. This Awards Panel was composed of Kathryn MATHE (Pedagogical WG), Krisztina SZABO (Wellbeing WG), Andre DE WOOT (Security & Hygiene WG), Samantha CHAITKIN (Community Building WG), Brian GOGGINS (Director EEB1), Marla CANDON (Teaching Staff) and a student from the CdE. The projects were examined extensively by this panel and now need to be ratified by the Board.

With Document 3 - Excel presentation of Projects Proposed for Funding Autumn 2019, with Opinion (circulated to the Board prior to the meeting), he takes the Board through the criteria by which the projects were assessed and a brief summary on the proposals received (20 projects put forward for a total of 18,000 Euro. 2 projects had a negative opinion, 11 with a mixed opinion, 2 projects with a neutral and 5 with a positive opinion). The Awards Panel proposal is to fully, or partially, fund 8 projects for a total of 4850 Euro. There is consensus from the Board and the list of 8 projects selected for financing is approved. Guendalina COMINOTTI reads out the titles of the projects selected and their respective allocated funding. The amounts are modest but serve as seed money for good initiatives.

4. Election of President and Bureau

The APEEE Board presidential mandate comes up every two years; the bureau is elected at the time of the new Board and the new presidency.

Pere MOLES PALLEJA notes that the President Kathryn MATHE circulated the proposal for the new bureau (2 year mandate) before the meeting (Document 4.1), in line with the new statutes.

For procedure the Chairs present the 8 candidates proposed for the new bureau, composed of 8 positions. There is a power point presentation (Document 4.2 circulated with agenda) on each of the candidates.

President: Kathryn MATHE (second mandate). President Kathryn MATHE is keen to be up for re-election if the Board would agree, after being President for 2 years and has a very comprehensive experience, commitment to pedagogical issues and to the well-being of the students;

Vice President Administration: Nils BEHRNDT is an experienced Officer at the Commission and is a great profile for dealing with administrative related issues. Unfortunately, he could not be present as on mission;

Vice President Berkendael: Henning EHRENSTEIN is very experienced, involved in Berkendael issues for some years, also has the trust of the Berkendael parents;

Treasurer: Brian GRAY is also a very experienced official from the Commission who can provide a very professional approach on the accounts;

Vice President Pedagogy: Marc GUITART has shown huge commitment on pedagogical issues and has a professional background as child psychologist, so has a particular concern about the well-being of the children;

Member: Pere MOLES PALLEJA has been asked to continue as member in his capacity of adviser, President for 4 years previously and now President of Interparents;

Secretary: Valentina PAPA has always been very constructive and involved; Valentina Papa added that it is her first time as candidate for the bureau, she has been involved for many years as the EN Section Representative and would like to give her expertise, she has been working for the European Parliament for many years. Her ambition is to try to have more efficiency in the meetings than we already have. Brian Gray adds that as an ASBL, established under Belgian Law, there are rules and regulations to follow (publish accounts, statutes, appointments to Board..) There is a lot of work involved and he thanks her for her offer of support;

Communications: Julien REICHSTADT. Pere MOLES PALLEJA informs the Board that he was impressed by his competence and believes it a very good election. He would like to help with communication, which is very much needed and a weak point in the APEEE (adding that this is not because of Guendalina COMINOTTI, who has done an excellent job in a tough situation with the Secretariat). He is not present as he had to be in Strasbourg;

The Chairs open the floor to questions, especially from new members, about the candidates and bureau.

There is consensus to run the vote and the new bureau is elected (13 votes for, 1 abstention and 0 against), despite a discussion ensuing after a new member informs the Board that he feels uncomfortable being asked to vote for the approval of a new bureau of which several candidates are not present, and when the list was communicated too late to consult class representatives. Members who have been longer in the Board explain that these are candidates who have been active in the past and that it is not easy to find candidates willing to take up these posts, and that there is a need to elect a new bureau so that work can continue. There is consensus to continue with the vote instead of postponing to January.

Brian GRAY thanks the members for their confidence in the new Bureau.

Points for Discussion

5. Secondary CE, 3 December

Pere MOLES PALLEJA asks if any of the member present attended the Secondary CE. None attended and in the absence of the President who had prepared the discussion, he refers to Document 5 (Flash Report on CE meeting of 3/12/2019 circulated with the agenda). He selects a few of the major issues that the Board has been discussing: Governance (the promise to put in place a WG to devise rules of procedure for the CE in December 2018, but this WG has not managed to meet. The first meeting scheduled in March was cancelled. Some complaints about this issue and a symptom that something is not right), School Trips/Projects 2019-2020 (All In All Out Policy with merits in some places, but which should not jeopardize the pedagogical value of the projects); written procedure for Exit cards (more flexible approach for upper level students) and work life experience.

He mentions the President of the Commission has expressed that she would be willing to come to school as per the proposal.

Regarding the issue of Exit cards, Thomas SPOORMANS requests clarification as to whether the conclusion of the meeting was clear, whether this flash report could be used as a basis to inform parents. Pere MOLES PALLEJA informed him that these are not official minutes and would need further consultation.

Work experience: the school strongly recommends this for S5 and S6 students, normally at the end of the school year (as per Guidelines). Now, this year, the impression was (and as per website) that it is compulsory for S5 students around Easter. Now it is back to 'strongly recommended' due to legal problems for some nationalities (work forbidden for under 16). Discussion is ongoing.

Discussions ensued on the issue of Governance where it has been felt in the past months that relations with the school have been different and what could be done to improve this. A member asked if the Board has any leverage? Any ideas to improve the situation? If there is a possibility to contribute to meetings and not just listen?

Action: Pere MOLES PALLEJA to consult for Exit Cards - check official conclusion - send Information Note.

6. **European Schools of Brussels: State of Play.**

The President has requested that discussion be postponed until January when she can present it.

Action: Include Point 6) European Schools of Brussels: State of Play in January Agenda for the Board, documents 6.1, 6.2, 6.3 were circulated.
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Points for information

7. **General Assembly Report**

Pere MOLES PALLEJA asks the Members present if they have any questions, as some members were invited to this meeting. Naomi BEIGBEDER asks if the Minutes of the General Assembly need to be sent for review by School Management prior to being circulated. This question will be addressed to the President and the Board will be informed.

Action: Reply to Board if Minutes of the General Assembly will also be reviewed by school management.

8. **INTERPARENTS BoG Update**

As there is no formal report finalised yet, Pere MOLES PALLEJA, in his capacity of President of INTERPARENTS, reports on this with key points. It was a calm Board of Governance with decisions taken quickly.

There is a concern about the way the school system plans to organise the secondment of teachers, the cost-sharing agreement which requires unanimous agreement (as it involves financial contributions from member states); these types of agreements have been based on the number of national students of each member state. The number of children is proportionate with seconded teachers. The past model had a flaw – the number of teachers seconded every year is insufficient, with a resulting bigger gap every year. This means that the gap needs to be filled by locally hired teachers, which the Commission is not happy about. The new agreement means coefficients are increased and therefore the number of seconded teachers is increased.

Also, the difficult situation concerning overcrowding with parents expressing big concerns. The Spanish Presidency suggested that the Board of Governors write a letter to the Belgian Government

to explain the situation in Brussels, and it was put in the Minutes that if this was not solved next year, in the future it would no longer be guaranteed that Category 1 students would be accepted. The fact that it was included in the Minutes means that it might happen. Even Belgium voted in favour.

Finally, the implementation of the New Marking Scheme and the fact that not many Member States have approved the new Conversion Tables, with the exception of Germany and Malta. He notes that he should have a legal discussion with Tibor SCHARF because he mentioned that the BoG should endorse the letters that the Secretary General has sent to Member States explaining how the new conversion tables should be applied. Nobody objected so can be seen as accepted. We should push the Commission to take actions for not complying, as per Article 5 of the Convention. (Member States should not discriminate students coming from the European Schools compared to Nationals) and possibility that the BoG could issue guidelines. The fact that Germany is disregarding these guidelines could be considered against the Convention and allow the Commission to take action if necessary. Best solution is Germany would accept. Tibor reported following meetings that he understands that at this stage the Commission is not willing to take action at this stage, although they should take responsibility. Commission should be defending our interest in the BoG which they are not doing.

9. **Berkendael Update.**

Noemie BEIGBEDER reports on the situation at Berkendael, with 2 updates after meeting 9 December with Mr GOGGINS and Mr MARCHEGGIANO.

Berkendael P5 parents were worried about enrolment to S1 and not getting their 1st choice for secondary due to overcrowding; the majority would like to come to Uccle and to a large but lesser extent to Ixelles. For them it is a clear unfair treatment of P5 Berkendael students, against people coming from outside of the European School who might have greater priority than Berkendael students. This was openly discussed, and the normal process will now be to first allocate spaces to Berkendael students.

The pressure next year whereby Berkendael already has 730 students and although the buildings/'s total capacity is 1000, nearly all classrooms are already taken up. The challenge remains for next for increasing number of classes and/or children.

Finally, there will be a change of Deputy Director next September when Mr. LONGO leaves. The successor will be elected between Member States.

10. **Secretariat**

The Board are briefed in line with Document 10 (circulated with the Agenda) and there is consensus to re-constitute the Secretariat with permanent staff Guendalina COMINOTTI and Selena GRAY (without the need to run a selection procedure).

Action: Sign contracts Secretariat and define roles and tasks

11. **Funded Projects debriefing reports; MUNUccle and Eurosport presentations**

Documents 11.2 and 11.3 present Project Report Eurosport Varese 2019 (circulated with the Agenda). The debrief will be postponed until January meeting for Kathy MATHE to present.

Thomas SPOORMANS debriefs on MUNUccle: 6/7 different conferences mostly in French, 1 English and 1 Dutch. Organised in La Borchette over a weekend. Students from other schools were hosted by families. All had a role and defined positions and the next experience will be in Madrid in March (Model EU Madrid). Tibor SCHARF added that Model UN has been running a number of year, is highly educational and has to be supported.

A longer and more formal presentation was given by 2 students from MUNUccle, together with Organizer Dimitri NICOLAIDIS, at the end of the meeting.

Written Points for Information

Written reports from meetings attended by APEEE representatives (documents 12.1, 12.2, 12.3 and 12.4) were circulated with the agenda. These were reports from the Security & Hygiene Committee Meeting, Joint Teaching Committee Meeting, APEEE Services extraordinary GA and Fete Committee respectively.

AOB

1 Luis ESCOBAR has been in the Admin Board in the past and is an experienced lawyer. He has agreed to volunteer for the Drug Prevention Working Group and Drug Policy Task Force.

2. Alejandro MARTINEZ TUREGANO gives an update on the Fete planning following a second meeting. The date will most probably be Saturday 9 May (Schuman Day) due to lack of alternatives. There will be the usual food stands (canteen) and sports competitions. School wants it smaller and not all day (11am-4pm?) He is advised to plan early for the football tournaments as per experience 2 years ago, by February this should already be on track. Next meeting 16 January.

List of Annexes

Annex 1: List of 8 projects selected from the Autumn Call 2019
Annex 2: Document 4.1 EEB1 APEEE – Bureau Elections