



**Thursday, 19 March 2020 at 20:00**

as an online Video Conference for voting Board Members

## MINUTES

### **ATTENDEES:**

**Voting Board Members:** Georg BECKER (DE Prim), Nils BEHRNDT (APEEE VP Administration, DE Sec), Noemie BEIGBEDER (Berkendael), Marek BOBIS (Berkendael), Sara DAGOSTINI (IT Prim), Henning EHRENSTEIN (APEEE VP Berkendael), Brian GRAY (APEEE Treasurer, member elected by GA), Marc GUITART (APEEE VP Pedagogy, ES Sec), Anne-Marie HAMMER (member elected by GA), Christina KARAKOSTA (Berkendael), Kathryn MATHE (APEEE President, EN Sec), Pere MOLES PALLEJA (member elected by GA), Valentina PAPA (APEEE Secretary, EN Prim), Julien REICHSTADT (APEEE Dep Sec Information, FR Prim), Emese SAVOIA-KELETI (HU Sec), Thomas SPOORMANS (FR Sec), Ivan TORRE (IT Sec), Monika VELIKONJA ( SWALS)

**Deputy Board Members (non-voting):** Bartosz HACKBART (Berkendael), Samantha CHAITKIN (CE IT Prim)

**APEEE Secretariat:** Selena GRAY

***Board members can find all supporting documents in the shared folder in One Drive (2020-02-18 APEEE Board Meeting/Supporting Documents)***

#### **1. Technical check**

Invited voting Board members successfully join the online Video conference.

#### **2. Adoption of the agenda**

2 items are added to the Agenda under AOB: Supporting Families through eLearning Device Funding and MUNUccle 2020 (appeal for meeting rooms). The Agenda is approved.

#### **3. Approval of draft minutes of the Board meeting on 18 February; action points reviewed**

It is decided to circulate and approve the draft minutes by written procedure, proposed changes to be sent by Monday, 23 March. Action points are reviewed, many of which have become secondary during the current crisis: there is no update on discipline issues; website for the moment has been put to the side, Julien Reichstadt to follow up on working group descriptions; class trip list never received; establishment of the 5<sup>th</sup> school is on the agenda; digital document will be uploaded on One Drive (as well as getting approval to upload guidelines coming from the Central Office). Checking on training for emergency situations is pending. It is noted that the Safety & Hygiene meeting at Berkendael of 4<sup>th</sup> March is cancelled due to the outbreak.

#### **Action:**

Julien Reichstadt to follow up on working group descriptions

VP to get approval from Central Office to upload documents on One Drive

## Points for decision

### 4. Proposed delegates for school working groups: Mobile Phone Policy, Homework Policy, Communication Policy, Vending Machines, Child Protection

The Board unanimously approves (13 votes present at the time of vote) the new list of delegates (*Document in annex: Pt. 4 - APEEE Delegates to Committees and Working Groups\_2020\_PROPOSED*) to the 5 new school Working Groups with one modification, the inclusion of Monika Velikonja instead of Dorota Witoldson for the Homework Policy WG. The final approval of the Legal WG coordinator is also still needed to include Pere Moles Palleja as the legal delegate to the Child Protection Policy Group. A delegate is still being sought for the Green School WG, which was started already last year. Neva Alves Verdir has stepped down from Interparents until the end of the year for personal reasons, so short one delegate but not actively looking for a replacement yet.

Action:

Nils Behrndt to get Tibor Scharf's approval for Pere Moles Palleja to join the Child Protection WG  
Send list of approved delegates to school management

## Points for discussion and decision (10 minutes)

### 5. Proposal for Spring Funding Call

It is decided to vote by written procedure the following week after including some proposed changes to the draft proposal circulated to the Board--namely amendments to point 4 (Digital technologies), point 7 (solidarity, especially in light of current crisis) and a disclaimer, in the case where there is a lack of high level applications received. The President clarifies that the deadline in May is necessary in order to have a month for decisions to be taken, before the end of the school year. The approved projects have a year to spend the funds after the project starts. It is noted that although 10,000 Euro can be earmarked for the Call, it will exhaust most of the money made from previous fetes. There is a discussion on big projects (above 2000 Euro) and how to manage them, as well as what to envisage if no fete can be held this year. It is felt that APEEE might not be able to agree to subsidising large-scale projects this year (such as indoor/outdoor spaces, the football pitch is an example of a large-scale project that APEEE contributed to previously). The President runs through the Objectives. Points 7 and 11 have been amended to aim also at teachers. The need to promote intersectionality is also noted (point. 11) and to drop the wording *primary and secondary* in the same points. The Secretariat also highlights that the invoicing and payments can be better managed from the outset.

Action :

Amendments to be sent for final Call, vote by Written Proposal  
Short funding guidelines for awarded projects (clear submission of clearly labelled invoices, payments to keep to what was agreed upon, etc) to be drawn up by Gundars Ostrovskis, Brian Gray and Selena Gray by mid May

## Points for discussion

### 6. COVID-19 Outbreak (4 supporting documents for Pt.6 in annex)

- o Update on measures taken by the APEEE/APEEE Services and School in early March
- o Quarantine/Closure:
  - Consequence for trips, competitions/events, work experience and School Fete
  - Consequence for Bacc, S4 and end of year exams
  - Remote learning programme in primary and secondary - state of the art, best practice, problems identified and APEEE/INTERPARENTS support

- Support for families at home

Representatives of the Italian section remark on the stigmatisation of the Italian students during the outbreak and that they have received generic comments from the school only in reply to their complaints. These incidents will be further addressed by the Italian section.

With regards to the coronavirus outbreak and response of the school and APEEE in the first and second phases, there was obviously a range of experience and opinions on the handling of the initial weeks back from Carnival Break and also on the introduction of the remote learning programme. For the latter, it was good to get a taster before more comprehensive feedback will be received the following week. The feeling is that people see real efforts being made by the teachers to adapt their teaching to the new environment, but there are also some kinks that could be ironed out.

The Board agrees to still have Board Section Reps collect qualitative feedback from class representatives on the Remote Learning Programme, to complement that being collected through the online surveys of the school. This will provide a good overview to the APEEE about the coverage of the new programme across sections and cycles, also to report back to parents and INTERPARENTS on findings in order to have a sense of the bigger picture, including best practices and any problem areas. The deadline for feedback to be collected by section representatives, to send to the APEEE Remote Learning Feedback Group is extended to Wednesday, 25 March.

The Board members agree that the S7 class representatives should communicate with each other separately about their overall experience with remote learning, as the repercussions are more immediate for their pupils; they are encouraged to write a letter or take a meeting with the administration if this is deemed necessary, to ensure quality control and requirements. Pere Moles Palleja gives a short report on developments related to the Baccaureate Exam itself: the Central Office is currently working on contingency measures and watching closely developments in the Member States leaving exams and university admissions regimes; INTERPARENTS has made initial contact on this and is following up.

The Board also discusses the cancellation of trips (seemingly no issues yet at EEB1 concerning reimbursements), school events/competitions, and work experience (including validity of work experience contracts already signed), which Marc Guitart (VP Pedagogy) will look into in more detail. The Fete, scheduled to take place on 9 May, will almost surely be cancelled, though this has not yet been confirmed by the School Management.

Finally, the idea of supporting the school community through this difficult period was raised. There is a concrete suggestion by Brian Gray, Treasurer, to investigate purchasing devices to support eLearning for those families in financial need, and particularly those with several kids (Described in more detail under AOB). He will examine the feasibility and cost and report back. Emese Savoia-Keleti also suggests to consider some communal spirit-raising initiatives that could be undertaken from home (e.g. a common art project or organised sing-along) and it is agreed that the Community Building Group could try to come up with some ideas.

**Action:**

Section Reps to gather and send qualitative feedback by Wednesday 25 March

Marc Guitart to get clarification on what will happen during project week, particularly with Work Experience, and also on European School events

Fete Coordinators will get clarification on the fate of the Fete.

## **7. Future of the Brussels School: report from Groupe de Suivi and CEA**

- Proposals and timeline of the Belgian government
- Temporary site at Evere: proposed structure and population
- Future of the Berkendael site/population

Berkendael representatives report on the opening of the temporary primary site in Evere, and the necessity to populate the new campus is discussed (outlined in confidential document DeSuivi\_3March\_Report&DraftMinutes - not for circulation until approved). The timing will be tight in order to keep to the commitment of opening a temporary site by September 2021, now even more so with the current crisis. There is a concern that focus on a temporary site will also result in the solution for a permanent site being put on hold. It is difficult to determine how the site (capacity 1500 for primary and maternelle students) will be filled in order to relieve the current overcrowding (especially in Secondary) but also to protect families currently in the system. It is quite possible that certain primary sections/classes in Uccle and Berkendael will be considered for forced transfer as early as September 2021, and the APEEE determines to take a strong stance against this. Although there is concern that a fixed stance would leave us out of the conversation all together.

Berkendael parents have already thought extensively about this issue and presented their common position to the Board (outlined in confidential document Draft Position of the APEEE EEB I BERKENDAEL WG on Evere School Site V1 - not for circulation until approved). Discussion within the Board ensued including the argument to avoid students being transferred more than once and a reminder of the guiding principle of the sibling rule. Also the idea of only accepting enrolments at Evere up to P3 to give some kind of stability to families. It is agreed to write up a series of "red lines" (for guidance) - i.e. things that the Board definitely do not support (to rule out the most negative scenarios, for example the transfer of sections), by the following week's Groupe de Suivi meeting (25 March), however, APEEE will probably not be in a position to actively support a particular proposal but rather be actively involved in the methodology and principles to apply.

Action:

Nils Behrndt (and Bureau) to draw up document with series of 'red lines' and circulate to the Board before the Groupe de Suivi meeting 25<sup>th</sup> March  
Henning Ehrenstein to upload Berkendael position paper on One Drive

## Oral Points for Information

### 2) Berkendael Update

Discussions during the Enrolment Board were very sobering for Berkendael as representatives tried to ensure that P5 parents would get the S1 site of their choice. That would have necessitated the opening of a new French S1 class at Uccle, which was rejected. Instead it will be opened in Laeken.

It is reported that it was a surprising meeting where with 14 new classes created, Uccle expected to get around 4 but instead got 1, even if up to this moment it had been considered the 3<sup>rd</sup> most crowded school. So seemingly there are no real capacity figures to work with. What emerges is that there seems to be a strategy to fill Evere that APEEE is not yet aware of. As a result lack of clarity around the actual capacity of the schools and an unclear decision making process the parent delegates from the four schools ended up rejecting the proposed creation of classes.

### 3) Secretariat Update

Selena Gray will be available virtually during the usual office hours. APEEE Communications Officer, Guendalina Cominotti, is currently on sick leave until 15 April. Julien Reichstadt, Deputy Secretary of Communications, will move forward on some of the smaller content and structure issues for the website in the meantime.

## AOB

A word of caution is raised about the sale of hoodies, both the timing of sale and cost of the hoodies (planned at 30 Euro) may be an issue in the current crisis. It is suggested that the students come up with an updated business model and that APEEE extend deadline of loan.

Action:

Treasurer to talk to CdE

## Supporting Families through eLearning Device Funding

The Board agrees with the proposal put forward by Brian Gray, APEEE Treasurer, to support parents who are not in a position to provide all their children with the necessary PCs during this difficult period, to help them to participate fully in remote learning. The proposal is to support low-income families by providing basic laptops, to be delivered by the supplier to their address. Either to be purchased through instalments or to be provided on extended loan.

Questions raised are whether there are any volunteer groups in European Commission to approach, and Financial Aid in Institutions?

A written procedure will be run with the final programme clearly worked out.

Action:

Bureau, led by Treasurer, to come up with concrete proposal and run for Written Proposal

## MUNUccle 2020 Appeal for meeting rooms

The meeting ended with a plea on behalf of the MUNUccle Coordinators to help secure a venue in the EU Institutions for the next MUNUccle event (October 2020), preferably the Albert Borschette building in the European Commission, where they held their successful MUNUccle 2019 event. The Borschette is ideal as they require a large conference room 300 people and at least 10 smaller rooms for the different commissions (between 25 and 40 delegates in each). APEEE appeals to the Board members and asks that they contact the APEEE Secretariat if they have any links to any parent with good connections for scheduling meeting rooms.

## List of Annexes:

Annex 1: Pt 6a. COVID-19\_APEEE-Letter-to-School-Coronavirus\_EEBIParentConcerns\_2020-02-27

Annex 2: Pt 6a. COVID-19\_INTERPARENTS-letter-on-Coronavirus\_2020-03-01

Annex 3: Pt 6bii. COVID-19-S7-Measures\_v4

Annex 4: Pt 6biii. COVID-19\_PedagogicalContinuityRemoteLearning