

MINUTES of the APEEE Board Meeting Thursday, 25 June 2020

as an online Video Conference for titular Board Members

ATTENDEES:

Voting Board Members: Nils BEHRNDT (VP Administration, DE Sec), Noemie BEIGBEDER (Berkendael), Marek BOBIS (Berkendael), Sara DAGOSTINI (IT Prim), Henning EHRENSTEIN (VP Berkendael), Brian GRAY (Treasurer, member elected by GA), Marc GUITART (VP Pedagogy, ES Sec), Anne-Marie HAMMER (member elected by GA), Karin HUNDEBOLL (DK Sec), Christina KARAKOSTA (Berkendael), Patryk MALESA (PL Prim), Kathryn MATHE (President, EN Sec), Gundars OSTROVSKIS (Berkendael), Pere MOLES PALLEJA (Bureau, member elected by GA), Valentina PAPA (Secretary, EN Prim), Julien REICHSTADT (Dep Sec Information, FR Prim, by proxy to Thomas SPOORMANS), Emese SAVOIA-KELETI (HU Sec), Ivan SORENSEN (DK Prim, by proxy to Anne-Marie HAMMER), Thomas SPOORMANS (FR Sec), Ivan TORRE (IT Sec), Istvan VANYOLOS (HU Prim), Monika VELIKONJA (SWALS).

Deputy Board Members (non-voting): Maria DE YTURRIAGA-SALDANA (ES Sec)

Other Participants: Balazs PALVOLGYI, Andrew LYSTER (CE EN Prim)

APEEE Secretariat: Selena GRAY, Fiona TAYLOR

Board members can find all supporting documents in the shared folder in One Drive (2020-05-28 APEEE Board Meeting)

1) Technical check

Board members, and non-voting members who requested to participate, successfully join the online Video conference.

2) Adoption of the agenda

The agenda is adopted unanimously (19 votes).

3) Approval of draft minutes of the Board meeting on 28 May and conclusions of the extraordinary Board meeting on 16 June; action points reviewed

The draft minutes of the last Board Meeting are approved unanimously (19 votes). In review, all action points had been followed through; it is also noted that a second meeting on second language enrichment is planned for next week, and that intense discussion that was held on the topic of S6 transcripts was synthesised in a letter sent to Mr Goggins, with no reply as yet.

The draft minutes and conclusions of the Extraordinary Board Meeting of 23 June are approved unanimously (19 votes). (*Pt._3.ResultsofExtraordinaryAPEEEBoardMeeting_2020-06-16_Draft*).

Points for discussion and decision

4) APEEE Financial Procedure to Award Funding – final selection of projects for funding starting in September 2020

Pt._4.ProjectsProposedforFunding_Spring2020_withOpinions_FINAL_NOT FOR CIRCULATION.

APEEE Projects Financial Advisor, Gundars OSTROVSKIS, presents the Recommendations put forward by the Awards Panel for the Spring Call 2020, with a power point of the projects submitted. The Board unanimously approves these Recommendations (20 votes). An excel table is circulated detailing the projects proposed for funding and including the opinions submitted by relevant APEEE working groups and financial advisor as well as the final recommendation, with justifications. The same methodology was used as in previous calls. Some rejected proposals can be considered as 'on hold', with applicants encouraged to apply again for the next round. EUROSPORT and OCTOPUS were two such projects that would be approached for further discussion. Despite an earmarked 10,000 Euro (the budget allocated comes to 6200 Euro), it was considered best practice to base the allocation on the real merits of the applications and not just aim to use all funds. This was particularly true as there would be no Fete this year.

Action:

The Secretariat to inform project applicants.

5) Proposal to collect contact information for "S8" Alumni Survey

Pt._5._S8AlumniSurvey_Stateof_Play_2020-06-19

Balazs PALVOLGYI presents the proposal to revive the Alumni Survey. The practice of giving a survey to students in the year after they graduated was established by the previous Deputy Director of Secondary. The survey helps see how well pupils are prepared by the system for tertiary education. The project was eventually taken over as a best practice by the Central Office. Unfortunately, OSGES struggled to make contact with students and the project is currently on hold at that level. In order to revive this project at EEBI, it is necessary to collect contact information from the graduating pupils for circulation of the survey - likely early Spring 2021. There is the possibility to use the survey already produced by the Central Office with modifications, if needed. If EEB1 response is strong, then Central Office can scale the project up again with other European Schools. This work is valuable for current students and the school community, but APEEE, school and CdE must all pitch in to find a solution for collecting contact information and then circulating the survey and storing and analysing data. At Laeken, the school administration has taken this work on.

Emese SAVOIA-KELETI (covering data protection side) and Istvan VANYOLOS volunteer to work with Balazs PALVOLGYI. Other volunteers welcome.

Action:

Balazs PALVOLGYI and President, Kathryn MATHE, to send Laeken letter to the school management as possible model for EEB1, together with information on revival of Alumni Survey. If they agree, Balazs PALVOLGYI will communicate with students through CdE and class parents before the end of this school year.

6) Proposed Rentree Programme and request for volunteers

Doc: Pt._6._ProposedUccleRentreeProgramme_September2020.

The President, Kathryn MATHE, appeals for volunteers for the different APEEE Welcome Activities planned for the Rentree. These are organised in line with the school open day/evening events for

new parents. The Board approves the activities (dependent on restrictions in place by the Belgian government).

Action:

Board members are asked to sign up via doodle form and encourage section and class representatives to volunteer.

Secretariat and Board members on APEEE Services Committee to encourage APEEE Services representatives to join welcome tables (the majority of questions are related to SERVICES).

APEEE Secretariat to prepare visuals for Welcome Committee (APEEE banners and leaflets).

7) Proposal to work with INFORGIX educational technology provider to supply laptops to families

Pt._7._Inforgix_SupplyofDevices

APEEE Treasurer, Brian Gray, presents a proposal from INFORGIX for bulk purchase of computers for interested parents and there is consensus in the Board to continue to move forward on negotiations with INFORGIX. If negotiations are successful, APEEE can promote this firm as a supplier of laptops and additional support services. Though the school does not yet have a formal BYOD policy, it is clear that students will be relying more on online devices, even after the COVID crisis calms down; this is particularly true for the upper secondary maths courses which are currently transitioning from graphics calculators to Geogebra, an online system.

Action:

Treasurer to continue negotiations with INFORGIX.

Points for discussion

8) De-confinement, reopening of campus, and reinstatement of *in situ* teaching: feedback and discussion on June programme; looking ahead to September

Pt._8a._Conseil_d_école_extraordinaire_du_4_juin_2020_-_projet_de_CR_avec_remarques_APEEE

Pt._8b._ExtraordinarySAC-15June-InternalReport-FINAL_NOT-FOR-CIRCULATION

Pt._8c._UcclePrimary_HybridIssues_June2020_NOT-FOR-CIRCULATION

Pt._8d._UccleSecondary_DistanceLearningIssues_June2020

VP of Pedagogy, Marc GUITART, briefs the Board members on the Extraordinary SAC meeting with school management and other stakeholders on 5 June and related developments. Topics treated include: the partial return to school since 2 June; the quality of L2 distance learning in primary; the monitoring of teacher absences; potential scenarios for return to *situ* teaching in September; and general safety and hygiene. The APEEE will continue to insist that a distance learning strategy is put into place for September (following recommendations of the Central Office). Some Board members also support additional teacher training for Remote Learning before September. The Remote Learning TF and Safety & Hygiene WG will join forces to align their work. Kathryn MATHE and Marc GUITART volunteer for the Pedagogical side; Nils BEHRNDT and Henning EHRENSTEIN for Safety & Hygiene. It is also suggested that Orientation should be strengthened for upcoming S6 and S7 students (specifically in relation to the NMS and the BAC) as they have been particularly affected by changes due to COVID.

9) INTERPARENTS JTC & OSGES Task Force report: September scenarios and remote / hybrid learning

Pt._9a._OSGESCovid-19_Presentation_JTC_2020-06-05_NOT-FOR-CIRCULATION_

Pt._9b._Interparents_JTC_interventions_2020-06-05

Pt._9c._DL_HybridScenarios_brainstorming_NOT-FOR-CIRCULATION

Pt._9d._INTERPARENTS_Hybrid_DL_Brainstorming_v4_NOT-FOR-CIRCULATION

As the Board members have discussed many of these issues already, they are encouraged to go through the documents in their own time so members can see INTERPARENTS' position on a range of issues: from scenarios for reopening, possible modalities for hybrid learning, quality assurance and distance learning, the BAC / other student assessment and possible adaptation of the syllabuses under distance learning, to staffing and training.

10) Baccalaureate results: composition of marks and moderation

Pt._10._CommunicationConcerningtheModerationoftheEB_marks

The Treasurer, Brian GRAY, presents the state of play of the Baccalaureate 2020. The proclamation will take place at the school on 3 July, a short ceremony only for students, streamed live online.

There has been consternation following the release of results on 22 June. A downward moderation of up to 1.5% was applied to the final grades, but not equally to all students. The brunt of the moderation (1.5%) was borne by students scoring near the mean, while higher and lower scoring students were moderated less. The moderation was based on a statistical analysis carried out by experts hired by the Central Office and confirmed by experts in the Spanish ministry, taking into account results from all European Schools over the last 5 years. The justification for this was to avoid grade inflation and to protect the reputation of the Bac. However, the moderation affected some students' admission to university. There was a general outcry from parents due to the lack of transparency accompanying the results; students were given no explanation of the moderation (subsequently released). There was also felt to be discrimination against students in the middle of the curve with relation to the broader cohort. And in light of the decision to cancel final examinations, marks were felt to be an inadequate reflection of student work during the second semester. When a possible moderation was mentioned in April, INTERPARENTS argued that this moderation should take into account the different schools, sections, subjects and possible gender issues involved but there is no indication this was done. They also argued that in no case should downward moderation be applied. INTERPARENTS has put together a series of guidelines for parents interested in appealing.

The Treasurer concludes that against all odds during this unique year, students worked hard and should be supported in formulating their appeal against a moderation of their final grade that was not transparent in its process nor fair in its application.

Action:

The Bureau will liaise between S7 parents and INTERPARENTS on possible appeals.

11) Soliciting feedback for June Primary CE and Agenda Points for end-of-year School Advisory Council (SAC) and Safety & Hygiene Committee-Uccle

The President, Kathryn MATHE, summarises points collected for the agenda of both meetings as follows:

CE: further points welcome, but at this point it is important to be strategic.

The Bureau met and have suggested the following points:

SAC: possible September scenarios; cycle specific distance learning strategy; possible introduction of BYOD policy; continued use of TEAMS; review of the Annual Pedagogical School Plan (APSP); a commitment from the school to start up the several Working Groups again in September .

S&H: COVID procedure - protocol when suspected cases; bubbling and possibility to readjust class grouping to support L2; soap and hygiene measures into next year if in situ teaching; infirmary quarantine measures.

There is a concern, from Board members more worried about the effects of a collective return, on how to handle the logistics given the current infrastructure and pedagogical constraints of the

European Schools; they would support a pilot exercise. Another concern is for lower secondary (S1-S3) students, who may still lack time management skills. It is important that the school trains these students on appropriate tools in TEAMS.

Action:

The VP of Pedagogy and Bureau will raise agenda points discussed at the upcoming meetings.

Oral Points for Information

12) Secretariat Update: GDPR state of play

Fiona TAYLOR introduces herself to the Board. She is hired to move forward on GDPR and to assist with back office administration as well as with the Spring Call 2020. She updates the Board on the state of play of the GDPR and confirms it is moving forward. The Temporary Privacy Policy is now up on the website and the Cookies Policy is the next priority. A Disclaimer and a Charter are being drawn up for class representatives in September.

Action:

APEEE Secretariat to work on Class Representatives Disclaimer and Charter for September

13) Berkendael Update

There will be a new Deputy Director and Assistant Deputy Director. An Educational Council will be held next week, with Mr Longo attending for the last time, hopefully with his replacement.

At Uccle, Marla CANDON will now formally be the new Assistant Deputy Director for primary. Susanne KUENSTER will take on the new position of Assistant Deputy Director for secondary, essentially a transformation of her former position as Head Adviser.

14) Future of the Brussels Schools: state of play

Pt._14._FutureOfBrusselsSchoolEvere_EEBIAPEEEPosition&Comments_FINAL

The President, Kathryn MATHE, reports on the Groupe de Suivi meeting. The Secretary General, Giancarlo MARCHEGGIANO, has now withdrawn the promise that all Berkendael students will be guaranteed a place in Uccle for Secondary. He also announced that he received legal feedback that allows siblings to be split as well as the transfer of classes from one site to another in same school. He confirmed that these options would be a last resort. The Commission suggested that this flexibility might be exploited.

The proposal presented to the Board of Governors no longer holds, and it is unclear if and when the Board of Governors will next treat this issue - possibly at an extraordinary meeting in Autumn. The current approach is to consider only the year ahead, so the proposal only foresees the possibilities to place 400 additional enrolments in Evere or Berkendael, but no longer considers the longer term nor the effects on the existing schools.

Parent delegates asked whether once they attach Berkendael/Uccle and Evere/Woluwe, is it up to the Administration Board to determine how to apportion the population. The Secretary General confirmed that placement of new classes in different sites will be determined by the enrolment board but that the Director and Administration Board can move classes from one site to another.

Action

President, Kathryn MATHE, to check GdS notes with other Brussels APEEE Presidents, to confirm with Mr. MARCHEGGIANO and submit to the Board, to decide if it is worth lobbying.
President, Kathryn MATHE, and VP Administration, Nils BEHRNDT, to call EVERE Task Force once proper notes have been obtained (foreseen for 1 or 2 July).

1) Pedagogical Update: Language enrichment programme evaluation and looking ahead; CE internal rules of procedure; update on S6 marks and S7 events

Pt._15a._EnrichmentEvaluationReport

Pt._15b._L2Classes_9JuneMeeting_ParentFeedback

Pt._15c._S6_Evaluation_and_Career_Orientation_Follow_Up

Monika VELIKONJA reported on the video conference which took place on 9 June to discuss Mr MASSON's Report on the Language Enrichment Programme. Intervention from teachers and students was limited. Mr GOGGINS said little about the potential way forward, but pointed to some lessons learnt. Parents welcomed Mr MASSON's report, which presents clearly the fundamentally different needs of bilingual students compared to foreign language learners. Discussion included the possibility to continue with bilingual classes, the possibility to keep enrichment in S4 and S5, and the importance of more harmonised placement assessments being carried out as early as possible (in June for example)

The President, Kathryn MATHE, added two other issues raised: the current level of L2 teaching in the different languages should be examined across the three vehicular languages to ensure that it meets the standards set out in the syllabus as well as students' needs; developing additional guidance for L2 teachers about the appropriate/best use of class time when the enrichment children are present (and not present) to ensure that the full group and smaller group gain full advantage of the programme.