

MINUTES of the APEEE Board Meeting Thursday, 15 September 2020

as an online Video Conference for titular Board Members

ATTENDEES:

Voting Board Members: Georg BECKER (DE Prim), Nils BEHRNDT (VP Administration, DE Sec), Noemie BEIGBEDER (by proxy to Bartosz HACKBART), 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, by proxy to Brian GRAY), Karin HUNDEBOLL proxy (DK Sec, by proxy to Brian GRAY), Christina KARAKOSTA (Berkendael), Patryk MALESA (PL Prim), Kathryn MATHÉ (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), Emese SAVOIA-KELETI (HU Sec), Thomas SPOORMANS (FR Sec), Ivan TORRE (IT Sec), Istvan VANYOLOS (HU Prim), Monika VELIKONJA (SWALS),

Deputy Board Members (non-voting): Dominique BESSER (FR Secondary), Maria Victoria DE YTURRIAGA SALDANHA (ES Sec), Bartosz HACKBART (Berkendael, FR), Tibor SCHARF (DE Sec), Krisztina SZABO (HU Prim), Alba MARINO ENRIQUEZ (Berkendael, ES), Kremena MILEVA (EN Prim)

Other Participants: Samantha CHAITKIN (CE IT Prim), Andrew LYSTER (CE EN Prim), Veronika ORTIZ (CE FR Sec)

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

- 1. Technical check** – participants join successfully.
- 2. Adoption of the agenda** – proposal to add reimbursement of class trips to AOB and take information points first. The agenda is adopted unanimously.
- 3. Approval of draft minutes of the Board meeting on 25 June 2020** - approved unanimously with consensus to shorten them in the future. All action points had been followed through. It is noted that the S8 Alumni survey is planned for February 2021.

Action: Board members are asked to check in their sections if any University offers were affected by the moderation of Baccalaureate results.

Points for discussion and decision

- 4. Proposed motion to permit virtual elections for APEEE class representatives; back-up plan for implementation.**

The President Kathryn MATHE presents the motion. The Statutes require Class Representatives to be officially elected during class meetings. The vote is passed unanimously (20 votes) to permit virtual elections to take place this year in class meetings which will be organised online. This motion

will be post verified at the General Assembly. The different scenarios to make sure these virtual elections take place during class meetings, or in the case that these are missed, are discussed. It is confirmed that the Secretariat are preparing election packages and an online form for elections and a short film will be prepared by APEEE President and Secretary.

Action: for action as above

5. Proposed APEEE Statement on Drug and Addiction Programme

The Board votes in favour (17 votes for, 0 against, 2 abstentions) of the APEEE Statement on the Drugs Policy Programme, after the Coordinators of the BIEN ETRE Working Group (Sara DAGOSTINI and Kriszta SZABO) present the background for concern and urge to agree on an APEEE Position - that the school should take an active role in agreeing to and developing a drug programme and policy in collaboration with parents, in order to move forward strategically. No Drug and Addiction Programme is being put in place since 2019 and they refer to the Board of Governors *Child Protection Policy* of 2008 to argue that this programme should be implemented in the curriculum and a policy put in place. A local Child Protection Policy should also be put in place.

Action: upload to the website and use as source of Admin Board statement

6. Proposal to mandate the Well-Being Working Group to represent APEEE in a Three-Year Well-Being Plan/Survey initiated by the CdE and aimed at students and teachers

Sara DAGOSTINI, coordinator of the BIEN ETRE Working Group presents the proposal. The Board votes unanimously (19 votes) in favour of approving the Mandate for the BIEN ETRE Working Group to develop the APEEE Position in detail and to work with the CdE and school on this 3-year Plan. This would enable the Working Group to collaborate with the CdE on behalf of APEEE over the longer term and give extra feedback if necessary before the Plan/Survey is submitted to the Admin Board.

Action: Coordinator will be put in touch with CdE representatives for next steps

7. Request to support CdE position on proposed modification to Green Card limitation on exit times

President Kathryn MATHE presents the request for support. The Board votes to support (13 vote for, 0 against, 3 abstentions) the position that the same green card policy for S4-S7 students remain in place, in rules and in practice, as last year. It is noted that one member abstains with an argument for more flexibility as it does not make sense to restrict students from leaving during free periods before 12.30 (especially those who live close to school, particularly in the context of the current pandemic crisis and overcrowding of the school) rather than abstaining from supporting the current proposal. However, this will require further consultation as for now it is important to keep in line with what parents were asked to agree to in autumn 2019. Another abstains as the school had promised that the regime would be applied to S4 only after a positive evaluation of the S5 experience; due to the delayed roll out the evaluation was never undertaken.

8. Urgent request for funding for virtual MUNUccle in October

This urgent request for (co-)funding from MUNUccle, a project previously funded by APEEE, is presented by President Kathryn MATHE who also notes the favourable recommendation of the PedGroup Languages subgroup and of Gundars OSTROVSKIS, Financial Adviser for Projects. Samantha CHAITKIN, Coordinator of the Community Building Working Group, also supports the project, highlighting its previous success. Funded also by the school and participants, this urgent request to contribute 371 EUR towards the costs of hosting a virtual event this year (website host, WEBEX for online conference, carton folders) is approved by the Board unanimously (17 votes).

9. Proposal for APEEE to circulate recommendation for pupils to wear masks in primary L2 classes

President Kathryn MATHE presents a letter sent by primary L2 teachers, asking among other things for students to wear masks in L2 primary classes. After discussion as to the approach of the letter, the Board votes (11 votes for, 0 against, 1 abstention) for APEEE to circulate a letter to all parents in order to raise this issue and to support the request of the teachers. It is decided however, to focus on encouraging parents to have solidarity with the teachers and to create a dialogue, rather than make a recommendation in itself. It is also agreed that while APEEE cannot support this request to other forums, it may agree to communicate messages to parents asking to take more care.

Action: Kathryn MATHE and Nils BEHRNDT to write letter to the Primary parents

10. Proposal to run survey on vulnerable families

The President Kathryn MATHE presents a survey of vulnerable families circulated by EEB3 Board at their school. The Board approves (15 votes For, 0 against, 2 abstentions) the proposal to mandate the BIEN ETRE and Pedagogical Working Groups to draft a survey along the lines of that sent out by EEB3 (but more robust and to include experiences and needs of students at home in quarantine). This will be sent out to parents to see how many there are at Uccle and their expectations. It is noted to pay attention to the definition and assessment of vulnerability and to carefully consider the objectives of the survey before finalising the questions.

Action: as above

11. Proposed letter to the direction about secondary booklists

Thomas SPOORMANS presents the situation around school book lists. The Board approves unanimously (17 votes) to send the letter calling for better coordination and organisation of the School booklists, as mistakes are becoming costly for parents. Volunteers organising used books sales prevented some mistakes in the past when cross checking and parent volunteers are welcome to join, but there is a definite consensus that it comes down to the responsibility of the teachers and the school to indicate the right information and improve communication.

Action: APEEE to send letter

Points for discussion

12. Results of OSGES Task Force and BoG

Bureau member Pere MOLES PALLEJA and President Kathryn MATHE report that the Board of Governors theoretically approved a number of principles and concrete proposals arising out of the OSGES Task Force Reports. Topics related to the pandemic situation, most notably Distance Learning and Teaching, quality assurance for online assessment, inspection and solutions for the different scenarios during the Rentree. However these will require new discussions at the next meeting of the BoG as they require implementing the budget, which depends on the outcome of the Budgetary Committee. There is money saved from last year so they could theoretically start spending. Discussion on EVERE, the 5th European School, was also postponed to BoG Extraordinary Meeting planned for end October. The Central Office are now proposing a solid Distance /Digital Learning Policy, expected for October.

13. Review of COVID measures introduced at rentrée

- **prevention: safety and hygiene measures put in place in and out of class (masks, bubbling/distancing, hand washing, desk wiping)**
- **response: protocols established when cases or potential cases identified; contact tracing**
- **pedagogical continuity: policies in place for affected/vulnerable pupils and staff; educational support; catch-up and differentiation**
- **preparedness for change of alert level and widespread quarantine: distance learning strategy/distance teaching strategy; use of blended learning techniques, equipping and training staff and students.**

Vice-President of Administration, Nils BEHRNDT, takes the Board members through a very comprehensive table of the multitude of different comments collected from parents, based on experiences of the handling of the pandemic during the Rentrée. Further points from Board members are gathered and will be integrated before meeting with Director of Security & Hygiene Mr Adam GUYOT (most crucially on how to generate a culture of prevention) and with Mr Brian GOGGINS (related to response to cases, pedagogical continuity and preparedness for changes in the scenario).

Action: Nils BEHRNDT to complete table before meetings

14. Future of the Brussels Schools: state of play

The state of play since the June *Groupe de Suivi* meeting is still the current one and the President invites Board members to read the uploaded Board documents, which are a series of reports and minutes. She invites them to submit any comments before the next *Groupe de Suivi* meeting scheduled for following Thursday.

15. Update on NMS, equivalence tables and Bacc2021

Bureau member Pere MOLES PALLEJA reports on the problem of equivalence tables in the context of the New Marking Scale, which will already affect Baccalaureate 2021. This is one of 4 documents Interparents is trying to produce for the Joint Teaching Committee meeting planned for October. The Member States have a commitment to update results tables as per the document produced by Central Office, and there is clear discrimination when this is not done (for example, in Germany and Denmark). In preparation for the Joint Teaching Committee meeting in October, Board members from Hungary (Emese SAVOIA-KELETI), Ireland (Andrew LYSTER), Poland (Patryk MALESA) and Slovenia (Monika VELIKONJA) are asked to check if there are any issues with equivalence tables for the NMS, in terms of both updating their formulas and general access to universities. President to issue them with information on how to do this. President to get permission to upload reports for Germany and Denmark.

Action: President to support these representatives on method of collecting this information from member states and reporting + get permission to upload reports already sent by DE and DK reps.

16. July SAC Report and Soliciting Points for 23 September Admin Board and primary and secondary CE meetings

President Kathryn MATHE specifically requests that Safety & Hygiene points are not included in the CE meetings, which are pedagogical. These points should be kept in bilateral meetings or Safety & Hygiene Committee. She collects points for the Admin Board, reviewing those from the SAC meeting held in July and the last Admin Board in February for strategic continuity. The Board agrees to the following: Overcrowding and Capacity (to be reframed as per developments EVERE); Working Methods, Governance and Consultation; NMS and Equivalence tables; L2 Enrichment Programme; Distance Learning Strategy. The last point will include: 180 days and absences, monitoring teachers and quality assurance, vulnerable pupils and pedagogical continuity during quarantine (for which they will also request statistics), all under same umbrella and reframed in the current context of COVID and Distance Learning. Educational Support and Support for Baccalaureate Cycle/Career Orientation (extra support for both S6 + S7 levels) will be taken bilaterally or in CE meeting.

Oral Points for Information

17. European Schools and the European Commission New HR Strategy

Monika VELIKONJA explains that the Commission is gathering feedback for their new HR Strategy. This is an opportunity to flag issues at the European Schools, which can be placed under one of the 6 pillars coming under the vote (titled TALENT) - about attracting staff and protecting their well-being. The issue related to the schools is currently at 11th place in the votes. This will give a chance for the Commission to respond to concerns as part of their new HR approach. Parents need to be encouraged to vote as part of lobbying efforts to improve the European Schools.

Action: Monika VELIKONJA to send a mail to members to circulate amongst sections, and to be key contact person for queries.

18. Report on Rentrée: new figures; welcome programme; EuroNews

The President reports that Berkendael has around 900 students (capacity 1000), Uccle has around 3400 (capacity 3100) with overcrowding mostly felt at Secondary level. The welcome programme was a success and included APEEE welcome letter and tables for new parents. Euronews interviews covered challenges faced this year.

19. Berkendael Update

Vice President Berkendael, Henning EHRENSTEIN, reports that overcrowding is felt on the site: many rooms, namely P3,P4,P5, have to share classes with OIB Garderie, leading to organisational problems. As in previous years, the Rentrée was not very well prepared with classes lacking material, a lack of systemic approach which is exasperated by the increase in population. Maternelle class went into quarantine 2 days into the rentrée. There is a need to put in place a mechanism of distance learning in the event of quarantine for Primary. COVID measures inefficient in practice – parents arriving on site to collect children from OIB Garderie often not wearing masks and gel dispensers are empty by 4pm. These issues will be addressed during a meeting with the Deputy Director this week. The complaints regarding the technical problems when trying to enrol for after-school activities will be addressed during the next meeting with APEEE Services.

20. Secretariat Update: new team; new schedule; GDPR report

President Kathy MATHE reports. Fiona TAYLOR is extended through December therefore 3 members of staff working a total of 70 hours per week. On GDPR: Interim Privacy Policy, Charter for Class / Section Reps and Disclaimer for parents for creation of contact list have all been created; Cookies Policy, disclaimer for surveys, destruction sheet for obsolete information are in development.

21. Communication Update: presentation of new APEEE logo; website developments

The Vice President of Communication, Julien REICHSTADT, reports that work has progressed well, with a newsletter going out in July and work ongoing with new logos and website. The latter both essential to prevent the confusion between APEEE and APEEE Services, to help parents understand that they are separate Associations.

22. Treasurer Update: CdE sweatshirts and eLearning Devices

Treasurer Brian GRAY reports: CdE sweatshirts are on track for repayment of loan; the 3 laptops on loan have been returned and repayments for the 10 laptops bought on instalments (over one year) are on track. INFORGIX has received 28 orders to date - parents should continue being encouraged to purchase in the current climate where it seems students could be asked to bring own eLearning device at any time (a recent example at EEB2). Advantages of INFORGIX is good service and keyboards in all languages.

AOB

Reimbursement of school trips: Kathryn MATHE requests Board members to inform her of any trips within sections that have not been reimbursed. She is trying to put together a more comprehensive list to push through the budget department of the school who have been responsive. So far she has been informed of S4 Latin Trip, 3 S6 trips and P3 Green Trip.

List of Annexes:

- Annex 1 : Pt.4.MotionPermittingVirtualClassRepElections
- Annex 2: Pt.5.APEEEStatementOnDrugAndAddictionProgrammePolicy_September2020
- Annex 3: Pt.11.LetterToDirectionSecondaryBooklists_September2020
- Annex 4: Pt.13.ReviewOfCOVIDMeasuresIntroducedAtRentree_September2020
- Annex 5: Pt.16.SAC_July2020_ParentAgendaPoints
- Annex 6: Pt.16a.AdminBoard_February2020_ParentPoints