

## **CBWG (Community Building Working Group) 2022 Mandate**

The EEB1 APEEE Community Building Working Group was founded in 2015 as an organ of the APEEE that examines and enables initiatives to increase the sense of community, mutual respect and school “ownership” among students, school staff and parents. Beyond the wish to add value and values to the school environment, it was also considered that disinterest and negative views of school, peers and colleagues may be at the root of some risky behaviors exhibited by students (including for example vandalism, harassment, addictions).

The APEEE’s CBWG enables initiatives by all members of the school community to make the school a better place to live, learn and work together, whether by mobilizing APEEE financing, organizing or promoting activities, or raising awareness about values including, but not limited to, solidarity, sustainability, respect, team spirit, belonging.

To this end the CBWG may accept or initiate meetings with members of the extended school community (including but not limited to student representatives and activists; school teachers and other staff members and decision makers; staff members auxiliary to the school such as security and APEEE services; parents; private and public members of the community surrounding the school; vendors or other providers of goods and services linked to CBWG activities).

For 2022, **seven areas** fall under the scope of CBWG activities:

1. Solidarity and charitable actions
2. Green school and sustainability
3. Free time / free spaces (FT/FS) and related school logistics and infrastructure
4. School events and parties (including but not limited to the Fete de l’Ecole)
5. School image campaigns (sweatshirts, NewsFlash, other communication/visibility, etc.)
6. Outreach:
  - Welcome initiatives for new students and their families
  - Teacher appreciation
  - Used Book Sales
  - Student Committee liaison
7. Community-member driven projects involving a community building objective (e.g. Student Values Workshops – with Bien Etre group; Francis Pirotta Creative Arts Prize; Climate Neutral European School; ES School Events – EUROSPORT, MUNUccle, etc.)

### **Method:**

In 2022, the CBWG continues to be an enabling context rather than a coordinating group that meets regularly. It is a loose network of initiatives that invites ideas from members of the APEEE Board and the broader school community: the group provides a space where they can initiate or pitch in and realise activities around the 7 focal areas.

Therefore, and also taking into consideration restrictions due to COVID, most communication takes place via email or whatsapp, though meetings may be organised. Members may represent the CBWG and APEEE in meetings and communications in the relevant area of activity.

The group should report back to the Board at least twice a year and consult when a major campaign, initiative or event is planned. Within the bureau, the CBWG reports to the Secretary and the President.

### **Members:**

- Samantha CHAITKIN – CdE Liaison, Sweatshirts, FT/FS, ES School Events, general
- Simon DERRY – NewsFlash
- Viktor HAUK – CdE Liaison, financial aspects (as APEEE Treasurer)
- Imke LÜBBEKE – Green Group
- Patryk MALESA – Fete
- Roberto MARIGO – Community-member driven projects
- Kathryn MATHE – CdE Liaison, Outreach, FT/FS, general
- Cristina MORTE – Values Workshops (with Bien Etre WG), Book Sales
- Kevin O’CONNOR – Green Group (deputy)
- Piotr RAPACZ – Green Group (lead)
- Dietrich ROMETSCH – Green Group
- Eszter RUMBOLD-MOLNAR – NewsFlash/Communication
- Malene SCHAT-EPPERS – Outreach, FT/FS
- Ivo SCHMIDT – Green Group
- Kriszta SZABO – Fete, FT/FS
- Marialuisa TAMBORRA – Events/Projects/School image
- Honorary members: Fabio PIROTTA, Kristina SMITE – Francis Pirotta Prize

### **Activities 2021:**

For a second year in 2021, the COVID pandemic limited Community Building activities. The challenge is heightened by forgetting traditions and the patterns of the community fabric at our school. Certain activities could be maintained, and new ones will need to be established within and after the COVID reality.

- **Funding Support:** Community Building continued to play a central role in defining and implementing the APEEE's funding mechanism for projects in the school community, alongside the CdE, the school administration, and the Bien-Être and Pedagogical working groups and Safety&Hygiene members. More interesting, high quality projects are proposed in each round.
- **Outreach:**
  - **Welcome:** A limited amount of materials for new families and APEEE representatives were present at the orientation day (Uccle) to help new school families transition more smoothly into life at EEBI.
  - **Teacher Appreciation:** In an attempt to keep up our successful tradition for a third year under COVID conditions, while APEEE was not allowed by the school to organize organised coffee and croissants this year, CBWG organized a group of parents to greet the teachers coming into school with a cheerful gesture of thanks (a shiny pinwheel!) and a teacher appreciation message in all the languages of the

school. This solution received very positive feedback from teachers and the school management.

- **CdE:** A strong relationship has been established over the years with the annual presidents and vice-presidents of the Students' Committee: the patterns of exchange and trust have been fertile ground for concrete collaboration. Examples of this in 2021 included collaboration on the vending machines efforts and in commemoration of the loss of a student, Rosa (to continue in 2022).
- **Book Sales:** The secondary schoolbooks sales/exchanges that different sections have been carrying out for many years were united and updated through a new online system adapted to COVID conditions. Hundreds of families benefited from the possibility to clear out their old books and find bargains on difficult-to-obtain volumes.
- **Free Time & Free Spaces:** Overcrowding at our school makes it especially important to offer better options to students who are not in class, so they can make the most of their time at school and stay out of trouble. At no time was this more important than during COVID when social distancing practices required closure of free-time spaces (cafes, studies, libraries, sports grounds, outdoor hangouts) and reduction of student numbers. Finding solutions with the school has proved a constant challenge in 2021, corresponding also to the assessment carried out by PWC.
- **Green Group:** produced a Green Edition of the APEEE NewsFlash in October 2021 and oversaw the school's participation in the European Institutions' Velomai Challenge.
- **And more...** delivering flowers to the EEBI nursing staff strained by the pandemic; providing refreshments for the examiners during the Cambridge Language Assessment Exams; contributing to the decorations for an ad-hoc pizza party for our 2021 BAC students when all their BAC events were cancelled...

#### **Current/upcoming activities:**

- **Free Time /Free Space (FT/FS):** Working with the Student Committee (CdE) and the management on improving indoor and outdoor campus spaces where students can spend their free time positively; working to create an eco-friendly and healthy environment for pupils.
- **Green School Initiatives:** Funding, promoting and supporting initiatives that have an environmental orientation and teach kids about sustainable living.
- **Francis Pirotta Creative Arts Prize:** Working with the family of Francis Pirotta and the Primary Teaching Team to continue to honour young Francis, who sadly passed away in May 2018, with an annual primary class-project art competition and award that has become a well-loved fixture in the primary cycle.
- **Values Project:** Continuing to work with the APEEE Bien-Etre WG to host talks for teens across the secondary on relevant topics for today's youth, now extending to primary and Berkendael audiences.

- **Outreach:** COVID situation allowing, restore the breadth of welcome activities in the first days of September to better orient new families and greet returning families; teacher appreciation activities; book sales to continue and improve!
- **Primary Sweatshirt Sales:** An online ordering system for primary school sweatshirts is planned for Spring 2022.
- **School Events Publicity:** Collaborating with the APEEE Communication Team to publicise activities undertaken by the school in the APEEE Newsflash.
- **Support for Projects/Initiatives:** Contributing to APEEE Project Funding Calls by vetting proposed projects and serving on the award panel; helping oversee key community building project implementation, coordinating with school projects to rally school spirit and improve the school image among our community and to outsiders.
- **Fete:** Coordinating parent contributions to the Fete (e.g. Food, Sport and other activities) through the Fete Committee when the next event is announced, and possibly, minor festive activities in case no school fete is foreseen.