

Brussels, 29 March 2022

## MINUTES OF APEEE BOARD MEETING 16 December 2021

### ATTENDEES

#### Voting Board Members:

Sylvie BAREL (FR Prim), Noemie BEIGBEDER (FR Sec), Talia BOATI (IT Prim), Marek DVORSKY (Berkendael, SK), Almudena FUERTES FERNANDEZ (ES Prim), Marc GUITART (member elected by GA), Viktor HAUK (HU Sec), Karin HUNDEBØLL (DK Sec), Andreas KEIDEL (Berkendael, DE), Julia MADL (DE Prim), Sara MARTELLI (Berkendael, IT), Kathryn MÁTHÉ (EN Sec), Pere MOLES PALLEJA (member elected by GA), Gundars OSTROVSKIS (Berkendael, LV), Valentina PAPA (EN Prim), Sigfrido RAMIREZ PEREZ (ES Sec), Malene SCHATHOLM (DK Prim), Julia TYMOWSKA (PL Sec), Jan TYMOWSKI (PL Prim), Monika VELIKONJA (SWALS), Alex WILSON (member elected by GA)

#### Board Members Voting by Proxy:

None

#### Deputy Board Members (non-voting):

Ioanna ANAGNOSTOPOULOU (Berkendael, EL), Agnes BOROS (HU Prim), Santiago CALVO RAMOS (ES Prim), Maria DE YTURRIAGA (ES Sec), Bartosz HACKBART (Berkendael, FR), Bertrand JOLAS (FR Sec), Nathalie KALOGERAS (FR Sec), Alba MARINO (Berkendael, ES), Lucia MARTINEZ (FR Sec), Silvia MATRICARDI (IT Prim), Stefan PAGEL (Berkendael, FR), Emese SAVOIA-KELETI (HU Sec)

#### Other Participants:

Samantha CHAITKIN (Deputy CE EN Sec / IT Prim), Covadonga FERNANDEZ (CE ES Prim), Charlotte JAGOT (Berkendael, Deputy CE FR), Andrea KERN (Berkendael, Deputy CE EN), Magdalena KUPCZYK (Deputy CE PL Prim), Dessislava REFFAY (Deputy CE FR Prim), Marialuisa TAMBORRA (Deputy CE FR Sec), Ioana SANDU (Deputy CE FR Sec)

#### APEEE Secretariat:

Guendalina COMINOTTI

Board members can find all supporting documents in the shared folder in One Drive  
(2021-12-16 APEEE Board Meeting/Supporting Documents)



## 1. Adoption of the agenda

Former President Kathryn MÁTHÉ presented the agenda. It was suggested to add a point on “Security Issue on the Buses”. The agenda was approved with the suggested change by consensus.

## 2. Approval of the minutes of 14 October and 18 November and follow-up of action points

Former President Kathryn MÁTHÉ presented the minutes from the previous two Board meetings. The minutes were both approved by consensus and would be published online. Action points were reviewed.

REVIEW OF ACTION POINTS Board Meeting 16 December 2021		
Point on Agenda	Action Point	Status
(Board 19/11/20) Pt.13	<b>Handover of class rep info to services/ Medium term:</b> The Bureau, Legal Working Group and Secretariat working on updating the APEEE Data Sharing Agreement, Representative Charter & Vademecum: Charter and Vademecum updated and circulated for upcoming class representative meetings. The Secretariat and Legal WG still have to revisit the Data sharing agreement. Currently finalising GDPR Streams. <a href="#">No change.</a>	<b>Ongoing</b>
27/5/21 Pt.13	<b>Monika VELIKONJA &amp; Isabel VICENTE CARBAJOSA voted as new delegates to WG on CE Rules of Procedure: status of Berkendael in Brussels Steering Group:</b> Henning EHRENSTEIN to ask if a Berkendael delegate can attend SCB as Observer. <a href="#">Alba MARINO to discuss with Henning EHRENSTEIN. No change.</a>	<b>Ongoing</b>
27/5/21 Pt.14	<b>20 May CE, CE Rules of Procedure and compliance with the General Rules:</b> Kathryn MÁTHÉ to look into four APEEEs meeting on CE. A CE secondary rep event will likely be planned for the end of October, probably on line. <a href="#">Meeting held on 11 November, report in November Board. Mailing list between four CE parents created. Done.</a>	<b>Closed</b>
24/6/21 Pt. 5	<b>Administrative Meetings and Reports: 24 June, EEB1 S&amp;H Committee Meeting:</b> Structure of the S&H Committee to be discussed within the Bureau. APEEE Bureau to discuss and make proposal to Board and discuss with the school before the next S&H Committee (including whether to have 1 or 2 committees for the 2 sites). Julia MADL to follow up and to contact Jonathan GUYOT to find out when the meeting is and discuss with Bureau structure/scope of the meeting. <a href="#">Julia MADL wrote to GUYOT on 20 October expressing concerns; reply received which did not address concerns; Kathryn MÁTHÉ wrote follow up 12 November. No response yet. No S&amp;H has been called this year.</a>	<b>Ongoing</b>
24/6/21 Pt. 6	<b>22 June, Berkendael Meeting:</b> Berkendael to discuss their call for a more balanced approach to gender within Pedagogical WG. Raised in Berkendael CE Meeting in June and school response was that topic was too sensitive. Berkendael WG to discuss with VP Pedagogy and Pedagogical WG. Sara MARTELLI (Berk) to coordinate with Marc GUITART, forward the letter she sent to Berkendael management and to keep us updated on the situation. <a href="#">Sara MARTELLI to forward proposal to new pedagogical leadership.</a>	<b>Ongoing</b>
24/6/21 Pt.9	<b>S7 and Baccalaureate Update:</b> APEEE Pedagogical Group to inform S6 parents in September to print out syllabus and make sure their children know	<b>Closed</b>



	to cover this syllabus before exams. APEEE PedGroup to write letter out to BAC level (S6, S7) parents based on BAC complaints + Send to INTERPARENTS. <a href="#">Letter sent to S5-S7 on 16 December. If Board members are interested they can request for Secretariat.</a>	
7/9/2021 Pt.2	<b>Agenda Points:</b> APEEE President/Secretariat to include Tour de table on communication methods in different sections for December Board Agenda <a href="#">This is proposed for January 2022 Board meeting.</a>	Ongoing
7/9/2021 Pt. 7	<b>BYOD: Device rental framework with the Rent Company:</b> APEEE Secretariat and PedGroup EdTech Team to write communication end of the week (Mr HAZAN to frame the message) + put on website. Negotiations moving ahead. Will be on-line by beginning November. <a href="#">Negotiations were completed and information was put online by both school and APEEE. School sent communication. Questions about how to proceed from APEEE's side without taking too much burden.</a>	Ongoing
14/10/2021 Pt. 4.b.	<b>Administrative Meeting Reports:</b> Board members are invited to inform their sections that the issue of combining classes in different sites was raised at the CEA. <a href="#">Also treated under Agenda points 13 and 7. Done.</a>	Closed
14/10/2021 Pt. 11	<b>Proposed Updates to the APEEE Financial Procedure to Award Funding:</b> The Secretariat will update the procedure and publish on the website, ensuring that it is used for the upcoming project call. <a href="#">Done.</a>	Closed
14/10/2021 Pt. 12	<b>Proposed APEEE Autumn Call for Project Proposals:</b> Secretariat to initiate out project call and inform parents and other stakeholders. <a href="#">Done.</a>	Closed
14/10/2021 Pt. 14	<b>Solidarity funding in cases of financial hardship:</b> The Secretariat to send around again the proposal in order to gather comments before the next meeting. <a href="#">Solidarity funding proposal was incorporated into the 2021-2022 APEEE budget and approved by December General Assembly. Done.</a>	Closed
14/10/2021 Pt. 15	<b>Alumni Association Request for Funds:</b> Monika VELIKONJA to give feedback to INTERPARENTS. <a href="#">Monika VELIKONJA replied to INTERPARENTS that the proposal was not sufficiently developed. A revised version has been sent and will be discussed by IP in January. Done.</a>	Closed
14/10/2021 Pt. 16	<b>Legal Working Group: Safety and Security Convention; APEEE Statutes (EY); CA Rules of Procedure:</b> Nils BEHRNDT and Kathryn MATHÉ can proceed with negotiations with EY on behalf of APEEE. <a href="#">Lettre de mission signed on 13 December 2021; a more extensive group was involved. Will be treated in under Agenda point 9. Done.</a>	Closed
14/10/2021 Pt. 18	<b>Snap-updates from thematic groups and solicitation of feedback:</b> Secretariat to send out information to parents about the Science Festival. <a href="#">Sent on 15 October. Done.</a>	Closed
14/10/2021 AOB	<b>Soliciting points for the 2 upcoming Primary CEs (Berkendael, 21 October; Uccle 26 October):</b> Members to send points for CE agendas to Marc GUITART and Noémie BEIGBEDER. <a href="#">Done.</a>	Closed
18/11/2021 Pt. 3	<b>Approval of the minutes of 14 October and follow-up of action points</b> The Secretariat to provide October minutes for comments and then approve by written procedure. <a href="#">October minutes were not sent for written procedure but were approved together with November minutes earlier in the meeting. Done.</a>	Closed
18/11/2021 Pt. 4	<b>Administrative Meetings and Reports:</b> Secretariat to organise a meeting of the Uccle nursery representatives. <a href="#">Meeting organised on 25 November. Vote to ratify candidates later under Agenda point 11. Done.</a>	Closed
18/11/2021 Pt. 8	<b>EP CULT Committee Report: Visionary Analytics project:</b> The Secretariat will send a reminder about the Visionary Analytics survey, including background documents. <a href="#">Letter sent on 19 November. Done.</a>	Closed
18/11/2021 Pt. 9	<b>BYOD: Update on Rent Company Device Rental Framework:</b> APEEE PedGroup EdTech Group and the school management to create a webpage and communicate to parents about the Rent Company offer. <a href="#">See above</a>	Removed



	<a href="#">7/9/2021 pt. 7. (Point combined with point above.)</a>	
18/11/2021 Pt. 10	<b>Secretariat Update: Memberships Payments, Staffing, Xmas Party:</b> Xmas Party Committee will plan the Xmas party and work with the Secretariat to organise it. <a href="#">Done.</a>	<b>Closed</b>
18/11/2021 Pt. 11	<b>2022-2023 School Calendar proposed in the Administrative Board:</b> Kathryn MÁTHÉ and Nils BEHRNDT to approve the proposed 2022-2023 school calendar with comments discussed. <a href="#">Position sent on 7 December. Approved noting concerns about lack of Mondays in springtime; position can be found in Board documents. Done.</a>	<b>Closed</b>
18/11/2021 Pt. 12	<b>Confirmation of CE Representatives 2021-2022:</b> Secretariat to facilitate the selection of three remaining CE representatives and to run the list for written procedure to the Board. <a href="#">MAT CE Rep and team and FR Prim CE Rep selected and presented for ratification later under Agenda point 11. PL Prim CE Rep not yet selected.</a>	<b>Ongoing</b>
18/11/2021 Pt. 13	<b>Preparation General Assembly:</b> Kathryn MÁTHÉ to add a point to the GA Agenda and discuss with the Bureau. <a href="#">Refers to points submitted to the December General Assembly under article 14 of statutes. Done.</a>	<b>Closed</b>
18/11/2021 Pt. 13	<b>Preparation General Assembly:</b> Board members are invited to send any feedback on the Financial Report and Budget to the Treasurer before the General Assembly. <a href="#">Financial Report and Budget presented and approved by the General Assembly. Done.</a>	<b>Closed</b>
18/11/2021 Pt. 14	<b>Autumn 2021 Call for Projects: report on applications received and proposal for panel:</b> The Secretariat will contact Working Groups to solicit opinions and organise the Award Panel meeting. <a href="#">Results presented under Agenda point 12. Done.</a>	<b>Closed</b>
18/11/2021 Pt. 15	<b>Analysis of the linguistic structure of the Brussels European Schools: reflection on potential future approaches as of the 2023/24 school year:</b> President Kathryn MÁTHÉ to draft a position for presentation at the SCB. The Secretariat should share the June 2020 position paper on the possible transfer of classes. A dedicated task force should be set up related to the reflections document; this can be a decision point in December. <a href="#">Position paper shared in December Board docs and Task Force proposal under Agenda points 13 and 7. Done.</a>	<b>Closed</b>
18/11/2021 Pt. 16	<b>COVID Outlook and Measures:</b> Position paper to be presented in December Board meeting. <a href="#">Position paper to be shared in January meeting.</a>	<b>Ongoing</b>
18/11/2021 Pt. 18	<b>Review and solicitation of agenda points for 7 December Berkendael Primary CE Meeting, 9 December Uccle Primary and Secondary CE Meetings:</b> Board members to send any points for the upcoming Primary and Secondary CE meetings to Marc GUITART in Uccle and Noémie BEIGBEDER in Berkendael. <a href="#">Done.</a>	<b>Closed</b>

### 3. Welcome of the new Board and tour-de-table

Former President Kathryn MÁTHÉ lead the new Board in a tour-de-table allowing all attendees to introduce themselves.

### 4. Election of the President and Bureau

Former President Kathryn MÁTHÉ introduced the candidates for the new Bureau. She informed that the APEEE Statutes required an Administrative and a Pedagogical Vice President; however, in assigning Uccle Primary and Uccle Secondary Vice Presidents, the candidates were reverting to a practice established over the past decade by several previous Boards in order to establish a better distribution of work. A second member confirmed that the proposed model was used in several previous Boards, but noted that the APEEE should officially establish an Administrative Vice-



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President because according to the Statutes, this person accompanies the President to the EEBI Administrative Board.

It was noted that candidates had come forward as a team; they presented themselves and their motivations for taking up the posts in the following order: President: Valentina PAPA; Vice-President Secondary: Monika VELIKONJA; Vice-President Primary: Talia BOATI; Vice-President Berkendael: Gundars OSTROVSKIS; Treasurer: Viktor HAUK; Secretary: Kathryn MÁTHÉ; Deputy Secretary: Jan TYMOWSKI; Member at Large: Alex WILSON

After the second presentation, a member stated that it could be problematic if the APEE didn't strictly follow the Statutes. In his estimation, the APEEE Board was legally obliged to assign Administrative and Pedagogical Vice-Presidents, and it was important to do so before voting. In further discussion, Board members noted that the only practical obligation connected with these roles was attendance at the EEBI Administrative Board.

In response, it was suggested that Talia BOATI and Monika VELIKONJA discuss privately while the other presentations continued, in order to decide who would put their name forward for Administrative Vice-President and who for Pedagogical Vice-President. The presentations continued and at the end, it was announced that Monika VELIKONJA would put her name forward for Pedagogical Vice-President and Talia BOATI would put hers forward for Administrative Vice-President (and also as the official delegate to the EEBI Administrative Board). The presentation document was updated in real time to reflect this; the two candidates presented themselves.

The final list voted was as follows:

- President: Valentina PAPA
- Vice-President Pedagogy: Monika VELIKONJA
- Vice-President Administration: Talia BOATI
- Vice-President Berkendael: Gundars OSTROVSKIS
- Treasurer: Viktor HAUK
- Secretary: Kathryn MÁTHÉ
- Deputy Secretary: Jan TYMOWSKI
- Member at Large: Alex WILSON

Among points raised by candidates in their presentations were: increase quality of educational offer and opportunities; ensure safety, security and well-being on both sites; improve transparency and communication both internally and externally; work toward meaningful consultation of parents in the European School Governance; support the development of strategic policies and the monitoring of their implementation; strengthen school community and links between Uccle and Berkendael and with other European Schools; safeguard the financial and administrative management of APEEE.

After the presentations, one member asked Viktor HAUK about his role on the APEEE Services and the relationship with the APEEE—for which he was also intending to run for the position as Treasurer. Viktor HAUK had not yet taken up a role on the Services Board, but intended to put his name forward for the Services Board and eventually Treasurer. His plan was to take over from Brian GRAY. Mr GRAY undertook the Treasurer position for both organisations simultaneously for several years; administratively he could be an important link.

Another member proposed shorter meetings and suggested that a discussion or task force was launched; a third member supported this.

The Board voted on the candidates based on the information in the updated presentation, with roles listed in accordance with the Statutes.



**The new Bureau was approved (20 supporting, 0 against, 1 abstention).**

The candidates presentations, both the originally submitted version and the version updated during the meeting, are available in OneDrive.

**ACTIONS:** The Secretariat to update the website and other documentation to reflect the result and to inform the APEEE membership, EEBI management and other stakeholders.  
The Secretariat to officially inform the EEBI Administrative Board of the new APEEE delegates: Valentina PAPA and Talia BOATI.

*[FOR FURTHER POINTS PRESIDENT VALENTINA PAPA PRESIDES.]*

## POINTS FOR INFORMATION

### 5. Information on APEEE Working Groups and Delegate Posts

Secretary Kathryn MÁTHÉ informed the new Board that in the next meeting the Board would update the mandates of Working Groups (including membership) and the List of Delegates to various bodies. She pointed the Board to the current list of delegates and to the 2021 Annual Report to inform themselves and consider their potential interest for the next meeting.

These documents are available on OneDrive.

### 6. General Assembly: organisation and results

Secretary Kathryn MÁTHÉ presented a short overview of the General Assembly, including the voting results on the discharge of the 2020-2021 Board, the 2021-2022 budget, 2021-2022 new administrators, and the position on the calendar. General Assembly supporting documents are available on the webpage. Minutes will also be published on the APEEE Website.

One member who is also on the APEEE Services Board asked if the APEEE could provide our Services counterparts with information the voting system used. The Secretariat was already in touch with their staff.

### 7. Administrative Meetings and Reports

- **19 November, Steering Committee Brussels**

Kathryn MÁTHÉ presented a short report on the recent Steering Committee Brussels meeting. There were three points. The first was on a meeting of the Brussels Task Force, which includes the Commission, Secretary-General and Directors, Belgian Prime Minister's Cabinet and the Belgian delegation. Evere opened almost on schedule and is a functioning primary school for 1500 students. Renovations in all schools are behind due to the focus on Evere. The date for the fifth school of 3000 students is September 2028; in the meantime, the schools were requesting that both Berkendael and Evere be made permanent sites. No official decision has been taken. Parents asked about interim solutions to address overcrowding while waiting for the fifth school. Parents suggested that quick-build structures could be used.

The second point related to the Price-Waterhouse-Cooper (PWC) Capacity Reports undertaken at all four schools. The theoretical capacity limits set during construction were found to be more or less accurate at EEBI (Uccle-3100, Berkendael-1000)—and even high, particularly at Woluwe. The reports confirmed that the EEBs are over capacity and helps prioritise renovations. Parents suggested that the report were even optimistic.

The final points was to launch an *Analysis of the structure of linguistic sections at our schools*. The new Secretary General suggested looking at DE, EN, IT and possibly NL sections. They



would also consider the creation of secondary sections for LV and SK. The fifth school may be a secondary site, possibly connect to Evere. They suggested a brainstorming meeting. The parent delegates in the room were split on the idea of a brainstorming involving APEEE Presidents. Parents said that either more capacity or enrolment restrictions are necessary. An EEBl position based on the November Board discussion was read out and sent to members, though it was difficult to get it read by parent delegates; the statement is available on OneDrive.

One member suggests that it was a real concern that parent delegates did not well represent us. There was a related point 13 on the *Analysis of structure of linguistic sections at our schools*.

- **22 November, meeting with Commission DGHR**

Secretary Kathryn MÁTHÉ presented a meeting between the Brussels APEEE Presidents and the Commission's DGHR on the topic of governance. The Commission had shown themselves open to these questions, but the parents were disappointed by the results of the meeting, and it was felt to be a step backward in relations with the Commission. She presented the notes on OneDrive and suggested those interested in the details read the document. Topics presented also relate to the CULT Committee study outsourced to Visionary Analytics.

- **23 November & 14 December, mini SAC on COVID**

Santiago CALVO-RAMOS presented a short report on the November and December mini-SAC meetings.

The purchase of CO2 meters (in December 30 devices and by end of January 400 devices would be in place at the school) and eventual procedures for monitoring and addressing ventilation problems were discussed. CO2 meters would be installed first in common areas. The school planned to use open windows to ventilate rooms, but parents pointed to the robust ventilation guidelines from the Belgian government. Teachers also took a strong interest in ventilation issues.

The subject of quick testing was also raised, though the school had minimal interest in following this up. The school did mention that masks would be used in primary and secondary for the foreseeable future—at least through January. The school would continue to adhere strictly to Belgian regulations. Parent representatives raised the question of the move to distance learning in the last three days before Christmas; it was unclear whether this was an issue for most parents. There were mixed opinions in the Board.

In addition, the school announced the opening of a third entrance gate at Uccle, the Opstal Gate. This would be used by pedestrians and bikes only, while Vert Chasseur and Waterloo would now be primarily vehicle entrances.

- **13 December, Central Enrolment Authority**

CEA delegate Bartosz HACKBART presented a short report on the 2022-2023 Enrolment Guidelines and Policy. The policy would be published on 22-23 December at the latest and the first phase would begin in January and last till early February. They would be switching to an online only application system this year; there was a presentation at the meeting. There was a need to monitor the new system closely especially near deadlines. Discussions about long-term issues belonged in the Steering Committee Brussels.

The Enrolment Policy itself was as expected. Most new enrollees without siblings would be pushed to Evere, but this year a lower threshold of 12 was set to ensure that class groups at



the existing sites remained viable. The next meeting was in March.

Next year school will start on 5 September.

## 8. Pedagogical Meeting Reports

### • 07 December, Berkendael Primary CE Meeting

Berkendael APEEE CE delegate Alex WILSON presented a short report on the December CE Meeting. Questions raised included:

- Situation of quarantined students and lack of hybrid teaching; it was felt that some of the practices were different than at the Uccle site so there would be a follow-up meeting to clarify the policy.
- Lack of gym, music and swimming lessons was mentioned.
- Problems with supervision during class breaks with many problems identified.
- Boost in the funding for educational support but unclear how long this would continue; students relied on the support for classroom assistants and catch-up classes.
- Cancellation of school trips with parents suggesting that after years of such cancellations, one-day trips be considered possibly using public transport.
- Discussion about the quality of L2 teaching; parents asked the school to measure the results of the enrichment pilot before making it permanent.

The joint CE resolution in support of locally recruited teachers was approved by the CE. A new Assistant Deputy Director would also be hired.

An informal written report is available on OneDrive.

### • 09 December, Uccle Primary CE Meeting

Former VP Pedagogy Marc GUITART reported on the Primary CE meeting based on the presentation of activities circulated by the deputy director during the meeting. Among issues treated:

- School's commitment to update the guidelines for primary online teaching, in particular for scenario 2 (quarantine) and scenarios 5 (DL) to increase pedagogical continuity.
- Cancellation of trips; only the snow trip was officially cancelled; the rest were in limbo. They would hold a meeting on 21 January with APEEE delegates working on Trips, where parents would raise the possibility of replacement activities outside the school.
- COVID measures, including masks, bubbling, CO2 meters/ventilation; these were raised by parents, but the management was not willing to discuss in detail.
- Communication from management was unclear, not well explaining how decisions were taken and possible implications for parents.

An informal written report and meeting documentation are available to Board members on OneDrive.

### • 13 December, Uccle Secondary CE Meeting

Former VP Pedagogy Marc GUITART reported on the CE Secondary meeting. The joint CE resolution in support of locally recruited teachers was finally approved. It was also approved





at the Uccle Primary CE in October. It could now be sent by the management to the Board of Governors and the Secretary General.

A Mobile Phone Policy was also finally approved three years after the APEEE's initial position. Phones may not be used in class. S1-S3 students should keep the phone in their bags through the whole school day, while S4-S6 students could only use phones in particular areas/spaces. Students expressed concerns about the new policy.

Among other issues treated:

- Analysis of the state of projects and trips, parents presented a paper looking at the current practice and possible effects of the all-in-all out model. [He showed a table of the proposed activities in the February all-in-all-out Project Week. It was unclear whether these would go forward due to COVID restrictions. Other trips have also taken place.]
- Rotation regime, including why certain levels are in situ more than others (e.g. exams)
- MyEEB1 APP (available on Playstore), developed by EEBI students to view teacher absences in real time.
- BYOD Policy, the school has published on the website a charter based on the central office policy.
- GeoGebra, it was unclear if and how the tool would be rolled out. One member noted that a memo has been sent to affected levels explaining GeoGebra is no longer to be used on exams for S5 and S6. This would effect the entire approach going forward; it was effectively up in the air.
- Scheduling parent-teacher meetings, the use of online excel sheets for scheduling was an improvement.
- BAC results, parents asked after the results and noted that scientific marks have gone down in recent years; they also noted differences between sections. This was not discussed further.

An informal written report and meeting documentation are available to Board members on OneDrive.

Marc GUITART also remarked on the quality of the parent delegate interventions at both meetings. Parents made strong, strategic and constructive points.

## **9. Legal Working Group: update on statutes**

Legal WG member Sigfrido RAMIREZ PEREZ reported on behalf of the Legal Working Group on recent developments with Ernest & Young (E&Y) to update the APEEE Statutes to conform with the new code on associations. The APEEE signed the contract with E&Y in December to update both the Statutes and Internal Rules; drafts would be produced in English to ease consultation with the Board. The work needed to be completed by January 2024; some of the aspects of the code may already apply so there is a time pressure. There would be a meeting in January, attended by Sigfrido RAMIREZ PEREZ and Pere MOLES PALLEJA. He recommended that APEEE be comprehensive as possible and consult widely to ensure that the views of parents are reflected. E&Y has also been asked to look into the legal relationship with the APEEE Services.

President Valentina PAPA mentioned that Jan TYMOWSKI would be a liaison between the Bureau and the Legal WG, particularly on this issue. One member also suggested that it was becoming pressing to adapt the statutes to the new size and status of Berkendael, noting that there were no



section reps in Berkendael even though most sections were almost complete (Mat-P5).

#### **10. INTERPARENTS: 7-9 December Board of Governors Meeting; Groupe d'Accompagnement; OSGES COVID Task Force meeting; OSGES Pedagogical Reform WG; OSGES Well Being WG; OSGES IT-PEDA**

Pere MOLES PALLEJA, APEEE IP delegate and IP President, presented a short report the December Board of Governors and other dossiers.

- Manual BORDOY, Director of EEBIV-Laeken, was appointed as Deputy Secretary General as from 1 January.
- Decision on management of canteens: as of 2026 the model currently used at Uccle would no longer be allowed under the European Schools. The three models that could be used by the Admin Boards were: the school runs a tender; the APEEE provides the services; or the APEEE runs a tender. (For Varese it was accepted that a cooperative run the canteen and this would be possible in other schools.) Schools should also put in place a stakeholder based canteen committee for all three models.  
Thus, if parents still wanted to be involved in canteen, it must be the APEEE that takes the lead. Both the APEEE and the Services should discuss and it affected our statutes as well. It was noted by one member that the Berkendael canteen contract also ended next August.
- BAC Issues: the calendar was approved despite concerns expressed by students, parents and the Commission. There was a BAC Task Force on COVID this year, and the procedures were similar to last year. Regarding orals, they may use two teachers to examine students in extraordinary circumstances. The BAC Observatory group also met with no high level decisions
- Teacher shortages were still in the forefront of discussions.

The Groupe d'Accompagnement Board of Governors preparatory meeting between the parents and the Commission also took place.

Kathryn MÁTHÉ, IP delegate, presented the recent meeting of the Pedagogical Reform Group. The group was formed in 2013-2014 and has put in place the European School Language Policy, has worked on competence based assessment and the 8 Key Competences for Lifelong Learning, and will now turn again to the possibility of reforming secondary curriculum to include *inter alia* the digital, entrepreneurial and civic competences and project-based work. There were several basic models on the table from more extreme to light reform. The group also discussed the grouping in L2 classes and possible arrangements to cater to the wide range of learners in L2. L2 language inspectors have taken up the issue and will produce draft guidance documents possibly proposing several models to suit different schools. The work of Monika VELIKONJA was highlighted.

### **POINTS FOR DECISION**

#### **11. Confirmation of Uccle CE MAT, Prim PL and Prim FR Representatives 2021-2022**

President Valentina PAPA presented an updated list of parent delegates to the CE Primary in Uccle. The list contained newly appointed titular and three deputies for MAT and titular and deputy for FR. The titular for PL was still missing; at the last CE Primary, the PL sent the deputy. *The Board agreed by consensus on the new delegates.*

**ACTION:** The Secretariat will update the list of names on the website and send the new names to the Uccle Primary Management.



## 12. Autumn 2021 Call for Projects: projects proposed for funding by the Award Panel

Financial Advisor Gundars OSTROVSKIS presented the recommendations from the Award Panel appointed by the November Board in line with the Financial Procedure. It met on 8 December to consider the opinions submitted by working groups and the Financial Advisor. There were 13 projects submitted for a total of 13997 EUR. He showed the breakdown of working group/financial opinions and eventual recommendation of 5 projects, one for partial funding. The total budget of these was 4250 EUR. The benefits of having a member of management on the panel were highlighted.

One member raised concerns about two projects believed to have been undervalued, one of which was submitted by the member. Another member suggested that it might be problematic for someone submitting a project to enter into a discussion about it in the Board during the final decision process; in that case, others who have submitted projects should be invited to defend theirs as well. Members of the panel mentioned that recommendations are not always related to the content of a project but also to the proposed budget and costs; in quite a few cases, funding was requested for items that were covered by the school budget and should be funded by the school. Another panel member noted that the funding calls were about supporting initiatives in a number of ways; the APEEE should not be viewed solely as a donor but should help get projects off the ground through various forms of support. Gundars OSTROVSKIS discussed the process in the panel and gave a few examples from the current call.

A member asked if applicants were informed of why they have not been chosen and if parents were told about the whole selection. The Secretary Kathryn MÁTHÉ explained that the Secretariat wrote a letter explaining the decision, as presented in the excel sheet. Another member asked if they could vote if they had submitted a project. President Valentina PAPA said that they can vote on this proposal, whether to accept the full recommendation of the Award Panel.

*The recommendation of the Award Panel was approved (17 supporting, 0 against, 1 abstention).*  
Projects approved:

- Forest Area Berkendael: sensory walk and more (full funding, 1000 EUR);
- Emotional Intelligence (P4/P5 continuation, to include Berkendael; full funding, 1200 EUR);
- Mémoire et oubli - La Shoah (S7L2; full funding 500 EUR);
- In Memory of Rosa (full funding 550 EUR);
- Citizens of the World (partial funding, 1000 EUR).

**ACTION:** The Secretariat will inform those who have applied of the result and will update the webpage.

## 13. Proposal for the launch of the “Task Force on the Reflections on the Future of Brussels European Schools” to be coordinated by Pere MOLES PALLEJA

Pere MOLES PALLEJA presented the idea for a Task Force and emphasised the importance of a broad strategic reflection including as many sections as possible from both sites and cycles. The task force would consider the entire Brussels school situation, as this wider context would shape decisions made about EEBI. Sara MARTELLI and Bartosz HACKBART requested to join the group.

Secretary Kathryn MÁTHÉ noted that the supporting documents in OneDrive contained the June 2020 APEEE position as well as the Reflections document presented in the Steering Committee Brussels and the EEBI APEEE position. She encouraged people interested to read these documents.



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*The Task Force was approved by consensus.*

**ACTION:** Board members are asked to contact Pere MOLES PALLEJA with Secretariat in copy if they would like to join the Task Force.

**14. Vote on APEEE Board Position voicing balance between linguistic sections, taking into account respective distribution of L1 and L2 as well as ONL (and sub-national as appropriate) for the purpose of amelioration of *status animae* and quality performance at the next meeting scheduled on 17/12**

This point was a Christmas hoax, and it was decided to skip the point due to the late hour.

## **POINTS FOR DISCUSSION**

### **15. COVID Outlook and Measures**

Santiago CALVO RAMOS presented briefly the situation of COVID, latest rules and the measures taken by the school.

- EEBI has had already more than double the cases than the whole of last year; an outbreak in the Uccle primary school (15% of pupils infected) as well as huge number of quarantines; worse than most Belgian schools.
- Delta might have faded but Omicron was now present and was growing quickly. It was more contagious and was set to become dominant in Belgium; vaccines protected against severe cases but not spread. Hospitals might soon be overwhelmed. Limiting spread in schools in January would be difficult. On the bright side, by the end of June updated vaccines and antiviral treatments might be available.
- New Belgian measures in schools included early holiday closure of primary schools and rotation in secondary. Masks were compulsory in primary schools as well as in secondary. Stricter quarantine measures have been put in place and students were sent home after fewer cases were detected in the class group. Families were recommended to quick-test children. There has been a mixed reaction to self-testing.
- The school followed only minimum Belgian measures, despite the fact that our curriculum mixes students. This has led to class and school closures.
- He suggested the school to take a more preventative than reactive approach. In November, he recommended: ventilation, vaccinations drives and repeated testing. The idea would be to apply as few measures as possible while keeping the school open. The school should also be flexible and look at alternative arrangements (e.g. L2 online).
- He reviewed measures from the school presented in agenda point 7c.
  - Ventilation was on a good path with the installation of CO2 meters, though it was needed to ensure the procedures in place.
  - Testing was more difficult to assess, and an APEEE survey could be helpful to understand the uptake. The school said cost was the biggest barrier to testing.
  - Vaccination rates were high in the secondary community; vaccines for younger students would likely be approved soon. In this case, the school should consider a vaccination campaign with the younger age groups.
- He planned to present a position paper in December, but due to the rapid change at the moment, he proposed to present the paper in January.



Some members mentioned that a survey could help us convince the school to pay for testing, which many parents found expensive; other members stressed that testing should be voluntary. Problems of distance learning and pedagogical continuity to quarantined kids were also raised by several members; this situation was here to stay. One member suggested that the APEEE needed to involve a health and safety technician, e.g. from the Regie des batiments, on the ventilation issue to get a separate opinion. One member asked about whether the canteen would be closed; another said that the intentions to put CO2 meters in the canteen suggested that it was not planned for closure.

**ACTION:** Santiago CALVO RAMOS will present a position at the next Board meeting as well as proposed questions for a survey on repeated quick testing.

## 16. Review and solicitation of agenda points for Safety & Hygiene

President Valentina PAPA suggested to skip this point as no meeting of the Safety & Hygiene Committee was currently foreseen. No member disagreed.

**ACTION:** The Board will collect points for Safety & Hygiene at the January meeting.

### AOB

#### Security Issue on the Buses

Sara MARTELLI presented a recent incident on a school bus. (*Please note that at the Board meeting of 13 January 2022 it was clarified that this incident did not concern an Uccle bus, but a bus of another EEB*). A 4-year-old child was left on a bus—the second incident after another young child was left stranded on a Berkendael bus in September. There was no student surveillant on the bus and the driver did not check. The student was found (again) by a passerby and taken to the police. It was understood that this was a Services issue, but this was a very serious issue and something needed to be done. The management did not seem to take any action.

One member said that this was unfortunately a longstanding problem. Some said that in this case it was the human factor, and the company was at fault; they would need more training or a different approach. It was mentioned that they should record every child going in and out with an e-system and even on paper, but children entered through the back; another asked why they entered through the back if the children wear masks.

There was a discussion on whether the garderie should be more responsible for the children arriving there. It might be possible to get an app that informed the garderie of who got on the bus.

As members of the Services, parents could directly call for a General Assembly to treat this issue; this could be done in the coming months. A member mentioned that Services should really spend more money on security in buses.

**ACTION:** Valentina PAPA proposed to speak with Alba MARINO and Sara MARTELLI to determine how to proceed.

#### Secretariat Update

An update on the work of the Secretariat since the last Board meeting is available for information on OneDrive.