

Brussels, 22 March 2022

MINUTES OF APEEE BOARD MEETING 8 February 2022

ATTENDEES

Voting Board Members:

Sylvie BAREL (FR Prim), Noemie BEIGBEDER (FR Sec), Talia BOATI (VP Administration & Uccle Primary; IT Prim), Sara DAGOSTINI (IT Sec), Marek DVORSKY (Berkendael, SK), Almudena FUERTES FERNANDEZ (ES Prim), Marc GUITART (member elected by GA), Viktor HAUK (Treasurer; HU Sec), Delphine HEBERT (Berkendael, FR), Karin HUNDEBØLL (DK Sec), Andreas KEIDEL (Berkendael, DE), Julia MADL (DE Prim), Sara MARTELLI (Berkendael, IT), Kathryn MÁTHÉ (Secretary; EN Sec), Pere MOLES PALLEJA (member elected by GA), Gundars OSTROVSKIS (VP Berkendael; Berkendael, LV), Valentina PAPA (President; EN Prim), Sigfrido RAMIREZ PEREZ (ES Sec), Malene SCHATHOLM (DK Prim), Julia TYMOWSKA (PL Sec), Jan TYMOWSKI (Deputy Secretary; PL Prim), Istvan VANYOLOS (HU Prim), Monika VELIKONJA (VP Pedagogy & Uccle Secondary; SWALS), Alex WILSON (Bureau member; member elected by GA).

Board Members Voting by Proxy:

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Board Members Absent without Proxy:

Eva HEIDER (DE Sec), Sven MATZKE (member elected by the GA)

Deputy Board Members (non-voting):

Magali BARRAL (FR Sec), Agnes BOROS (HU Prim), Santiago CALVO RAMOS (ES Prim), Bartosz HACKBART (Berkendael, FR), Nathalie KALOGERAS (FR Sec) Alba MARINO (Berkendael, ES), Kremena MILEVA (EN Prim), Stefan PAGEL (Berkendael, FR),

Other Participants:

Endika BENGOETXEA (CE FR Prim), Samantha CHAITKIN (CE Dep IT Prim), Magdalena KUPCZYK (CE Dep PL Prim), Lorenza LANDI (guest speaker), Paolo PASIMENI (Berkendael, CE Dep IT), Ioana SANDU (CE Dep FR Sec), Emilie TOURNIER (Berkendael, CE FR)

APEEE Secretariat:

Guendalina COMINOTTI

Board members can find all supporting documents in the shared folders on One Drive
(2022-02-08 APEEE Board Meeting/Supporting Documents)



1. Technical check

Done.

2. Adoption of the agenda

President Valentina PAPA presented the draft agenda and suggested to consider point 14 (Update on School trips) under point 8 within the remit of the Pedagogical Working Group, and to limit point 12 to a short presentation in view of the fact that some sections have not yet filled the survey on communication. She also proposed to postpone the decision on point 10 (sweatshirt sale) to a future meeting as the proposal was not available yet. The agenda was approved with the suggested changes by consensus.

3. Approval of the minutes of 16 December 2021 and 13 January 2022, and follow-up of action points

President Valentina PAPA informed that the draft minutes from both meetings were available on OneDrive. Two changes were proposed to the minutes of 13 January. Under point 8, the President proposed to clarify that there is a vacant post for deputy (and not member) of the Berkendael Education Council. Under point 6, one representative proposed to modify the Action to clarify that section representatives were to be sent a revised paper on COVID prevention measures for consultation within their sections. Action points from previous meetings were then reviewed as follows:

REVIEW OF ACTION POINTS Board Meeting 13 January 2022		
Point on Agenda	Action Point	Status
(Board 19/11/20) Pt. 13	Handover of class rep info to services/ Medium term: 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. No change	Ongoing
27/5/21 Pt. 13	Monika VELIKONJA & Isabel VICENTE CARBAJOSA voted as new delegates to WG on CE Rules of Procedure: status of Berkendael in Brussels Steering Group: Henning EHRENSTEIN to ask if a Berkendael delegate can attend SCB as Observer. Alba MARINO to discuss with Henning EHRENSTEIN. This was never done and Henning EHRENSTEIN has left.	Closed
24/6/21 Pt. 5 & 16/12/2021 Pt. 16	Administrative Meetings and Reports: 24 June, EEB1 S&H Committee Meeting: 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. Julia MADL wrote to GUYOT on 20 October expressing concerns; reply received which did not address concerns; Kathryn MATHE wrote follow up 12 November. No response yet. No S&H has been called this year. APEEE President to bring this matter up at the Mini-SAC of 18 January 2022. The Safety and Hygiene meeting will now be held on the 15	Closed



	February. The parent points for the meeting will be treated later in the agenda under point 11. Done	
24/6/21 Pt. 6	22 June, Berkendael Meeting: 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. Sara MARTELLI to forward proposal to new pedagogical leadership. The proposal has been welcomed by the Uccle primary school management and a meeting is foreseen. Sara MARTELLI and Talia BOATI met with Marla CANDON on 17 January, and they are waiting for her to organise the workshop. More under point 8, update of Pedagogical Working Group. Done	Closed
7/9/2021 Pt. 2 & 13/01/2022 Pt. 15	Sharing experiences and best practices for internal communication within sections: APEEE President/Secretariat to include Tour de table on communication methods in different sections for December Board Agenda. In January, Bureau will send out a table with the questions to be presented during the meeting to Board members asking for feedback. In the end, a form was circulated to section reps, and this will be treated later in the agenda under point 12. Done	Closed
7/9/2021 Pt. 7	BYOD: Device rental framework with the Rent Company: 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. 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. Bureau to discuss how to proceed with proposal to take it to the Educational Technology and DL Group. This will be treated later in the agenda under point 8, update of the Pedagogical Working Group. Done	Closed
18/11/2021 Pt. 12	Confirmation of CE Representatives 2021-2022: Secretariat to facilitate the selection of three remaining CE representatives and to run the list for written procedure to the Board. 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. Awaiting PL CE Rep to be proposed by PL section. No change.	Ongoing
18/11/2021 Pt. 16 & 16/12/2021 Pt. 15 13/01/2022 Pt. 6	COVID Outlook and Measures: Position paper to be presented in December Board meeting. Position paper to be shared in January meeting. Santiago CALVO RAMOS will present a position at the next Board meeting as well as proposed questions for a survey on repeated quick testing. The draft position paper will be further revised and sent to section representatives for consultation with parents in advance of the next Board meeting with the view to adopt it at that meeting. The position paper will be treated later in the agenda under point 6. Done	Closed
13/01/2022 Pt. 2	Board Minutes from December 2021 and January 2022. Considered under point 3 above. Done	Closed
13/01/2022 Pt. 3	Section representatives should send input for CE Secondary (7 February) to Monika VELIKONJA. Jan TYMOWSKI to collect data from Board Members for Moniteur Belge. Done	Closed
13/01/2022 Pt. 7	Presentation and approval of annual mandates for APEEE Working Groups: Pedagogical (PedGroup), Well-Being, Community Building, Legal and Communication Working Groups; solicitation of new members: The Secretariat will publish the newly adopted mandates, including information on memberships, on the APEEE website. These have been	Closed



	published on the web. APEEE will also be contacting the Working Group coordinators to update the different APEEE positions published on the website; they will be asked to take charge of these positions in the future. Done	
13/01/2022 Pt. 8	Review, replacement and approval of APEEE delegates to official bodies and school working groups; information on the selection of the new Financial Advisor: The Secretariat will update the names of delegates on the relevant web pages. The Secretariat or Bureau will write to school management and secretaries to announce new delegates to working groups and bodies. Board Members should send the secretariat and coordinators the names of any volunteers for the positions that are still vacant. The Secretariat updated the website and sent names of delegates to the school management. Some positions are still vacant.	Ongoing
13/01/2022 Pt. 9	Proposed 2022 list of observers to the Board: Observers to be listed on website and mailing list to be updated, also removing former observers. Done	Closed
13/01/2022 Pt. 10	Proposal to re-allocate part of the “Project support” budget line to the “Recurrent activities” budget line in order to be able to co-fund the Addiction Prevention Programme already agreed with the School: President and the Well Being WG to follow up with school on APEEE’s financial commitment. Follow up was completed and programme should start soon. Update will be given by Well-Being Working Group under point 8. Done	Closed
13/01/2022 Pt. 12	Follow-up on school mobile phone policy (Secondary): Well-Being working group will contact the school to follow up on next steps. The school has sent a communication to all parents about adoption of Mobile Phone Policy on 20 January, and the Well-Being Working Group also followed up with a letter on 21 January offering to support the roll out and change of culture. APEEE will continue to follow the implementation and the review, to be discussed under point 8 under the Well-Being Working Group. Done	Closed
13/01/2022 Pt. 13	Review and solicitation of agenda points for 3 February EEBI Administrative Board and preparatory SAC meetings: Bureau will draft the agenda points based on the discussion. The parent points are under the documentation for SAC and Administrative Board, and these meetings will be treated later in the agenda under point 4. Done	Closed
13/01/2022 Pt. 14	Review and solicitation of points for introductory meeting between new APEEE Bureau and APEEE Services Bureau: President to organise meeting with APEEE Services Bureau and bring forward the points presented during the Board meeting. APEEE awaits election of new APEEE Services Presidency/Bureau before calling a meeting. In addition, parents should be invited to attend the Services General Assembly on Thursday, 10 February.	Ongoing

POINTS FOR INFORMATION

4. Administrative Meetings and Reports

President Valentina PAPA referred to the informal report on the Mini-SAC of 18 January which was reported in writing by e-mail sent to parents on 19 January. She then briefly described the SAC (School Administrative Council) meeting of 27 January - which concerned mostly budgetary matters (supported by APEEE representatives) and in more detail - the meeting of the School’s Administrative Board on 3 February, as described in the accompanying document. An exchange of views followed on the subject of resources available for psychological support in Uccle and Berkendael, noticing inter alia the resistance of the budgetary authority to provide more support, and the question of appropriate job descriptions in relation to educational support.

Specific questions raised by APEEE representatives during the meeting of 3 February concerned distance learning, Geogebra (which the school confirmed that will not be used in exams this year),



the BYOD (*bring your own device*) programme, well-being, teachers absences, overcrowding and governance. Importantly and unfortunately, the annual activity report (AAR) was on the agenda, but instead of being discussed - the Secretary-General of the European Schools ([SG](#), who chaired the meeting) decided to put it for approval in a written procedure (Valentina PAPA opposed and this should be reflected in the minutes). It is still unclear whether there will be a chance to discuss the contents of the report with members of the Administrative Board, but the APEEE will at least provide feedback in writing. It was also suggested that the APEEE add its own addendum to the report.

One Board member asked why there were COVID-related points, in view of the fact that the relevant paper was only to be discussed today, included in the position of the parents and sent to school; in response the President explained what she actually said during the meeting (asking the school to explore the experience of other schools with quick testing to learn about the impact) and it was further clarified that elements concerning monitoring of ventilation were not questioned. This was the position already agreed in the September Board meeting to use at the last Administrative Board and it was used while we await an updated position.

ACTION: APEEE Presidency to send written feedback on the Annual Activity Report to the School Management.

5. Pedagogical Meeting Reports

Vice-President Monika VELIKONJA reported on the meeting of the Secondary Educational Council of 7 February that dealt inter alia with the Science Festival (which was successful), Green cards (on students request), the mobile phone policy (which remains to be evaluated at the end of the school year), pedagogical continuity for students in quarantine, and the Project Week (which will go ahead despite limited offer especially for some of the Secondary levels). Importantly, it was reported that the Homework Policy, as prepared by a dedicated Working Group, was not adopted by the Council, due to the resistance from at least some of the teachers. A detailed Flash report was to follow.

ACTION: Vice President of Secondary to put Flash Report on 7 February Secondary Education Council on OneDrive and share with sections.

6. INTERPARENTS

Pere MOLES PALLEJA described the meeting of the Interparents (the European Parents' Association of the European Schools - not only those in Brussels, but also in Alicante, Bergen, Frankfurt, Karlsruhe, Luxembourg, Mol, Munchen, and Varese) which took place on 7-8 February. During the INTERPARENTS Annual General Assembly, he was asked to continue as an interim President and he was elected for an additional year. There will be a 50% rebate on INTERPARENTS fees paid by the parents associations this year, as a result of COVID. The rest of the INTERPARENTS meeting was a preparatory meeting for the February Joint Teaching Committee (JTC, a preparatory meeting for the Board of Governors which includes all inspectors and other stakeholders). The position statement on distance learning and pedagogical continuity for quarantined pupils from EEB1 and EEB3 APEEEs was endorsed by all of INTERPARENTS for presentation at meetings. There was also an important discussion with the new Deputy Secretary-General on L2 differentiation and class groups. Finally, a petition has been launched by the Parents' Association of the European School of Varese (AGSEV) to stop the dismissal of a large number of locally recruited teachers (LRTs) at that school, which is similar to the EEB1 Joint CE Resolution; the text is on OneDrive. The agendas for the JTC and INTERPARENTS as well as two papers submitted by INTERPARENTS are also on OneDrive.



7. Legal Working Group

Pere MOLES PALLEJA reported on the first meeting that was held on 26 January with the representatives of Ernst&Young Belgium who will provide advice on the revision of the APEEE Statutes and internal rules. The consultation will continue and eventually drafts of the new statutes and rules (adapted to the recent Belgian regulations on associations) will be presented to the Board, and later - the General Assembly. The relation with APEEE Services has been mentioned as important to clarify and take into account.

8. Update on WG activities

Monika VELIKONJA described the recent activities of the Pedagogical Working Group, as described in detail in the numerous documents made available to Board members on OneDrive, covering inter alia the Science Festival, pre-BAC sessions, parents' concerns about the Project Week, pedagogical continuity for students in quarantine, and Less Common Languages. Istvan VANYOLOS shared information about the possible alternatives for cancelled ski-trips, possibly to take place in May/June. One Board member expressed her concerns with regard to the trips being put 'on-hold' in Berkendael, which in practice is no different from complete cancelling.

Sara DAGOSTINI reported on the discussions and activities in/of the Well-Being Working Group, inter alia concerning various prevention programmes taking place, the policy on mobile phones in Secondary, workshops on values, the Homework policy (not adopted by the Educational Council, as mentioned above), and the INTERPARENTS' message on Child Protection. A member of the Board additionally referred to trainings for teachers concerning gender stereotypes.

Samantha CHAITKIN spoke about the Community Building projects coming up: Green School with new parents involved, an initiative to commemorate Rosa (the student who died in last year's floods) by planting a rose-bush in Spring, free-time and free-spaces - discussions with students on a football tournament (whereas the decision to organise Fete d'Ecole again remains the school's responsibility), and sweat-shirts sale (asking for volunteers to join already at the stage of design). One Board member raised a question about that last item possibly undermining the Secondary students' initiative and business-model, but it was explained that it should not be a problem as the parents' project is addressed to primary students and parents themselves; they will anyway meet with the Student Committee (CdE) to discuss.

POINTS FOR DECISION

9. Proposed APEEE position paper on COVID prevention measures

President Valentina PAPA made a short presentation of the revised document, with the point on vaccination taken out, consensus on the need to improve pedagogical continuity and monitor ventilation, and the reference to quick testing limited to checking the situation, practices and impact in other schools and countries that have used quick testing.

Board members made various comment on the proposal, in support or against its formulation and/or adoption, reporting on the additional feedback received from other parents (including the potential costs of regular self-tests), referring to the Belgian rules with regard to schools and society at large, and discussing the possibilities for the School to support those parents who would be interested and willing to regularly test their children at home, the practices relating to contact tracing, the activity of the School's Safety and Hygiene Committee, the alleged risk of victimisation of non-tested children, the wish of many to return to life without masks, the need to control air quality in classrooms regardless of COVID, the absence of teachers who are sick or in quarantine, as well as the age of students being an important factor in assessing the practical effects of distance learning.



The proposed position document was further modified on the basis of specific proposals made by some Board members, especially with regard to the introduction and the point concerning testing (limited to asking the School management to inform parents about the Belgian recommendations and assess the experience of other European Schools). A reference to the recently adopted joint position of all European Schools in Brussels on distance learning and hybrid teaching was added.

The modified proposal was eventually adopted by 12 votes in favour, 8 against, and 2 abstentions.

ACTION: The Secretariat will publish the modified proposal on the APEEE's COVID webpage.

10. Proposal to hold sweatshirt sale for Primary students and parents to raise funds for APEEE projects

This point was postponed to a future meeting.

POINTS FOR DISCUSSION

11. Review and solicitation of agenda points for Safety & Hygiene Committee scheduled for 15 February.

Secretary Kathryn MÁTHÉ noticed that in view of the fact that no meetings of that new body were held in 2021, its mandate, scope of activity and the level of involvement of APEEE representatives remains to be established, especially now that the School decided to have one committee for both sites (Uccle and Berkendael) together.

ACTION: Board members are asked to contact APEEE delegates to the Safety & Hygiene Committee (Julia MADL, Santiago CALVO-RAMOS and Marek DVORSKY) with any suggestions, to complement points to be prepared by the Bureau.

12. Results on the feedback given by Board members on best practices for internal communication among sections

Vice-President Monika VELIKONJA made a brief presentation of preliminary results based on the responses received so far to the on-line survey. She underlined that any additional comments and suggestions to include best practices can be described in the open questions. Another Board member supported having a structured discussion on this matter, including concrete examples, and asked about the possible outcome. As the survey covered the communication activity of APEEE Board members as well as sections' representatives in the Educational Council (CE), it was proposed to invite all of them to the proper discussion - to follow a presentation of full results of the survey - at the next meeting.

ACTION: Those representatives who have not done so yet were asked to fill in the survey so that a discussion on its outcomes could be held in March.

13. Review and solicitation of parents' points for the Primary Uccle CE of 15 March 2022

If Board members have points to suggest for the CE Agenda, please send them directly to Uccle Primary Vice-President Talia BOATI. Uccle's CE Primary parent representatives will be contacted separately.

ACTION: Board members are asked to contact Talia BOATI with any suggestions for the Primary CE Agenda.



14. Update on School trips

This point was covered under point 8 within the remit of the Pedagogical Working Group.

WRITTEN POINTS FOR INFORMATION

15. Secretariat Update

A document listing the Secretariat's activity in administration, finance and communication was made available to Board members on OneDrive.

AOB

There were none.