

Brussels, 27 June 2022

MINUTES OF APEEE BOARD MEETING 19 May 2022

ATTENDEES 34

Voting Board Members:

Noemie BEIGBEDER (FR Sec), Talia BOATI (VP Administration & Uccle Primary; IT Prim), Sara DAGOSTINI (IT Sec), Marc GUITART (member elected by GA), Viktor HAUK (Treasurer; HU Sec), Delphine HEBERT (Berkendael, FR), Marek DVORSKY (Berkendael, SK), Karin HUNDEBØLL (DK Sec), Andreas KEIDEL (Berkendael, DE), Brigit LUGGIN (DE Sec), Sara MARTELLI (Berkendael, IT Prim), Kathryn MÁTHÉ (Secretary; EN Sec), Pere MOLES PALLEJA (member elected by GA), Gundars OSTROVSKIS (VP Berkendael; LV), Valentina PAPA (President; EN Prim), Sigfrido RAMIREZ PEREZ (ES Sec), Malene SCHAT-EPPERS (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:

Sylvie BAREL (FR Prim) – Noémie BEIGBEDER (FR Sec), Julia MADL (DE Prim) – Brigitte LUGGIN (DE Sec), Almudena FUERTES FERNANDEZ (ES Prim) – Santiago Alvaro CALVO RAMOS (ES Prim Dep).

Deputy Board Members (non-voting):

Ioanna ANAGNOSTOPOULOU (Berkendael, EL), Santiago CALVO RAMOS (ES Prim Dep), Bartosz HACKBART (Berkendael, FR), Nathalie KALOGERAS (FR Sec), Alba MARIÑO ENRIQUEZ (Berkendael, ES), Stefan PAGEL (Berkendael FR), Emese SAVOIA-KELETI (HU Sec Dep), Thomas SPOORMANS (FR Sec Dep), Thomas BARDRAM (Uccle Secondary CE DK).

Other Participants:

Samantha CHAITKIN (Uccle Primary CE Dep IT), Magdalena KUPCZYK (Uccle Primary CE Dep PL), Cristina FERNANDEZ RAMOS (Berkendael CE, ES), Claire GAUDIN (Berkendael, FR Prim), Agnes BOROS (Maternelle CE HU), Maksims IVANOV (Berkendael, LV Prim), Ioana SANDU (CE Dep FR Sec).

APEEE Secretariat:

Samia MABROUK

Board members can find all supporting documents in the shared folders on OneDrive
(2022-05-19 APEEE Board Meeting/Supporting Documents)



1. Opening of the meeting

President Valentina PAPA started the meeting and welcomed all the participants.

2. Adoption of the agenda

The President proposed that information point 8 (Secondary Used Textbook Sale) and decision point 10 (Rosa Reichel Memorial Project) be dealt with under discussion point 15 (Flash Reports from the Working Groups). Discussion point 14 (Future Linguistic Structure of the European Schools in Brussels) had to be postponed again as the relevant documents were still not sent to the APEEE.

The following points were added to the agenda in the AOB section:

- Complaints from some parents about the very early departure of the P4 trip to Austria
- Update on Change of rules for the registration to the OIB Garderie in Berkendael

The agenda was adopted by consensus with the modifications proposed.

3. Approval of the minutes of 28 April 2022 and follow-up of action points

The minutes will be adopted at the next meeting and action points from previous meetings will also be reviewed at that time.

POINTS FOR INFORMATION

4. Secretariat Update: staff situation

The President informed that Selena GRAY has extended her sick leave until 1 September.

5. Administrative Meeting Reports: Meeting on Security Agreement - 4 and 18 May

The President reported on the two meetings with the Office of the Secretary General, the 4 school Directors of the European Schools in Brussels as well as the 4 Presidents of the APEEEs of the Brussels Schools (for EEBI also the President of the APEEE Services). At those meetings a template of a Safety & Security Agreement was further discussed.

One of the issues raised by parents is related to access of parents to school premises. The Secretary General has adopted a general framework policy on access, on the basis of which each school should draw its specific access policy in consultation with stakeholders. The President reported that in the meeting the Secretary General showed resistance to include access rights in the security and safety agreement. They said that it would be better to have a reference to access policies adopted by each school. The President explained that the issue with including a general reference is that the framework policy on access has been adopted without any consultation of parents and it has not yet been made available to stakeholders. Moreover, our school has not communicated with parents on this issue and has not yet shown any will to start negotiations in order to adopt a specific access policy for our school, despite the APEEE requests on repeated occasions. So she said that before accepting any reference to an access policy in the security agreement, we need to ensure that a fair access policy is put in place in our school and that it is mutually agreed and cannot be easily revoked or changed.

The next step would be to provide further comments from APEEE presidents, to be discussed.

6. Pedagogical Meeting Reports: Secondary CE, 17 May

Vice-President of Pedagogy & Uccle Secondary, Monika VELIKONJA presented information from the



Secondary CE meeting, which included:

- Requests from school management for parents to remind children about rules on behaviour (especially in the canteen and common spaces), the use of paper baskets, and the mobile phone policy;
- Discussion on the end of the year arrangements, with director GOGGINS explaining that closing the school year two weeks in advance (on 17 June) for S1-S4 was necessary to allow the best conditions to organise oral BAC exams, accommodating inspectors and teachers in two buildings and the “conseils de classe”. He also indicated that the rule of 180 days of school concerns not all students but teachers, and proposed to improve communication in the future. Parents recalled the Board of Governors’ decision that schools should cater for all students during oral BAC exams although this does not have to be in the form of regular lessons in class;
- The appreciation of the Talent Show which was held on 13 May, with very good performance of students but no official recording so students and parents are invited to share any videos they recorded with Mr Hazan. Longer preparation was suggested in the future, with the next edition planned for 2023;
- The successful collection of paper bags in an initiative supported together by the APEEE and the school management;
- Information about the Cambridge English language exams, which were attended by 130 students, mostly for C1 level;
- The opening of the Opstal gate for pedestrians and bikes (so that the Vert Chasseur gate would be for cars only) - planned for 7 June in order to test it in the period before holidays;
- Possibility of abandoning School Agendas for Secondary students, with students and parents generally favourable starting from S4 or S5. Parents expressed concerns that they do not have access to TEAMS and the information through SMS is only made when grades and marks are encoded by teachers;
- Discussion about career orientation, with the choice of Maths4 and Maths6 and their impact on later results. In response to parents’ request, the school’s management provided figures on the distribution of students: those choosing Maths6 are 75% in S4 and 70% in S5, whereas later that share for Maths5 is 55% in S6 and 57% in S7. They promised more figures on how these choices relate to BAC results at the next meeting;
- With regard to the organisation of spaces, free time and disciplinary measures - the School management (Mrs Kunster) informed that the “etude” additional space was not used at the maximum and with other alternatives in place the conditions improved. One additional educational advisor was to be appointed for the next school year to accommodate the growing number of students;
- Information about the Ukrainian students, with teachers providing extra support in English and French to those students, and the general effort to bring them to a level that makes it possible for them to attend classes and graduate in the future;
- The School management agreed to have a bilateral follow-up meeting with APEEE representatives to discuss other parents’ points (incl. rotation of language teachers in L2&L3 across classes/levels, the gifted children/advanced learner in higher “examined” classes, presenting assessment of the work experience 2022 and school mobility programme).



7. INTERPARENTS (IP): Ukrainian pupils, IT PEDAG - Distance Learning Policy, Career Guidance and Pedagogical Reform

The Board of Governors launched a written procedure concerning Ukrainian students in the next school year, including cooperation between the Schools' management and APEEEs on the financing of services and other facilities. Currently there are 28 students from Ukraine at EEB1 (Primary and Secondary).

The high-level working group IT Pedagogy subgroup on Distance Learning suggested to dismantle the system-level Distance Learning Policy, which parents and other stakeholders had worked for two years to put in place. Instead, a proposal was to create a system-level framework for 'crisis modes' to be used in the future that could be used in conjunction with local school policies, with the suggestion that this could go for urgent written procedure to the Board of Governors. Parents and students questioned the contents of the new proposal, which included no offer to quarantined or vulnerable pupils and no minimum arrangement for secondary students. They also asked when the necessary local school policies would be put in place, noting that COVID is not over, and that we need a working arrangement in place still in September. It was agreed that any proposal will not go for written procedure but can be further discussed and adopted in the BoG December 2022.

The high-level working group Career Orientation is composed of persons (teachers or coordinators) responsible for this matter in all European Schools and an inspector and parents. The preliminary S5-options-survey given in Uccle before setting the final schedule was referred to as the good practice as it widens the possible options for students. Also, the current rules only require schools to provide information on options with the EU and UK, but Uccle also covers the US/Canada, which could be problematic in the future. Proposals were made with regard to engaging Schools' Alumni in Career Guidance activities, and questions asked about the work experience programme, which is not very robust in some schools. The verification of EN skills might be a problem for students from other sections.

The high-level working group Pedagogical Reform is proposing modifications to the BAC cycle, including:

- a new 2-unit option for scientific topics of general interest to replace Bio2,
- the replacement of Phil2 and religion/ethics with Civics and Values (with a possible additional component of comparative information on religions).
- the introduction of a cross-curricular project (CCP) over the two years. These should be cross-curricular, based on ideas introduced in a bottom-up manner and complement the programme in view of university access.
- ICT would be offered as a 4-hour option in and include coding, networked systems, databases, etc, instead of the current focus on communication tools

Parents and students generally support these proposals, but concerns were raised about logistics of independent projects. Both parents and students insisted that project-based work be trialled in early secondary and phase in to high levels over time before introducing directly to the BAC, Parents requested that IT specialists to be involved in further planning for the IT option.

8. Secondary Used Textbook Sale

Point to be dealt with under point 15.



9. Report on the meeting with APEEE services and NSI on the credit/bank card online payment of the APEEE fee

Following the decision taken by the Board at the previous meeting (on 28 April 2022), the President reported on a meeting that took place on 4 May, where the discussions continued with the APEEE Services and the company NSI in order to implement the online payment.

POINTS FOR DECISION

10. Proposed revision of Rosa Reichel Memorial Project

Point to be dealt with under point 15.

11. Updated list of members of Working Groups

The APEEE sends delegates to various standing committees and working groups to represent the interests of EEBI parents. These delegates should be periodically replaced or renewed. Here is the current list of places to be filled and candidates proposed:

- Berkendael representative in INTERPARENTS - to be filled;
- Central Enrolment Authority - to be filled (Kathryn MÁTHÉ serves in interim);
- Uccle Safety & Hygiene Committee - Santiago CALVO-RAMOS (main) and Julia MADL (substitute);
- Berkendael Safety & Hygiene Committee - Delphine HEBERT proposed as substitute for Marek DVORSKY;
- Uccle Fete Committee - one place to be filled;
- Addiction Prevention and Abuse Working Group / Drug Policy Task Force - one place to be filled by the Legal Working Group;
- Homework Policy / Distance Learning Working Group - Monika VELIKONJA proposed for the place to be filled;
- Trips, Projects, & Project Weeks - Monika VELIKONJA and Ioana SANDU proposed;
- APEEE Project Call Financial Advisor - to be filled (Gundars OSTROVSKIS serves in interim);
- Solidarity Fund Committee - two places to be filled.

The proposed candidates were accepted by consensus.

ACTION: the secretariat to update the composition of the WG as modified

12. Spring 2022 Project Call: Preliminary Overview of Submissions and Proposal to Create an Awards Panel

As there is less funding available this year (around 5000 EUR), it will be difficult to select projects from many (28) applications made, from parents, teachers and students, of which 17% are recurring projects. The spread of applications among sections was even, as well as levels involved (with those from S1-S3 most numerous). Interestingly, three projects applied only for support and no money. It was indicated that projects often concern well-being matters, and the promotion of an EEB1 ethos, fostering tolerance, diversity and inclusion.

An award panel may be constituted for each call, to make a recommendation for the Board's decision.



The proposal was to constitute an award panel and to appoint the following persons to the Award Panel for Spring 2022: Sara DAGOSTINI (Bien Etre), Samantha CHAITKIN (Community Building), Kathryn MÁTHÉ (PedGroup), Santiago CALVO RAMOS (Safety and Hygiene), Ioanna ANAGNOSTOPOULOU (Berkendael) and Gundars OSTROVSKIS (Financial Advisor). They would be supplemented with members from the school management and staff as well as a member from the Student Committee (in accordance with the procedural requirements).

The proposal was adopted by consensus.

ACTION: the Award panel to start consultation in order to prepare the recommendation to be voted in the June board meeting

POINTS FOR DISCUSSION AND DECISION

13. Organisation of the end of the year for Secondary pupils: discussion and decision on proposed APEEE letter to react to the decision of the school to terminate school on 17 June

The President recalled the previous practice of shortening the school year by 7 days, and indicated the possible content of the letter, as shared with the parents in advance of the meeting, including the late notice, losing 10 days of schooling, the rule of teaching 180 days, and the legal possibility to cancel classes during oral BAC and obligation to provide something pedagogical instead. She also indicated that the school claimed that not enough teachers are available during that period, and that it is important for parents to protest, with possible letters to the OSG, CULT Committee in the European Parliament, and the Board of Governors. For information - the APEEE Services will provide a paid activity, but not necessarily for all those interested.

Board members in the CA reported that some parents were irritated by the information being sent late, while others worried about the non-respect of the rule of 180 days in the context of the right to receive education. A proposal to invite the Board of Governors to re-examine that rule was also made. One member stressed that this repeated behaviour of the school is a scandal, putting students with less means at a disadvantage to those who can afford home-schooling or additional activities. Ideas of protesting to the Court of Auditors were also voiced, while some parents asked about the teachers' opinions. It was reminded that class councils should be organised outside class hours.

After the debate, a decision was taken to have the President write to the relevant bodies, starting from director GOGGINS.

ACTION: President to send letters to the Director, the Secretary General, and the European Commission, as well as to bring the matter to the Board of Governors.

14. Discussion and possibly decision on the Future Linguistic Structure of the European Schools in Brussels in view of the Enlarged Steering Committee Brussels 31 May

Point postponed again due to the lack of relevant documents.

POINTS FOR DISCUSSION

15. Flash Updates on WG Activities: Well-Being – Emotional Intelligence; Pedagogical – STEM, Secondary Projects&Trips, Locally Recruited Teachers; Community Building – Paper Bags, Sweatshirts [and Rosa Project]

- Samantha CHAITKIN, coordinator of the Community Building Working Group, reported on the Rosa Reichel Memorial project (with a round bench to be installed in September), the upcoming sweatshirt sale (with a wide range of colours, ordering via a website, and discussion



on design), the Book Sale to take place between 14 and 17 June (for which volunteer parents were needed) and the success of the Bags Collection. A new initiative from Berkendael was presented - that on the creation of a book (by parents, students and teachers) about the history of Europe; those who are interested should contact Ms Claire GAUDINE (claireeth-brice@hotmail.fr).

- Ioana SANDU from the PedGroup group on Trips, Projects, & Project Weeks reported on the first meeting of the CE Projects & Trips Working Group, which was held that morning.
- Kathryn MÁTHÉ from the PedGroup Educational Technology Group and the Communication Working Group provided some information on the CE Homework Policy and Distance Learning Working Group (with teachers asking for autonomy, while the group waits for the results of an inspector review of homework policies), and an upcoming meeting of the CE Communication Policy Working Group. She also announced that two parents in that working group would be leaving so new volunteers were most welcome.

16. Review and solicitation of APEEE agenda points for the Uccle Primary CE on 21 June and for the Berkendael Primary CE on 23 June, as well as for the Safety and Hygiene Committee on 31 May

Proposals for issues to be raised were presented, inter alia concerning the mandate of the S&H Committee, the statistics on injuries and accidents during school hours, dangerous situations on both sites with regard to the kiss&ride, and the state of play on the opening of the second entrance in Berkendael and the Opstal gate in Uccle. Last but not least, an up-date on ventilation for COVID should be made.

In addition, the President recalled the past practices on using School premises by the APEEE.

The President invited Board members to send suggestions to the Vice-President of Administration & Uccle Primary Talia BOATI for the upcoming Primary CE meeting and to Santiago Alvaro CALVO RAMOS for the S&H Committee meeting.

17. AOB

Early departure of the P4 school trip to Austria

A representative of one of the sections transmitted complaints from some of the parents about the very early (at 4 am) departure of buses from the school with P4 pupils going on a trip to Austria (which replaced the cancelled ski-trip that was usually planned earlier in the year). In response, it was recalled that the early departure was announced by the relevant communication in advance, and that this timing allowed the buses to reach the destination by the evening.

Registration to the OIB Garderie in Berkendael

This point was already dealt with at previous meetings.

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The next meeting (in situ!) is scheduled for the 23 June 2022, but an extraordinary meeting might be called when the document concerning point 14 is provided.