

Brussels, 21 September 2022

## MINUTES OF APEEE BOARD MEETING 23 JUNE 2022

### ATTENDEES 26

#### Voting Board Members:

Sylvie BAREL (FR Prim), Noemie BEIGBEDER (FR Sec), Talia BOATI (VP Administration & Uccle Primary; IT Prim), Sara DAGOSTINI (IT Sec), Almudena FUERTES FERNANDEZ (ES Prim) Marc GUITART (member elected by GA), Viktor HAUK (Treasurer; HU Sec), Delphine HEBERT (Berkendael, FR), Brigit LUGGIN (DE Sec), Sara MARTELLI (Berkendael, IT), Kathryn MÁTHÉ (Secretary; EN Sec), Pere MOLES PALLEJA (member elected by GA), Gundars OSTROVSKIS (VP Berkendael; LV), Valentina PAPA (President; EN Prim), Malene SCHAT-EPPERS (DK Prim), Jan TYMOWSKI (Deputy Secretary; PL Prim), Istvan VANYOLOS (HU Prim), Monika VELIKONJA (VP Pedagogy & Uccle Secondary; SWALS).

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

Ioanna ANAGNOSTOPOULOU (Berkendael, EL), Bartosz HACKBART (Berkendael, FR), Alba MARIÑO ENRIQUEZ (Berkendael, ES), Stefan PAGEL (Berkendael, FR), Emese SAVOIA-KELETI (HU Sec Dep), Tibor SCHARF (DE Sec Dep).

**Other Participants:** Endika BENGOETXEA (CE FR Prim)

**APEEE Secretariat:** Guendalina COMINOTTI, Samia MABROUK.

### 1. Adoption of the agenda

President Valentina PAPA started the meeting in situ and welcomed all the participants. She informed that point 8 (Legal WG: Update on Statutes) will be dealt with orally and point 14 (Presentation and outcomes of the work of the Taskforce on fund raising possibilities for the APEEE) will be postponed until September.

The agenda was adopted by consensus with the modifications proposed.

### 2. Approval of the minutes of 28 April, as well as of 19 and 30 May 2022 and follow-up of action points

**ACTION POINT:** The minutes will be adopted in a written procedure after the Board members will have been able to check the drafts placed on OneDrive.



The update of the follow-up of action points was made by the President:

<b>REVIEW OF ACTION POINTS</b> <b>APEEE Board Meeting 23 June 2022</b>		
Point on Agenda	Action Point	Status
19/11/21 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 finalizing GDPR Streams. <a href="#">Discussions are still going on regarding some points.</a>	ongoing
13/01/2022 Pt. 14	<b>Review and solicitation of points for introductory meeting between new APEEE Bureau and APEEE Services Bureau:</b> 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. The President of the APEEE met the new President of the APEEE Services, Rafael PAPI-BORDERIA. Discussing with them and will meet the developed of this database and points that will benefit for both. In March both the APEEE and APEEE Services had a very constructive meeting were solutions for APEEE's fees lack of payment and credit card payment were discussed, and a proposal will be dealt with as a point of discussion today. On 04/05/2022 another meeting with the database developer, NSI is scheduled. <a href="#">The President informed that this point can be closed, as she has already reported back to the board on the meeting that took place in May.</a>	closed
17/03/2022 Pt.6	<b>Administrative Meeting and Reports - 15 February, Safety &amp; Hygiene Committee:</b> The President to follow up with school management to ensure that the APEEE is consulted before the implementation of the Access Policy. Discussion are still going on, especially taking into account the new pilot project on the opening of the Optstal gate and closing of the Verts- Chasseurs entrance in June. <a href="#">The President to follow up with school management to ensure that the APEEE is consulted before the implementation of the Access Policy.</a>	ongoing



17/03/2022 Pt.13	<b>Discussion on the results on the feedback given by Board Members on best practices for internal communication among sections:</b> The Bureau to elaborate guidelines for internal communication within sections. This point is still in preparation. <a href="#">The Bureau to elaborate guidelines for internal communication within sections.</a>	ongoing
17/03/2022 Pt. 14	<b>Steering Committee Brussels Schools Workshop on the future of the Brussels' schools, 29 March:</b> The Bureau to gather red lines from Boards members from both sites in cooperation with the Task Force. The President to request that VP Berkendael is also invited to workshop. The President requested that the VP Berkendael be invited, the request was denied. The President met the Bureau and coordinated with the Task Force ahead of the meeting. She reported to the Board in writing; report available in One-not-for -circulation. At the upcoming Board meeting updates will be given. <a href="#">The President closed the point as the board will be discussing the Future of Brussels school in point 13.</a>	closed
28/04/2022 Pt. 7	<b>INTERPARENTS (IP) Debrief:</b> Board members to circulate INTERPARENTS Communication on the JTC to their sections. <a href="#">This was done.</a>	closed
28/04/2022 Pt.8	<b>Flash Update on Community Building:</b> The revision of the Rosa Memorial Project will be raised by the Community Building WG at the next meeting. <a href="#">This was done at the Board meeting in May.</a>	closed
28/04/2022 Pt.9	<b>Proposal to establish a Task Force for APEEE Fund Raising in view of future project calls:</b> Board members to contact Malene SCHAT-EPPERS if they want to join the Task Force. Malene SCHAT-EPPERS to lead Task Force in brainstorming and present findings and proposals to the Board in June. <a href="#">The proposal by the task force on fund raising will be presented at the next board meeting in September.</a>	ongoing
28/04/2022 Pt.10	<b>Proposal to introduce credit/bank card payment for the APEEE fee with technical integration in Services database:</b> APEEE President and Treasurer to follow up on the development with the APEEE Services and their developer NSI. <a href="#">This point is still ongoing. The President will inform the board in point 3.</a>	ongoing
28/04/2022 Pt.12	<b>Proposed Primary Sweatshirt Sale:</b> Community Building WG Coordinator to launch primary hoodies sale. <a href="#">It was done and the Community WG will update the board in point 16</a>	closed
28/04/2022 Pt.13	<b>Presentation of the result of the Survey by the APEEE Gifted Children Network:</b> The president to follow up with the school to facilitate a meeting and get answers from the school regarding gifted children. <a href="#">A meeting is scheduled for September.</a>	ongoing



28/04/2022 Pt.16	<b>Review and solicitation of APEEE agenda point to the Secondary CE on 17 May:</b> Board Members to send to VP Monika VELIKONJA suggestions for points for the agenda of the upcoming Secondary CE on 17 May. <a href="#">This was done and the meeting was held.</a>	<b>closed</b>
28/04/2022 Pt.17	<b>Garderie OIB change of rules:</b> President to write again to Mrs. LUPU asking her to follow-up on this issue. <a href="#">This point was concluded.</a>	<b>closed</b>
19/05/2022 Pt.11	<b>Updated list of members of Working Groups:</b> The secretariat to update the composition of the WG as modified. <a href="#">This was done so the President closed the point.</a>	<b>closed</b>
19/05/2022 Pt.12	<b>Spring 2022 Project Call:</b> The Award panel to start consultation to prepare the recommendation to be voted in the June Board Meeting. <a href="#">This was done and a vote will be held under pt. 10.</a>	<b>closed</b>
19/05/2022 Pt.13	<b>Proposed APEEE letter to react to the decision of the school to terminate school on 17 June:</b> President to send letters to the Director, the Secretary General, and the European Commission, as well as to bring matter to the Board of Governors. <a href="#">Letters were sent in late May and early June to the Director, Secretary-General and European Commission and we received replies. We will work with INTERPARENTS to send a letter to the Board of Governors.</a>	<b>closed</b>

## POINTS FOR INFORMATION

### 3. Secretariat Update

The President updated on the latest on the development of a credit card payment for the APEEE fees. She informed that, due to some issues with the credit card company, it was not possible to implement the new system in time before the summer. The Secretariat will follow up in September and hopefully the implementation will be completed in autumn.

With regards to the Mobility programme, the school informed APEEE about foreign students who were still looking for host families and following an APEEE e-mail to all Secondary parents most of the places needed were found. Nota bene: If any EEEB1 students are still looking for host families elsewhere, they can contact the APEEEs at the host schools for help. Our INTERPARENTS reps can help make contact. For information: 28 students from EEEB1 are taking part in the programme.

### 4. Administrative Meeting Reports: Safety and Hygiene Committee on 31 May; Central Enrolment Board on 2 & 23 June

The President recalled that the meeting of the Steering Committee Brussels that took place on 31 May and concerned the Future Linguistic Structure of the European Schools in Brussels will be covered under point 13.

Berkendael delegate to the S&H Committee, Marek DVORSKY reported on the meeting of the Safety & Hygiene Committee on 31 May, during which the situation with infrastructure and buildings was discussed (such as the works around the new Opstal entrance in Uccle and the renovation of the Church wall in Berkendael), as well as transport and mobility (consideration of a Kiss & Ride zone on



Chaussee de Waterloo; while ending this practice at Rue de Berkendael), security on both sites (including planned evacuation exercises), the well-being of staff (group meeting on 7 June), COVID measures (especially ventilation to be checked), access to the School for APEEE meetings, and the Committee's mandate, format and scope.

Secretary and CEA delegate, Kathryn MÁTHÉ reported on two meetings of the Central Enrolment Authority (2 and 23 June), with special attention on Ukrainian students. Changes were made to the draft enrolment proposal, inter alia in order for those of them who were hosted by families working in the EU institutions to continue education in case of moving away from host families, clearly separating the responsibilities of host families and legal representatives of the Ukrainian kids and addressing the revision of their financial status. The modified text will be submitted to the Board of Governors. Volunteers were called to take over the responsibility for representing APEEE EEBI in the Central Enrolment Authority meetings in the future.

#### **5. Pedagogical Meeting Reports from Educational Councils: Uccle Primary on 21 June; Berkendael Primary on 23 June**

Vice-President of Administration & Uccle Primary, Talia BOATI presented information from the Uccle Primary CE meeting, which included:

- re-start of swimming lessons from 13 June,
- successful organisation of school trips for P2 - P5 classes; and the meeting of the working group on 17 June,
- increase of the cost of educational visits from 75 to 90 euro,
- main pedagogical objectives according to the Annual Pedagogical School Plan (including evaluation at the start of the year, highlighting key competences, using Office 365 tools, and harmonization of planning and projects),
- TICE - technologies de l'information et de la communication pour l'enseignement - activities in Nursery and Primary, including the use of SharePoint "Partage" between teachers and an idea for a quarterly journal in digital and paper version, to actively involve students in preparation,
- Nursery visits to an animal farm, and activities during the Rainbow Week,
- creation of an Internal Emotional Crisis Protocol,
- Growth Mindset Assembly's performance broadcast from New York to the EN section on 30 May;

Delphine HEBERT presented information from the Berkendael CE meeting, which included:

- information on school trips, with skiing considered as an option in the following year,
- projects in art and music, as well as parents' concerns about optimising the use of rooms,
- S1 preparation for LV and SK pupils,
- the recruitment of L1 and L2 teachers, as well as the linguistic level of current L2 teachers;

A number of Board members made comments concerning these points, inter alia indicating that the idea of having one service provider to organise school trips for all European Schools in Brussels was abandoned due to no applications.



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## 6. INTERPARENTS (IP): Publication of a study for CULT Committee in the European Parliament, Education for Sustainable Development, Bacculaureate Support System

Vice-President of Pedagogy & Uccle Secondary and INTERPARENTS delegate, Monika VELIKONJA briefly presented the study on “The European Schools system: State of Play, Challenges and Perspectives” (available [here](#)) which was prepared for the Parliament’s Committee on Culture and Education, and - in view of the upcoming own-initiative report - she invited all parents to contact their MEPs and called for the APEEE to act as a stakeholder in this procedure.

Secretary and INTERPARENTS delegate, Kathryn MÁTHÉ described the work of the system-level working group on Education for Sustainable Development, which seems to be focused not on curricular development but on extra activities, such as the Climate Academy at Woluwe with 15 students from S6 and 15 from S7 who later lead other students in specific actions, but with potential withdrawal of funding due to the European Commission’s vote against in the Board of Governors; documentation was to be shared for use in other European schools, and a question was asked whether teachers should always be entitled to ‘decharge hours’ in exchange of additional activities.

## 7. S7 and Bacculaureate (BAC) 2022

Secretary Kathryn MÁTHÉ reported that the BAC Written Exams took place from 30 May to 10 June and the BAC Oral Exams started on June 20, with the campus cleared to allow these to happen “in peace”. In the written exams, concerns were identified in chemistry, economics, maths5, and biology - as last year, they seemed related at least in part to the change to a competence-based system. There was confusion around the practice of “mock orals”, which many teachers give during the so-called “white” study period between the written and oral BAC exams, but this year - due to unclear instructions from the management - some of them were cancelled or did not go through with the practice sessions, while others did. In effect, this violated the rules in place which state that the director should “assure fair and equivalent treatment of pupils”.

It was underlined that BAC Preliminary Marks represent 50% of final mark, and that they are made up of class marks (A marks) and part examination marks (B marks). The formula used to calculate preliminary mark is complex, including courses that use two “short preBAC” exams or one “long pre-BAC” exams (both of which count as B marks) and some parents expressed concerns about the calculated values.

As for the accompanying events, it was difficult to re-start after COVID but the students wanted to have some fun and eventually did, although the school tried to restrain it. In autumn, there was a Photo Day, the last day of class, the so-called BAC Day (on 18 May in 2022) has traditionally been a bit wild but this year restricted to a designated area with only low key activities permitted, the Bal du BAC (on 29 June in 2022) - which is organised independently by a committee of S7 students and parents (as financing of this event is linked to ensuring some monitoring and assuming responsibility), and the Proclamation - official graduation ceremony (1 July), with considerations ongoing if it could be held in an outside venue in the future, to ensure bigger capacity.

## 8. Legal Working Group - update on APEEE Statutes

The new draft Statutes are still in preparation by Ernst & Young lawyers and will be distributed for comments before submitting for adoption by the Board and eventually General Assembly after summer.





**ACTION POINT:** Legal Working Group and President to circulate draft Statutes to the board once finalised.

## POINTS FOR DECISION

### 9. Proposed extension / update of projects

Following a short presentation of the proposal by Secretary Kathryn MÁTHÉ, the following projects obtained following extensions by consensus:

- Croissance (Bien-être) - until 30 June 2023
- Calm room - until 31 December 2022
- Radio EEB1 - until 30 June 2023
- Package of Well-Being Conferences - until 30 June 2023
- In Memory of Rosa - until 31 December 2022

**ACTION POINT:** The Secretariat to communicate the extension of the projects to the project coordinators.

### 10. Spring 2022 Project Call - projects proposed for funding by the Awards Panel

Following a description of the procedure and proposals, by Secretary Kathryn MÁTHÉ, the following projects obtained funding by consensus:

- Healthy Mind in a Healthy Body (Berkendael Nursery) - 500 euro out of 1500 to fund external speakers; the school will cover the material,
- Francis Pirotta Creative Arts Prize (5th edition – Uccle Primary) - 600 euro out of 750 toward the purchase of the prize; the APEEE will also support logistics,
- Robotic in Primary School at Uccle - 1474 euro for the company Novatec to train teachers in a cooperative project within European Hours to build and programme a “robot for Mars” ; will eventually be at both sites,
- Emotional Intelligence for Berkendael Pupils in P4 & P5 - 700 euro for student workshop by external presenters; project run previously in Uccle primary,
- Mental health for Teens (Secondary) - 1200 euro for student workshop by external presenters; similar project already in S4 and S5 via L2 in EN and FR, but not in DE; topics covered: general anxiety and food issues.

**ACTION POINT:** The Secretariat to communicate the outcome of the decision to the coordinators of the projects submitted.

### 11. Proposal for establishing the Solidarity Fund Committee

Following a short presentation of past decisions by Treasurer Viktor HAUK the following persons were elected by consensus to be members of the Solidarity Fund Committee: Pere MOLES PALLEJA, Gundars OSTROVSKIS, Victor HAUK, and Emese SAVOIA-KELETI; in addition - the Committee’s advisor will be Brian GRAY, former Treasurer of APEEE and current chairman of the APEEE Services Solidarity Fund.



## 12. APEEE membership status for Ukrainian families/pupils enrolled in Uccle

Following the presentation of the proposal by the President and a short debate, it was decided by consensus to grant APEEE membership free of charge to those families (hosting Ukrainian pupils) who work in the EU institutions or European Schools but don't have children in EEB1 for the 2022-2023 academic year. The situation shall be monitored and assessed following the developments in the discussion undertaken by INTERPARENTS on the fees and possible reviews of the framework during the 2022-2023 year by the Board of Governors. The decision will be re-evaluated during that year, if needed.

## POINTS FOR DISCUSSION AND DECISION

### 13. Discussion (and possibly decision) on the Future Linguistic Structure of the European Schools in Brussels, as follow up of the Enlarged Steering Committee Brussels held on 31 May and in preparation of the next one on 30 June

The President recalled her written report from the meeting on 31 May, and the distribution of the second version of the reflection paper prepared by the Office of the Secretary General of the European Schools.

Pere MOLES PALLEJA, coordinator of the TASK force on the Future of Brussels Schools presented the assessment of the APEEE Task Force on the second version of the reflection paper, indicating the latter's numerous inconsistencies, mistakes and unrealistic assumptions concerning both models (A and B), as well as criticizing the alternative proposal submitted in the meantime by the Association of Future Parents of children attending the European Schools in Brussels.

In the discussion that followed, Board members stressed inter alia that:

- a significant majority of parents in certain sections is strongly opposed to the proposals presented in the reflection paper,
- several concerns were raised about the sibling rule
- some representatives raise the importance of reducing overcrowding, especially in secondary
- some coordination should be ensured with the other APEEEs,
- neither parents nor representations of EU Member States were properly consulted yet,
- the creation of the new (5th) School should surely be included in the planning of potential arrangements, but the figures used for estimating future populations in language sections should be based on sound grounds,
- model B would not respect the principle of geographical proximity, as the capacity of schools in the north and south of Brussels is different,
- the phase-out of a section from a given site should be adequately calculated,
- if some mergers were to take place, it should also be well explained to all interested parties,
- we should clarify which decision need to be taken immediately in Autumn for the next enrolment policy and which we have time to discuss in more detail,
- the solutions proposed should respect the existing regulations, as well as such fundamental principles as proportionality and legitimate expectations (including of those families who made housing investments).





The President said that in view of the debate and positions expressed in writing and orally by the different sections, she will bring forward parents' concerns and positions during the Steering Committee Brussels on 30 June, without taking any position on any of the model proposed. She declared to offer being constructive during the discussions and that she will also ask the General Secretary to organise open sessions with parents to discuss the situation, and any future proposals. She will report to the Board in writing after the Steering Committee Brussels on 30 June.

**ACTION POINT:** The President to send a report to the Board in writing after the 30 June Steering Committee Meeting. The President will request the Secretary General to organise open sessions.

## POINTS FOR DISCUSSION

### 14. Presentation and outcomes of the work of the Taskforce on fund raising possibilities for the APEEE

This point was postponed to September.

### 15. Decision by the school to open the Opstal gate (and closing of Vert Chasseur gate for pedestrians and bicycles) as well as the “kiss and drive” in Berkendael

During a short discussion, board members expressed their concerns about the decision by the school to open the Opstal gate and closing the entrance in Vert Chasseur. Most of the concerns presented were, among others:

- the school took the decision without a proper consultation with parents;
- It gives the wrong message, where pedestrians and bikers are penalised, instead of being encouraged,
- It does not solve the problem of safety, as the Opstal gate is also not safe, because of the entrance of the carrefour, close to possible truck parking and delivering;
- The Opstal gate was not part of the audit study on safety, which assessed the school entrances;
- The closing of Vert-Chasseur will increase traffic and pressure on Chausse de waterloo

It was agreed that the President would send a letter to the EEBI Director raising the issues expressed by Board members and by parents both orally and in writing, demanding that the implementation of the pilot project is suspended until a comprehensive evaluation is carried out.

**ACTION POINT:** The President to send a letter to the EEB1 director to express parents' concerns about the decision to close the Vert Chasseur entrance to pedestrians and bicycles and to open the Opstal Gate instead.

### 16. Working Group Flash Reports: Community Building – sweatshirts, book sale, Francis Pirotta Arts Prize, Citizens of the World Project; Communication – NewsFlash; Well-Being – Cyber Heroes, conferences, Well Being Framework; PedGroup: P4 school trips

This point was postponed to September, due to lack of time



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## 17. Soliciting volunteers for September Welcome Events

A communication on this matter will follow by e-mail closer to the events.

**ACTION POINT:** The Secretariat to send information by email about the upcoming welcome events for new parents.

### WRITTEN POINTS FOR INFORMATION

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Supporting reports and documents for this meeting are accessible to Board members in the OneDrive Board meeting folder.

The next meeting is scheduled for the 8 September 2022.