

Brussels, 9 November 2022

Minutes of APEEE Board Meeting 6 October 2022

ATTENDEES 29

Voting Board Members: Noemie BEIGBEDER (FR Sec), Talia BOATI (VP Administration & Uccle Primary; IT Prim), Marc GUITART (member elected by GA), Viktor HAUK (Treasurer; HU Sec), Delphine HEBERT (Berkendael, FR), Andreas KEIDEL (Berkendael, DE), Brigit LUGGIN (DE Sec), Sara MARTELLI (Berkendael, IT), Kathryn MÁTHÉ (Secretary; EN Sec), Pere MOLES PALLEJA (member elected by GA), Sigfrido RAMIREZ PEREZ (ES Sec), Gundars OSTROVSKIS (VP Berkendael, LV), Valentina PAPA (President; EN Prim), Jan TYMOWSKI (Deputy Secretary; PL Prim), Julia TYMOWSKA (PL Sec), Monika VELIKONJA (VP Pedagogy & Uccle Secondary; SWALS), Alex WILSON (Bureau member; member elected by GA)

Board Members Voting by Proxy:

Malene SCHAT-EPPERS (DK Prim) proxy to Monika VELIKONJA; Almudena FUERTES FERNANDEZ (ES Prim) proxy to Pere MOLES PALLEJA

Deputy Board Members (non-voting): Ioanna ANAGNOSTOPOULOS (Berkendael Dep), Agnes BOROS (HU Prim Dep), Claus BUCHHOLZ (DE Prim Dep), Nathalie KALOGERAS (FR Sec), Bartosz HACKBART (Berkendael, FR), Lucia MARTINEZ (FR Sec Dep), Emese SAVOIA-KELETI (HU Sec dep)

Other Participants: Magali BARRAL (CE FR Prim), Samantha CHAITKIN (CE IT Prim), Maria GERHARDT (Observer, DE),

APEEE Secretariat: Selena GRAY. Samia MABROUK

1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda

President Valentina PAPA started the meeting and welcomed all the participants. She then proposed that point 9 should be for discussion only (as not ready for decision), and that point 13 be postponed to a future meeting. The agenda as proposed was adopted by consensus.

2. Exchange of views with new EEB1 Director David Tran

Following an introduction by the APEEE President, the new director of the School, Mr David Tran, briefly presented himself, including his experience as a teacher (25 years) and with expat students in Brazil, Spain and Hong-Kong.

The floor was given to APEEE Board members for questions and comments. They asked questions concerning the organization of the two sites of EEB1, the alignment of Uccle and Berkendael pedagogical programmes, the consultation of parents on important matters (such as COVID measures, access policy and the future of European Schools in Brussels), the rule of 180 days of schooling and the fact that the school has been cut short for secondary pupils during the BAC orals, the timing and the modalities of the project week(s), the cooperation of the School's management with the APEEE working groups, the



School Party (Fête), as well as the question of the closing of the Vert Chasseur entrance and the opening of the Opstal Gate.

On the alignment between the two primary sites, Mr TRAN reiterated the importance of the harmonisation of the pedagogical programmes, while still allowing differences between sites as they are not the same size and don't have the same features, etc. He also explained that he holds regular meetings between staff and management working in Uccle and Berkendael and he is happy to explore even more ways to ensure more alignment and coordination. He also committed to improve the school communication, including improving the school website, and to ensure consultation of stakeholders, including parents, students and teacher representatives. On the future of the Brussels school, he noted the challenge of overcrowding and the complexity of the European Schools in Brussels and stressed the importance of preparing new parents entering the system before enrolment.

At the end of the discussion APEEE President Valentina PAPA thanked Director TRAN for his presence and participation and expressed hope for good cooperation in the future.

3. Approval of the minutes 23 June and 8 September meetings and follow-up of action points

The minutes from the two previous APEEE Board meetings were declared approved by consensus.

ACTION POINTS APEEE Board Meeting 9 September 2022		
Point on Agenda	Action Point	Status
19/11/21 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 finalizing GDPR Streams. Discussions are still going on regarding some points. No progress on this point.	ongoing
17/03/2022 Pt.6	Administrative Meeting and Reports - 15 February, Safety & Hygiene Committee: The President to follow up with school management to ensure that the APEEE is consulted before the implementation of the Access Policy. The President is continuing to follow up on different aspects and to ensure APEEE is consulted. This is an ongoing issue with school management that the President has brought up in different meetings. During the last Administrative Board on 29 September, the SG said that the access policy framework adopted at system level cannot be shared with stakeholders and proposed that an extra-ordinary restricted S&H committee is held on the access policy framework, so that stakeholders can see it.	ongoing



17/03/2022 Pt.13	Discussion on the results on the feedback given by Board Members on best practices for internal communication among sections: The Bureau to elaborate guidelines for internal communication within sections. A draft is under preparation to be submitted for consultation by the Board in October, for a final draft in time for November section elections. The Board will vote on the draft proposal in point 10.	ongoing
28/04/2022 Pt.9	Proposal to establish a Task Force for APEEE Fund Raising in view of future project calls: Malene SCHAT-EPPERS to lead Task Force in brainstorming and present findings and proposals to the Board in June. The proposal by the task force on fund raising will be presented at the Board meeting in September. The Task Force needs more time to meet and the draft will be presented at the Board meeting in October. The point was supposed to be discussed during the meeting but Malene SCHATT-EPPERS was unable to attend. This is postponed further.	ongoing
28/04/2022 Pt.10	Proposal to introduce credit/bank card payment for the APEEE fee with technical integration in Services database: APEEE President and Treasurer to follow up on the development with the APEEE Services and their developer NSI. The proposal was discussed in June and is still being followed up. APEEE hopes that it can be implemented in time for next year's rentrée. No progress on this point	ongoing
28/04/2022 Pt.13	Presentation of the result of the Survey by the APEEE Gifted Children Network: The president to follow up with the school to facilitate a meeting and get answers from the school regarding gifted children. A meeting is scheduled for September. Date to be confirmed when feedback received from the school. The meeting has not been scheduled yet, with the new Director. The APEEE Gifted Children Network will relaunch with school management.	ongoing
23/06/2022 Pt 8 & 08/09/2022 Pt. 7	Legal Working Group - update on APEEE Statutes Legal Working Group and President to circulate draft Statutes to the Board once finalised. To be on the agenda for discussion hopefully at the December Board meeting and for vote possibly during an extraordinary meeting of the General Assembly in the spring.	ongoing
23/06/2022 Pt.15 & 08/09/2022 Pt. 10	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 Berkendal: President to send a letter to the EEEB1 Director, David TRAN to express parents' concerns about the decision to close the Vert Chasseur entrance to pedestrians and bicycles and to open the Opstal Gate instead. The letter was sent and the reply uploaded to OneDrive. Discussed under pt.10 as well as next steps. President Valentina PAPA to follow up with bureau and prepare second letter in response to school reply.	ongoing
23/06/2022 Pt.17 &	Soliciting volunteers for September Welcome Events: APEEE Secretariat to send information by email about the upcoming welcome events for new parents. This was done and the President	



<p>8/09/2022 Pt 5</p>	<p>thanked those who replied. She asked members to please register as volunteers to help present APEEE in the upcoming September and October meetings. Kathryn MATHE added that volunteers are also solicited to help with the distribution of hoodies during class meetings on 20 and 22 September as these will be held at the same time at the 2 different sites. Volunteers from Berkendael were especially solicited. APEEE Secretariat to resend sign up by email. It was done and some volunteers signed up for the September welcome meetings and the President thanked them. She called on more people to volunteer for the meetings in October.</p>	<p>ongoing</p>
<p>08/09/2022 Pt.3</p>	<p>Approval of the minutes of 23 June 2022 The minutes will be circulated for adoption by Written Procedure after the Board members have had time to read the draft uploaded on OneDrive. The Written Procedure was launched but too few voted, so the minutes were voted during Pt. 3 of this meeting and adopted by consensus.</p>	<p>Closed</p>
<p>08/09/2022 Pt.6</p>	<p>Secretariat staff update: annual calendar of meetings APEEE Secretariat to publish annual calendar on website. This was done</p>	<p>Closed</p>
<p>08/09/2022 PT.9</p>	<p>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 30 June and in preparation of the next one on 15 September. President Valentina PAPA will report in writing after the Enlarged Steering Committee Brussels meeting 15 September. VP Primary and administration, Talia Boati, participated to the SCB on 15 September and reported to the Board in writing (document available on OneDrive). This point should be merged with the ongoing discussion on the next Enlarged Steering Committee Brussels that will be discussed at this board meeting in point 11.</p>	<p>ongoing</p>
<p>08/09/2022 Pt.11</p>	<p>Review of the APEEE agenda points for the SAC meeting on 20 September and the EEB1 Administrative Board on 29 September: Valentina PAPA to write to school and request multi-annual school plan. Members requested to send SAC points in writing. Deadline to submit for formal agenda is 5 days before the meeting so this is requested before next week. This was all done, and they will report to the board in point 4b.</p>	<p>Closed</p>
<p>08/09/2022 Pt.12</p>	<p>Update on the security agreement between the European Schools and the APEEEs The President to update the board after the meeting on the security agreement. The meeting took place on 3 October and Rafael PAPI (President APEEE Services) participated representing EEBl. The President explained that there is concern over the advancement of the negotiations on the template on the security agreement on one side, and in parallel the proposal by the OSG to revise the general rules, in order to distribute responsibility between the Directors and the APEEEs on safety and security. IP are now working on this as well, but this proposal to change the rules came as a surprise as stakeholders were not consulted. To be continued.</p>	<p>ongoing</p>



POINTS FOR INFORMATION

4. Administrative Meeting Reports: Steering Committee Brussels on 15 September; SAC meeting on 20 September & Administrative board on 29 September; Central Enrolment Authority on 30 September

4a. For the Enlarged Steering Committee Meeting Brussels on 15 September

Members were referred to the report uploaded on One Drive by VP Primary and Administration Talia BOATI, who attended the meeting. To be discussed under Point.11 of the agenda.

4b.

At the School Advisory Council (SAC) meeting on 20 September, the agenda only consisted of the parent points raised by APEEE.

During the EEB1 Administrative Board meeting on 29 September, the following matters were discussed (presented by APEEE President Valentina PAPA and VP Secondary and Pedagogy Monika VELIKONJA reporting on the points that came up in the agenda and that they were able to address in the meeting, as listed on the document uploaded on One Drive)

- Stakeholder Governance: it was agreed for the Annual Pedagogical School Plan 2022-2023 and the Multi-Annual Pedagogical Plan 2022-2024 to be discussed after consultation in an extraordinary SAC meeting (date to be confirmed) and then adopted by Written Procedure, a positive outcome as the Secretary General initially proposed to adopt this in the next Admin Board. The new director wants to address the existing pedagogical challenges (such as divergent results between boys and girls in mathematics); in light of this positive development on the side of school management Monika VELIKONJA encouraged members to really take the time to look at the proposal, the Board has already proposed objectives but there is still time to set priorities and key concerns.
- Access to Campus: School management apologised for not sharing the additional VIAS paper (on the re-opened Opstal entry) and admitted that in the additional VIAS report the closing of the Vert Chasseur is not mentioned as a solution, but that it is from their point of view the best solution at the moment. It informed the Members of the Admin Board that an evaluation of the current is foreseen, but the school did not provide any precise timeline. On the access policy, the SG mentioned some amendments of the General Rules that would better define the responsibility for security and safety in the school, between School Directors and APEEEs. When asked to provide the wording, he said that the drafting was still ongoing. In response to the request to share the Framework Access Policy adopted at system level, the Secretary General proposed a restricted Safety & Security Committee as this document cannot be shared. APEEE will work on this, to see it before implementation.
- Overcrowding, which remains a chronic problem, is related to the scenarios currently discussed on the Future Linguistic Structure of the European Schools in Brussels.
- Lost teaching hours -180 days: APEEE representatives reiterated the parents' concerns about the failure of the School to provide 180 working days for pupils each year (specifically due to the end of year organisation), as well as the problems with teachers' absences (especially in Secondary). The Commission has sent a letter in support of the APEEE interpretation of this breach. This will be discussed at the Board of Governors in December.



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- School trips and projects: the second call for tender at system level was successful and a single company will be organising all trips of the European schools as from the next year.
 - Language groupings in L2 and L3: APEEE already had a position on that, whereby after having bilingual groups for years, this was then overturned by the former Director. Secondary management argued for the benefits of the new enrichment classes but this lacked clarity. This is an ongoing discussion at system level in the Pedagogical group, with a discussion planned for mid-November. There was not much response from management except to repeat reasons for the reform. A discussion ensued in the Board on the shortcomings of this enrichment programme, the level and the fact that the needs are completely different due to forms of exposure to, and experience with, the language.
 - On-line teaching and digital transition: parents asked for distance learning guidelines to be established for the secondary cycle (as they have been for primary) and clarifications with regard to the use of Teams, SMS, BYOD (bring your own device) programme, and Geogebra. On the latter the Secretary General stated that they adopted a memorandum in June 2022 that will be shared with the Admin Board Members. For S5 no decision yet but a WG of experts at system level. A memo will be shared. This is for discussion in the JTC in February 2023
 - Well-being and child protection: APEEE representatives asked the School management to work on the relevant policies (for example concerning drugs and bullying) and improve communication.
 - COVID: the use of CO² meters should be following Belgian best practice ventilation guidelines and recommendations.
 - Alignment of pedagogical programme and coordination of the two sites (Uccle and Berkendael): the swimming lessons, school trips and school party were discussed. The School management said that they are doing their best to coordinate the two sites, but that there are differences in size, features, etc.

Bartosz HACKBART presented a summary of the Central Enrolment Authority meeting on 30 September, where the review of the enrolment figures took place, and the 2023-24 policy was discussed (including the situation of Ukrainian students, the figures for next year depending on the decisions of the Board of Governors, and the issue of teachers' children who should be at the school where their parents work). Additional comments concerned the French section (which continues to grow) and the language testing before admission (which will be discussed further).

5. Pedagogical Meeting Reports

Vice President Secondary Monika VELIKONJA reported on the 14 September meeting with School management on Secondary CE issues, which concerned new teachers, work experience for students, school mobility/exchange programme, rotation of language teachers, parent-teacher communication, level of teaching material for S1L2 EN and DE, absences and statistics.

6. Secretariat Update

APEEE President Valentina PAPA informed the Board that around 100 families still did not pay the APEEE membership fee, 42 of whom are using APEEE services and will be blocked from access. There seems to be a misunderstanding amongst some Berkendael parents that the fee is only to access services and representatives should try to clarify this better. Pere MOLES PALLEJA underlined that the



APEEE is formally representing all parents, with an obligation on their side to contribute to the relevant costs.

Action: Pere MOLES PALLEJA to provide sentence about legal obligation to pay APEEE membership

With regards to the welcome events in October, the APEEE President asked more Board members to help in representing APEEE in Secondary parents' meetings.

An Annual Report will be prepared for the General Assembly in November and discussion ensued on the preferred format of this meeting (on-line or on-site).

Action: APEEE Secretariat to check if technical possibilities of the School would allow for a hybrid mode or at least a broadcast of the GA; President Valentina PAPA to confirm final decision.

7. Community Building WG

Samantha CHAITKIN presented the project concerning the preparation and sale of hoodies, which will need more volunteers if it is to be continued in the future, as well as the outcome of the Rosa Reichel Project (with the decorated bench officially unveiled on 16 September), the Welcome Back activities, Used Textbooks and the World Teachers' Day. Board members were asked if they want such activities to continue and if so more volunteers should come forward as these activities are left to too few. APEEE Secretary Kathryn MATHE underlined that physical presence on site and learning how the School works serves parents' interests, that the best way to push forward an agenda is through exposure during Community Building. Some section representatives indicated that in specific Member States, the parents are not involved in the school to such extent, and others suggested introducing rotation among language sections. Support for meetings in situ was also mentioned.

8. Well-Being WG

Marc GUITART referred to the document shared with Board members on One Drive, reporting on the meeting that APEEE representatives had with the School management on 21 September, during which the Well-Being framework for this school year was discussed, as well as topics such as KIVA (abandoned for Secondary), mental health workshops, and developing appropriate policies.

POINTS FOR DECISION

9. Proposed APEEE Autumn 2022 Call for Project Proposals

As agreed with the change in proposed agenda, this point was put for discussion only. APEEE President Valentina PAPA proposed that due to the lack of volunteers, there would not be a separate Autumn 2022 Call for Projects, but an urgent procedure could be used for any specific proposals to come.

10. Proposed guidelines for internal communication within language sections

VP for Secondary Monika VELIKONJA presented the proposed guidelines for internal communication that outline good practices to be shared between sections, which were prepared by the APEEE Bureau following a presentation of communication survey results that was made to the Board on 17 March 2022. During a short debate some section representatives expressed their disagreement on adopting such guidelines as they could demotivate some of the parents representatives to become section



representatives and questioned the need to formally adopt such a document. Other board members welcomed the initiative and reminded that these guidelines are not binding and deemed them to be very useful for APEEE section representatives to improve communication in their section. The guidelines were adopted by 14 votes in favour, 5 against, and no abstentions. These will be published on the website and presented during the November meeting of Section Elections.

Action: APEEE Secretariat to follow up on adopted guidelines and publish on website.

POINTS FOR DISCUSSION AND DECISION

11. 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 15 September and in preparation of the next one on 10 October

Following an e-mail sent on 4 October from APEEE President to all parents, containing the most recent version of the document prepared by the Office of the Secretary General of the European Schools, a debate took place in view of a possible APEEE position.

During the discussion, Board members indicated that some figures in the document were still not correct, that projections were not useful and the options presented were a result of various lobbying activities, that options B and C were rejected and that there were no objective criteria to be used for deciding which sections would be moved to the 5th school, that no arguments were provided in support of specific variants of option A, and that the APEEE should ask the Board of Governors to postpone the decision and defend the sibling rule. Others argued that no-one wants to move to the new school as they are currently established elsewhere in Brussels, that predictability is needed for the future, and that some sections are happy with all A scenarios and could not support a call for further delay. In response to a question whether the decision was not needed now in relation to future enrolment, the APEEE Secretary Kathryn MATHE stressed that it should not be the Board of Governors to decide about the arrangements between Uccle and Berkendael. One section representative did not support the option where that section would be phased out from EEB1, while the choice needed to be made now between options A, B and C, and not necessarily about details of option A. And this to allow the Belgian authorities to proceed with the building of the 5th school. The APEEE President Valentina PAPA concluded that at the next meeting of the Steering Committee Brussels (10 October) she will repeat the same points as before, and the APEEE Secretary suggested to ask for the capacity of primary and secondary to be taken into account in further deliberations.

12. Proposed position on Projects & Trips in Secondary

This point was postponed due to lack of time.

POINTS FOR DISCUSSION

13. Presentation and outcomes of the work of the Taskforce on Fund Raising Possibilities for the APEEE

This point was postponed, as proposed at the beginning of the meeting.

14. INTERPARENTS: Preparation for the system-level Joint Teaching Committee on 13-14 October



The APEEE Secretary Kathryn MATHE referred to documents shared with Board members on One Drive and asked parents to contact her (or Pere MOLES PALLEJA, or Monica VELIKONJA) in case of any questions. She also indicated that Interparents would ask for a Task Force on 180 days to be created, so that at least the inspectors are aware of what happens with the BAC period.

15. Change of policy by the APEEE Services on extra-curricular activities (point added as AOB during Board meeting on 8 September, but not discussed)

Pere MOLES PALLEJA explained that one parent complained about a change in the policy of extra-curricular activities in Berkendael (with no more language classes) and indicated that the APEEE Services should implement the guidance of the School (as decided by its Administrative Board) instead of changing it. APEEE President Valentina PAPA will follow-up on this matter and communicate with APEEE Services.

Action: APEEE President Valentina PAPA to follow-up on the change of policy on extra-curricular activities and communicate with APEEE Services.

16. Review and solicitation of APEEE agenda points for the Uccle Primary CE on 20 October, Berkendael Primary CE on 11 October and Uccle secondary CE on 13 October

The APEEE President asked for contributions with regards to Primary to be sent to Talia BOATI or Alex WILSON, respectively for Uccle and Berkendael, and to Monika VELIKONJA for Secondary.

17. Organisation of Section Reps elections

The APEEE President informed the Board that different dates would be set for Uccle and Berkendael, most likely 8 and 9 November respectively. Some Members proposed to hold a joint meeting in situ, in order to give the opportunity for class representatives from both sites to meet and enhance the community building within our school. The President welcomed the idea and said she will look into it.

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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 15 November 2022 (online).