

Brussels, 19 October 2023

Minutes Board Meeting 5 October 2023

ATTENDEES:

Board Members (voting): Blanca BALLESTER MARTINEZ (ES Prim), Noémie BEIGBEDER (FR Sec), Agnes BOROS (HU Prim), Maria GERHARDT (CA DE Prim), Delphine HEBERT (Berkendael FR), Andreas KEIDEL (Berkendael DE), Sandrine PIERLOZ (Member elected by GA; deputy CA FR Prim), Sigfrido RAMÍREZ PÉREZ (ES Sec), Valentina PAPA (President; EN Prim), Jan TYMOWSKI (Deputy Secretary; PL Prim), Monika VELIKONJA (VP Pedagogy & Uccle Secondary; SWALS)

Board Members Voting by Proxy: Claire GAUDIN (Member elected by GA; deputy CE FR Sec) to Noémie BEIGBEDER. Mathilde DESFEUILLET (FR Prim) has resigned, with permanent proxy to Sandrine PIERLOZ (until next elections).

Deputy Board Members (non-voting): Lene BAGER (DA Sec), Sara DAGOSTINI (IT Sec), Marc GUITART (ES Sec), Sara MARTELLI (Berkendael IT), Nadia ROSINI (IT Prim)

Other participants: Klara ENGELS-PERENYI (CE HU Sec), Javier VILLEGAS BURGOS (Dep Health & Safety Committee; MAT ES; Dep CE MAT)

APEEE Secretariat: Selena GRAY

1. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted by consensus with 2 amendments. Point of decision Pt.9 New delegates for internal APEEE roles was moved to point of discussion and decision postponed for when there are candidates; S2 trips added under AOB.

2. Approval of Board minutes 8 May 2023 and 29 June 2023

Minutes of 8 May 2023 were approved by consensus with the amendments agreed upon as forwarded by French representative Noémie BEIGBEDER for Point 6. Update on OIB.

Minutes of 7 September 2023 are approved by consensus with the amendments agreed upon as forwarded by French representative Noémie BEIGBEDER for Point 15. Data protection – APEEE and GDPR.

Minutes of 29 June will be uploaded when ready, for approval at the next Board meeting.

POINTS FOR INFORMATION

3. Administrative Meetings and Reports

- **SAC Meeting 18 September and Admin Board 28 September 2023 including update on status of draft annual Pedagogical Plan and Risk Register**

Vice President Monika VELIKONJA took board members through the APEEE Informal report presenting the main issues which were raised at the Admin Board, some concluding with action required by APEEE, adding a brief explanation on the history of the 2009 Reform. She referred them



to the uploaded Directors Report and Key Statistics, highlighting accidents reported, participation in activities, S2 trips and BAC results. The French Section stated that it planned to have a specific meeting with Director TRAN on the BAC results trend and the way teachers grade. It was mentioned that Educational support representative Sven MATZKE will also be following closely as special needs require extra time in exams. A point dedicated to educational support will be included in the agenda of the next board meeting. With regards to Derogations, VP Monika Velikonja noted that those approved are seen but it would also be interesting to see what is not granted; the issue of Overcrowding is being followed closely with the need to think creatively to reduce congestion at canteen; for School Maintenance, school management presented a huge list of works it requested. Representatives of the Safety & Hygiene committee are requested to follow closely this list and selections by the Regie des Bâtiments; for School Calendar and 180 days, APEEE again made the request for more transparency; President Valentina PAPA noted that the Opening of the Slovenian Nursery next academic year was presented but no documents circulated, that for SWALS there is the problem of distribution on 2 sites and APEEE support the school who will need to ask a derogation to put all in Uccle. With regards to the Amendments of General Rules on the division of responsibilities between Parents associations (PAs) and schools on activities run in the school premises, the Secretary General informed that the complaint, launched by PAs was concluded in favour of the central office (i.e. parents lost). Board members were informed that the multiannual plan and annual plan were adopted and APEEE will upload once shared by school after published.

President Valentina PAPA added that at the end of the Admin Board she was able to report on the school Fete with details, statistics on stand holders and profits made which will go towards funding projects.

- **CE Meetings: Berkendael Primary 26 September**

Berkendael Primary Representatives were not present at the Board; a report had been requested.

- **School Meetings: meetings of Respect et Propreté WG (5 minutes, doc to come)**

Coordinator Well-being WG Sara DAGOSTINI reported. A brief report on the group and first meeting had been uploaded; minutes from the last meeting held mid-September will be forwarded. This group was mainly created to sensitise teens in Secondary, due to vandalism and lack of respect for school staff. The idea is to continue with this following the noticeable progress during the June Semaine de la Propreté. Cantine staff are also in contact with the CdE to raise awareness. There are new ideas and brainstorming and an enthusiasm to go ahead with a Christmas card, organisation of a bakery to raise money for presents, organisation with teachers on classrooms, how to clean up after BAC Day (and involve younger students). French section representative Noémie BEIGBEDER suggested to involve P4 and P5 as a way for them to get to know classrooms and sites before transition to Secondary. Spanish representative for secondary Sigfrido RAMIREZ PEREZ mentioned the use of mobile phones. In light of a recent email sent to parents by a teacher, where the teacher was encouraging the use the mobile phone for school tasks, it was agreed to raise this in the next CE meeting and ask for clarity about the implementation of the mobile phone policy in school buildings. This Policy was due to be revised and WG Coordinators Caroline CAMBAS and Talia BOATI will follow up with school management on this.

4. INTERPARENTS – update on latest developments

Vice President Monika Velikonja encouraged board members to go through the uploaded draft agenda for the IP pre-JTC meeting and to inform the representatives if anything further to include.

FR Section representative Noémie BEIGBEDER reported on the BAC with results slightly below last year, which seems to be an increased trend since 2020. Maths, Physics and Chemistry have the



lowest rate. There is concern for the systematic difference in results on average between the sections. The French Section will be raising BAC results with school management as some are well below average. She explained that even though several voluntary parents with experience as teachers read all complaints received by families every year in June, the only way complaints about a subject can officially be heard is through IP.

The mandate on the Task Force on 180 days will likely be extended as there is no deliverable yet, with discussion at OESG to prepare a more detailed plan on what happens if we provide for activities.

5. Secretariat update – update on online payment system

President Valentina PAPA reported that the testing of the online payment system had been carried out and some corrections by developers were now being made. The final payment reminder will be sent out by the Secretariat incorporating this possibility of online payment. She noted that the problem remains that there is still a proportion of parents who do not pay the membership fee if they are not using APEEE Services.

6. Legal WG: update on the outcome of 21 September Extraordinary General Assembly in view of the Extraordinary General Assembly 26 October on the Statutes

President Valentina PAPA reported that she and coordinator for the Legal WG Jan TYMOWSKI were both present at the 21 September Extraordinary General Assembly and the quorum was not reached. The Invitation for the 26 October Extraordinary General Assembly (7pm Van Houtte) was sent in due time (one month before). The lists of new class representatives are being made with the aim to send to all section representatives by Tuesday next week, to contact class representatives and organise their presence for this Extraordinary General Assembly. It is important to motivate class representatives to vote. The last 2 years we have been working on these statutes and it is an important moment for APEEE and an opportunity to change and integrate Berkendael more into the Board. She explained that there were legal restrictions, a notary will be present, lawyers will run the vote and there will be a deadline for proxies to be sent by DocuSign, or original by courier. There is no possibility for flexibility on this as the notary must do the check before. All information has been published on the website. Next Tuesday APEEE will prepare an email with the explanations and links, DocuSign being the easiest, with a maximum of 3 proxies per person.

7. World Teachers' Day 5 October

President Valentina PAPA thanked the Board for the fast reply by Written Procedure agreeing to funds proposed for this activity. She thanked the Secretariat and the volunteers for their work and coordination on this successful event which took place on both sites. An email of appreciation had been received by the school and uploaded and the photos published on APEEE Facebook.

8. Upcoming elections of Section Representatives

President Valentina PAPA proposed that regardless of the result of the vote on the statutes, the elections of Section Representatives should be held on the same day at Uccle (9 November 2023), as the bigger site to host the elections. As the election would gather all class representatives from all sections from both sites, the usual presentation of the association, with the presence of the whole bureau, could be done all together in a plenary session in the spirit of 2 sites in 1 school. The class representatives could then divide into sections for the voting.

Action point: A save the date will be sent out by the secretariat once the lists of Class Representatives are completed.



POINTS FOR DECISION

9. New delegates for internal APEEE roles

Postponed. President Valentina PAPA stated that it was best to wait for new Board and to work in interim with those still in mandate. Vice President Monika VELIKONJA underlined the importance of finding delegates and more involved parents.

POINTS FOR DISCUSSION AND DECISION

10. Autumn 2023 Funding Call for Projects

President Valentina PAPA referred to the uploaded proposal. Based on the last Call for Projects, the Call Description had been updated and the amount of 7000 EUR allocated (4 times distributed over 2 years). This leaves space in case the school management have some bigger projects APEEE can contribute to, therefore prudent to not spend all of the Fête profits. The Objectives are always the same and far reaching so had been moved around as per priorities. The school community can apply by the deadline of 27 October 2023. Assessment of the Calls are a lot of work, and an Award panel will be adopted at the next Board meeting, which should comprise coordinators of WGs, financial adviser for projects, bureau, school representatives including school management, teachers, students. APEEE has emailed the school Director explicitly asking him to appoint someone or to attend himself.

The Call was adopted by consensus.

Action point: The secretariat to publish the call on website and send information out.

11. Urgent procedure for funding of recurrent project: 6th Pirotta Art Prize

President Valentina PAPA informed the Board of the historical background to the Francis Pirotta Arts Prize and added that not only are parents open to celebrating the memory of Francis Pirotta, but that the competition also contributes to the pedagogical development and creativity of students. The competition is created in collaboration with teachers and APEEE. The Art Coordinator who is responsible had informed APEEE of the urgency to agree on the possibility of continued funding due to timetabling and curriculum and the need to incorporate it into the planning.

The Funding of 600 EUR for the 6th Pirotta Art Prize was adopted by consensus.

Action point: The secretariat to contact the organisers to communicate the approval by the Board.

POINTS FOR DISCUSSION

12. Soliciting volunteers for Rentrée: is it vital to continue this tradition for APEEE presentations during class meetings and elections?

President Valentina PAPA briefed on the process and attendance of APEEE representatives during class elections, and the importance of putting a face to the procedure rather than just sending forms to fill in. This year not many volunteers came forward, those who did commit were very appreciated, so it was important to discuss within the board if and how this tradition should be maintained, if it is something important to keep and if so, how to motivate more volunteers. In Secondary it is more difficult but to decide if it should be kept as a priority in Primary. Berkendael representatives argued that a presentation on APEEE during plenary was held at Berkendael (this was not possible at Uccle due to time constraints) so it is not really seen as having added value at Berkendael, as APEEE also sends explanatory emails. Members of the board already do a lot and it is not essential to add this.

It was concluded on the need to keep idea of participation in Uccle but to prioritise Mat and P1. At



the same time to also be proactive with the school to push to have the presentation during the information session with new parents in Uccle as it was done in Berkendael, and to consider additional visual communication materials like bookmarks and the presentation videos to show parents during the class meetings or include as link in mailings.

13. Soliciting agenda points for next meetings CE meetings: Primary Uccle 10 October, Secondary Uccle 24 October

Members were requested to send any points to representative Talia BOATI in time for the meeting next week. Vice President Monika VELIKONJA reminded about the Whole School Inspection and that it was important to consider how Primary CE for both sites will contribute, considering the preparation phase is underway and information is being gathered. She encouraged members to contact Marc GUITART or Talia BOATI for any additional issues. French representative Sandrine PIERLOZ raised the concern that Maternelle and Primary classes which are getting too big with concern expressed by both parents and teachers.

Vice President Monika VELIKONJA reiterated points on school trips, mobility, and work experience, remarking that a drop in exchange students had been noted. She explained that in general Working Groups report during the CE Secondary which includes mobile phones and homework, and added that Mobile Phone Policy WG Coordinator Caroline CAMBAS is internally working with Well Being representatives. In June she discussed with CEs to identify the issues to push and insist on in Secondary CE, gathering points for the next meeting but also the points to push in general, such as the Homework Policy.

Noémie BEIGBEDER expressed the French section position that although good to review the content of the homework policy considering the years that have passed since COVID, the implementation of the smart phone policy should be the priority for CE this year. She added that in fact one complements the other as less screen time would mean more time for homework and a dedicated discussion is needed. German section representative Maria GERHARDT argued that it would be interesting to know what the school Directors know on what is publicly shared between students and if there could be education in IT classes. Vice President Monika VELIKONJA concluded that a dedicated discussion to mobile phones could be added as a point in the next Board meeting.

It was noted that the P5-S1 transition was an important point for both CEs. In response to a query from the Spanish section, Sara DAGOSTINI noted that a decision on EVRAS would be taken in the school meeting next week.

POINTS FOR WRITTEN INFORMATION

14. Secretariat Update

AOB

The issue around S2 Trips was discussed. S2 and S6 are mandatory. S2 used to be a trip to Eurospace, which then closed for renovation. Then there was the S2 trip to Alsace, but which proved difficult as accommodating all classes was huge and as per last years' experience not manageable. It was noted that Eurospace is now open again.

Parents received conflicting information from school management and by class teachers resulting in a big confusion. The main message is that every student in S2 will have trip with the class teacher who should be involved but not mandatory. There are messages in one section but not in others. It is important to clarify what is going to happen and as it is still in development, it had been proposed to Deputy Director Hazan that it should be discussed secondary CE including a discussion on what other options had been considered and not taken. If 50 classes, then perhaps split group and prepare



programme. What is the sentiment? Talk back in sections. Should it be put on teachers or more centrally organised? What is preferred?

Action point: CE rep to raise this issue during the secondary CE on 24 October 2023.

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

The next meeting is scheduled for 16 November 2023 (online).