



Brussels, 12 June 2024

Minutes APEEE Board Meeting 25 April 2024 (Online)

Board Members (voting): Blanca BALLESTER MARTÍNEZ (ES Prim), Agnes BOROS (HU Prim), Hjørdis DALSGAARD (DK Sec), Maria GERHARDT (DE Prim), Gladys EVANGELISTA (IT Prim, member elected by GA), Dimitris GIOKARIS (EL Berkendael), Marc GUITART (member elected by GA, CE ES Sec), Viktor HAUK (Treasurer, HU Sec, member elected by GA), Nathalie KALOGERAS (VP of Secondary, FR Sec), Andreas KEIDEL (DE Berkendael), Kremena MILEVA (EN Prim), Sara MARTELLI (IT Berkendael), Alba MARIÑO ENRIQUEZ (ES Berk), Sara MILANO (Secretary, IT Sec), Miklos NAGY (HU Sec), Gundars OSTROVSKIS (Berkendael, SV), Sandrine PIERLOZ (Deputy Secretary, FR Prim, member elected by GA), Sigfrido RAMÍREZ PÉREZ (President, ES Sec), Nadia ROSINI (IT Prim), Barbara ROUS (SWALS Sec), Claire SCHARF-KROENER (DE Sec), Jan TYMOWSKI (PL Sec), Javier VILLEGAS BURGOS (member elected by GA, CE Prim Uccle, Dep Health & Safety Committee)

Proxies: Andrej MATIC (SL SWALS) for Barbara ROUS, Valentina PAPA (EN Sec) to Jan TYMOWSKI

Deputy Board Members (non-voting): Santiago CALVO RAMOS (ES Prim), Lene BAGER (CA DK Sec, Deputy CE DK Sec), Mihaly HIMICS (HU Prim), Olga NIKONCHUK-DARRAS (FR Prim, Deputy CE FR Prim), Emese SAVOIA-KELETI (HU Sec), Laura SERASSIO (IT Sec)

Other participants: Luca AGUZZONI (CE IT Sec), Noémie BEIGBEDER (Deputy CE FR Sec), Talia BOATI (Deputy CE IT Sec), Klára ENGEL-PERENYI (CE HU Sec), Aleyda HERNANDEZ LAVIADES (Deputy CE ES Prim, IP Representative), Fiona KERNAN (CE EN Sec), Marianna KOLYVA (EL Berkendael), Magdalena KUPCZYK (CE PL Prim), Stefan PAGEL (Deputy CE FR Berkendael), Laura SERRAO (Deputy CE IT Berkendael), Mariaelena TONA (deputy CE IT Prim)

APEEE Secretariat: Guendalina COMINOTTI

1. Adoption of the agenda

The final agenda was adopted by consensus, with the point added under for discussion and/or decision on a proposal circulated to support Brussels City humanitarian aid collect for Gaza.

2. Approval of Board Minutes 18 January, 29 February and 21 March 2024

The Board Minutes of 18 January and 29 February, with requested amendments, were approved. The Board Minutes of 21 March were approved with some minor corrections.

POINTS FOR DISCUSSION AND/OR DECISION

3. Results of survey on school mobile phone policy and accompanying measures, 16 May Conference on effects of screen exposure

President Sigfrido RAMÍREZ PÉREZ thanked the appointed APEEE representatives of the board for mobile phone policy for all their hard work on the survey. The important next step was to deliberate as a board in order to grant a mandate to the representatives to approach the school with a common APEEE position on the future mobile phone policy. However, beyond the results of the survey of individual parents, according to the statutes, decisions in the APEEE are adopted by the board after



a deliberation between its members, who are supposed to have also consulted delegates in order to come to the board with a position. APEEE do not have a direct mandate from any survey, which is a useful tool even if not all parents participated, and its results can be interpreted in many directions. He added that there had recently been a meeting of the directors of the European schools to discuss the shared desire to reach a common policy among European Schools in Brussels concerning phone policy, making it even more important to reach an APEEE position to bring to the school Director.

Noémie BEIGBEDER took members through the results of the survey (uploaded in the OneDrive and distributed by email one week before the board meeting), briefed on the first meeting which took place between APEEE representatives for mobile phone policy (herself and Talia BOATI) with the Deputy Director for Secondary Olivier HAZAN, referring to the flash report and official reply. She also informed members that another meeting with school management was foreseen on 3 May.

After an extensive discussion amongst board members, a position was adopted by consensus. The Board granted the mandate to Noémie BEIGBEDER and Talia BOATI to discuss a new set of rules for the use of smartphones/electronic devices in secondary cycles with school management, taking the results of the survey as landing zones. A ban until S5 included should be the main target (use authorised in limited designated areas for S6-S7) and a total ban of pedagogical use of private devices in class for all levels even under teachers' supervision, as well as students' taking of pictures/videos.

Noémie BEIGBEDER and Talia BOATI will report to the board members after each meeting with the school and as necessary and will consult the board on any major deviation from the results of the survey. Board members commit to reacting very quickly (within 48 hours if possible) including on weekends and holiday, as the policy is due to be adopted at the next Secondary CE meeting on 28 May for implementation in September. The two representatives thanked the Board for their trust and proposed to send immediately this mandate by email to all Board members so that members absent are also fully informed.

President Sigfrido RAMÍREZ PÉREZ concluded that this mandate had been decided by consensus, as recommended by our statutes, without any request for going to a formal vote.

4. APEEE delegates to official bodies and working groups: clarification and reminder vacant roles to be filled; discuss renewal of mandates for APEEE working groups

President Sigfrido RAMÍREZ PÉREZ clarified this point remains on the agenda continuously as a reminder of roles to be filled, and in the event there is a need to vote on nominations, as well as a reminder that the APEEE WGs need to be renewed. The Coordinators of the WGs are requested to present on the situation for this academic year, activities envisaged and whether a renewal is necessary in the next Board meeting. This is also relevant to Point 6 concerning the project panel for the current project funding Call, as representatives of the WGs will be asked to give opinions and form part of the Panel. The Secretariat confirmed with the school which school WGs are still active. Members were invited to check the uploaded list and identify WGs in which they had been active and liaise with Coordinators on reporting for the next meeting. Coordinators should confirm if they want to continue or if there is a substitute to be elected. In the last board meeting Miklos NAGY (HU Sec) was appointed as member of the Solidarity Fund. Although there is no longer a specific budget line for this it was clarified with the Treasurer that the Committee and Fund remain and support can still be activated from the main budget.

Action: Section representatives to identify any WGs in which they are active and liaise with coordinators for reporting at next Board meeting.



5. **New Point: Greek Proposal to support Brussels City humanitarian aid collect for Gaza**

Dimitris GIOKARIS (EL Berkendael) presented the proposal from the Greek section, requesting for APEEE to communicate to all parents on the initiative by Brussels City for a humanitarian aid collect for Gaza, with no political intent to encourage or force to participate but to make parents aware that this local initiative exists. The fact it is organised by Brussels city and donations are only materials that can be used by women and children, who are the main casualty, is reassuring. Board members discussed the proposal. Maria GERHARDT (DE Prim) raised objections around 3 issues: that this is not the role of the APEEE; that there are many humanitarian crises around the world so questioned why APEEE should focus on this particular one with the risks of becoming political; the political views expressed by the representative of this aid. This could open the path to weekly emails to parents on humanitarian aid. Dimitris GIOKARIS reiterated that whether the role of APEEE is to circulate information on humanitarian aid is precisely up for discussion in this point. He reminded that Ukraine was supported through donations, with APEEE actively organising support through the sale of hoodies. Members should be able to request to raise awareness on initiatives, especially when organised by the local community. If such aid is being organised and someone wishes to donate, it does not mean agreement with his politics. Regarding a similar initiative for Gaza proposed by Berkendael in a previous board meeting being turned down, he reminded that this was due to no guarantee how the initiative worked, and the risks associated. Board members further debated whether it was really the role of APEEE as an organisation to circulate such initiatives as many other platforms already exist. The issue of APEEE communication was raised, with parents already receiving many emails and surveys from APEEE, as well as concern about the current technical issues with the APEEE official mailbox. A suggestion was to find other ways to communicate on such initiatives, such as via the website, although there was also a word of caution on this for political reasons; others argued that this is a way for APEEE to promote solidarity within the schools, that this issue is top of the agenda in all countries and not something specific to a section.

President Sigfrido RAMÍREZ PÉREZ closed the debate, taking on board the position of both sides, with not much possibility to reach a consensus, suggested alternative solutions as a compromise, such as posting on the website or sending to class representatives who can decide whether to circulate to their classes. The decision by the Greek section was to vote as proposed and board members were reminded that the vote would be on this specific proposal on the agenda, with future proposals for aid to be added for debate and vote in future meetings. He reminded that 28 board members have voting rights, voting can take place with a quorum (14 represented) and voting could take place by simple majority. 22 votes were represented, 12 votes in favour were required for APEEE to send the proposal by email to all parents. 4 voted in favour, 9 against and 8 abstained. The majority were against sending the email. President Sigfrido RAMÍREZ PÉREZ thanked the members reminding them that debate was important and essential to raise awareness, which should be done more by the school, maybe in cooperation with local communities.

POINTS FOR INFORMATION

6. Projects Panel – Project funding, Spring call 2024, 6th Pirotta Arts exhibition

President Sigfrido RAMÍREZ PÉREZ briefed the board on the Spring Call 2024 with its deadline for applications set for 13 May. Referring to the timeline uploaded on OneDrive, he reminded that the Working Groups need to nominate their representatives for the panel meeting. He urged board members to encourage applications, even if not fully elaborated, as this is also a way for the Association to be made aware of the current initiatives that the school community would like funded. He reminded that APEEE had committed to using the profits made during the fete, which is why the format was kept and which represented a positive cooperation with the school, which also has its own funding of projects. This is also a positive step for initiating the next Fete and he reminded of



the need to mobilize volunteers interested in participating in the next Fete Committee, ideally voting for them at the next board meeting, so that the Fete could be planned early in the next academic year. Financial adviser Gundars OSTROVSKIS referred members to the panel composition in the uploaded document, underlining that it is important to now contact the WGs, school and student committee and request their nominations for their panel members.

President Sigfrido RAMÍREZ PÉREZ briefed the board on the 6th Pirotta Arts Prize dedicated to the theme of the sea, and the voting where he cast the vote on behalf of APEEE. He informed members that the art works were exhibited on the first and second floor of the Erasmus building, encouraging them to visit the inspiring works of art elaborated by EEB1 students in collaboration with their teachers, adding that he felt honoured that APEEE funds this project.

He also briefed members on the results of EUROSPORTS and the successful performance of EEB1 students. He stated that these are not celebrated formally enough or communicated enough to the school community by the school. More public recognition should be given for the efforts of the students, also as a role model and inspiration for the younger students. APEEE should consider taking a more active role in communications of such achievements and projects funded, publicity and awareness needing to be much higher.

Action: contact school, teachers, CdE and WGs for nominations for Spring Project Call 2024 Awards Panel meeting.

7. Whole School Inspection report

President Sigfrido RAMÍREZ PÉREZ informed the board that the report from management had been received and apologised for the late upload, inviting them to read and to comment during the next board meeting. The school was pleased to report that the evaluation was positive, more so than the APEEE evaluation. Next step is to monitor how the school plans to implement the WSI recommendations, which will be part of the SAC meeting (date still to be set by the school).

8. European Dimension in European Schools - European activities, 180 days

President Sigfrido RAMÍREZ PÉREZ explained that as part of WSI, European Dimensions is one of the issues that he would like to recommend that the school engage in more. For example, he had noted that the Jean Monnet House in Paris organises scheduled visits for schools. As the school director was also keen to enhance European Dimension, APEEE should encourage more proactivity. With regards to 180 days, where secondary students have no class during BAC exams, school could provide some outside sport activity or European related activity with educators when the school site is not available. Although APEEE Services offers stages during this period, there are often not enough places and it costs money, when in fact the school has an obligation to provide such activities. Interparents representative Noémie BEIGBEDER added that the IP meeting had been held that same morning and briefed on the Task Force built around the issue of 180 days, attended by TF members Eleanna STERGIOULI (VP Interparents) and Noémie BEIGBEDER (IP representative EEB1), working together with the European Commission which she really feels supportive on this, asking schools to express precisely their needs in order to be able to organise fully the 180 days. She could not say the same for the Secretary General with documents circulated very last minute prior to meetings.

9. S6 end of school year date announced.

Klára ENGELS-PERENYI (CE HU Sec) clarified this issue which had in the meantime been resolved and a result of poor communication from the school. In December 2023 parents were informed that the last day of lessons and attendance would be 21 June 2024. This was then changed unilaterally



and without explanation on 16 April when school communicated that *the last day of school with the normal S6 timetable is set for 12 June, followed by the compulsory examination session, which ends on 28 June (including any resits)*. Many parents had already made plans for their children by this stage. The request is to send a message to the school that they would like to keep the students as long as possible at the end of the school year, especially valid for lower secondary students. But if school communicates end of school year arrangements, it should be communicated clearly in order to avoid misunderstandings. President Sigfrido RAMÍREZ PÉREZ clarified that in its response the school had apologised but remained with the original date of 21 June, as this was linked to the notion of attendance and classes. Although they will try to consider solutions, an exam resit could take place.

10. School trips – IP tender launch, Zambia, social fund 5 EUR

President Sigfrido RAMÍREZ PÉREZ informed there is a tender launch Working Group in Interparents working on the new tender for trips; that problems arose during the Zambia trip when the students missed the return plane, with a lack of reactivity by the company organising the trip (Director TRAN on the other hand was praised for his reactivity); there is concern on how the 5 EUR extra charge to parents for trips, earmarked for a social fund, is managed by the school and this needs to be followed more now that the discussion of budget has just been closed and adopted at the BoG. APEEE will look into this.

Board members raised the ongoing concern around primary trips following the cancellation of P2 trips and whether any guarantee exists that the P3, P4, P5 trips would be maintained. Primary CE representative Talia BOATI understood at the last Primary CE that the priority of the school was to align with other European schools for trips over the 5 primary years. Sandrine PIERLOZ reiterated it was not clear to her in the last Primary CE meeting for Uccle what would become of the P3 trip. Sara MARTELLI added that the Berkendael CE Meeting was postponed to 12 May, and both agreed that something specific should be done for Primary, that the APEEE President needs to engage with school management to show this issue remains an ongoing concern after the surveys. President Sigfrido RAMÍREZ PÉREZ confirmed the need to keep track of this, that it is kept in CE meeting points and would be raised in the SAC meeting, also attended by the Director of Primary. He also agreed to inquire with Director TRAN regarding a concern raised on the Zambia trip – if a decision had been taken on whether it would be held every 1 or 2 years. The concern being that because it is an S6 trips which now allows a quota of S5 students to join (4 in total selected), a S5 student not selected this year would not have the possibility to attend in S6 either if it is only held every 2 years. This is in line with decisions being taken unilaterally without consultation of APEEE. However, with the problematic experience this year a reflection is certainly ongoing.

Action: President to raise Primary trips at SAC meeting and inquire about decision on frequency of Zambia trips.

11. Incidents of bullying and racism

President Sigfrido RAMÍREZ PÉREZ informed the board that he had been contacted by some parents on incidents of bullying with a racist dimension. Students of African origin were being targeted via use of smart phones, with cases ending in disciplinary action kept private within the school. Parents have asked APEEE to raise awareness of this within the school community and for the school to do more against discrimination on top of their current initiative to raise awareness by discussing during philosophy and moral classes. One suggestion was to have more information sessions from specialised companies. He confirmed he had discussed the issue with Director TRAN and agreed both parties needed to think carefully on best solutions. Board members discussed this is something families need to be aware of and take a role in, also in line with the discussion on mobile



phone use and consequences, that it would be useful to have some points for class representatives to communicate to parents, and the need for the school to demonstrate a clear policy this will not be tolerated.

12. 19 October Alumni meeting, Uccle

President Sigfrido RAMÍREZ PÉREZ informed that he had met the Alumni representatives of the European Schools on 22 April. Director TRAN has already agreed to host an Alumni meeting on 19 October, linking it to an added value for EEB1 students in terms of orientation, where Uccle alumni could present to later secondary years on their own BAC choices, personal development and career evolution, in light of the 50th anniversary of the first BAC. The Alumni Association needs to raise funding to finance the gathering in Uccle which will be provided by APEEE Services. The gathering is also open to attendance by alumni from other schools. This follows the successful Alumni event organised in Luxembourg for the 70th Anniversary of the creation of the first European school. APEEE can also reflect on its own contribution during the event, welcoming any ideas from the Board. Santiago CALVO RAMOS (ES Prim) and Financial Adviser Gundars OSTROVSKIS reflected on a past experience with an alumni association related to a rejected application for APEEE project funding. The FA added that ideally such an Association would offer their own ways of financing support in the form of presentations to the benefit of current students, but he was pleased to hear that they will be sharing own experiences with the students during this event. The president clarified that there has been no request for funding, the model in this case would be to request payment from members for dinner with a small margin going to the Association. He had checked the evolution of the Association in the Moniteur Belge where there has been a clear reshuffle of members and referred members to their site: <https://alumnieuropae.org/> He also hoped that this agreement from school to host such a gathering would create a precedent to use school during weekends to the benefit for the school community, such as sections gathering to bid farewell to teachers.

Action: President to get more concrete information on the alumni association management team.

13. 11 May Darkness into Light walk and donation

President Sigfrido RAMÍREZ PÉREZ informed that the APEEE Bureau had donated 300 EUR to support the Darkness into Light initiative, a fund raising which organises a yearly walk for awareness and prevention of suicide. He attended the presentation on the event two months ago with its donation of funds to the two Associations (1 French and 1 Dutch speaking) in charge of Suicide Prevention in Brussels. The bureau had taken the decision to contribute as it considered this awareness important in our school.

14. Administrative Meeting Reports – reporting on system level meetings: updates on meetings and latest developments

• 4, 5, 6 April Interparents Meeting to prepare BoG

President Sigfrido RAMÍREZ PÉREZ reported that together with IP representative Gladys EVANGELISTA he had attended this preparatory meeting but had not yet received the document from the IP Secretary General on the interventions they had prepared in this meeting for the BoG. Each academic year BoG has a one year Presidency, this year Italian and next year Cypriot. Most important point during the Italian Presidency is the discussion on the implementation of the Reform of the European schools, as recommended by the European Parliament Report, and ensuring the recommendations were concretely implemented by the Secretary General of the European schools. This explains the multitude of information received from trade unions, mobilised as affiliates to represent long term evolution of European School system.



- **8 April IP Groupe d'Accompagnement organised by the European Commission**

President Sigfrido RAMÍREZ PÉREZ reported on the 8 April IP Groupe d'Accompagnement, an IP group in which the European commission meet with the APEEEs to prepare the BoG. He was unable to attend himself but fellow Presidents attended, reporting an unproductive meeting as the officials seemed to have no clear mandate to react. It raised clear division of tasks between IP and representatives from Brussels schools. Brussels representatives have been convoked to the enlarged Steering Committee where issues of overcrowding will be discussed and the probable delay in delivery of 5th Brussels School. He referred members to the documents uploaded on OneDrive.

- **10-12 April Board of Governors (BoG) Meeting**

President Sigfrido RAMÍREZ PÉREZ reported that IP had not had time to transmit the results obtained by the interventions prepared at the preparatory IP meeting, which he had hoped to receive in order to brief the board.

He concluded that a dedicated session on IP could be important to organise with the representatives involved in all the different WGs, to reflect on the documents received on the Future of European schools. Gladys EVANGELISTA added that two points were important to follow closely which came out of the meetings: the role and impact of accredited school; a new communication software platform in development (currently at a very early stage) to replace SMS, and which should also include some pedagogical tools, which she argued should be monitored in line with the discussions around screen use at school.

- **11 April CE Primary Uccle**

- **15 April APEEE Presidents to prepare 29 April Enlarged Steering Committee organised by OSGES.**

15. Review and solicitation of agenda points for next meetings: 28 May Secondary CE Meeting, May (date tbc) Safety & Hygiene Committee.

Points should be sent to representatives by email before the meetings. Hjørdis DALSGAARD (DK Sec) added that an online meeting for CE representatives is planned for 14 May, urging CE representatives to coordinate with their sections beforehand.

16. Secretariat Update (memo)

AOB

USEFUL REFERENCES

Past **Board Meeting Minutes** are available here:

EN: <http://www.uccleparents.org/apeee/presentation/reunions-du-conseil-dadministration/?lang=en>

FR: <http://www.uccleparents.org/apeee/presentation/reunions-du-conseil-dadministration>

Funded projects are available here:

EN: <http://www.uccleparents.org/apeee/subvention-de-projets/?lang=en>

FR: <http://www.uccleparents.org/apeee/subvention-de-projets>

The **APEEE Meeting Diary** is available here:

EN: <http://www.uccleparents.org/apeee/calendrier-des-reunions/?lang=en>

FR: <http://www.uccleparents.org/apeee/calendrier-des-reunions>