

Minutes 19 June Board Meeting (Uccle)

Board Members CA (voting): Pēteris ANCĀNS (LV Berkendael), Blanca BALLESTER MARTÍNEZ (ES Prim Uccle), Agnes BOROS (HU Uccle Prim), Elena CHATZI (EL Berkendael), Hjordis DALSGAARD (DA Sec), Gladys EVANGELISTA (member elected by GA, deputy IT Uccle Prim), Maria GERHARDT (DE Uccle Sec), Magdalena HORODYSKA (PL Prim Uccle), Nathalie KALOGERAS (VP of Secondary, FR Sec), Peter KOCVAR (SK Berkendael), Alba MARIÑO ENRÍQUEZ (ES Berkendael), Sara MARTELLI (IT Berkendael), Sara MILANO (Secretary, IT Uccle Sec), Miklos NAGY (Treasurer, HU Sec), Gundars OSTROVSKIS (LV Sec), Valentina PAPA (EN Sec), Sandrine PIERLOZ (Deputy Secretary, FR Prim Uccle, member elected by GA, deputy CE FR Prim Uccle), Sigfrido RAMÍREZ PÉREZ (President, ES Sec), Nadia ROSINI (VP of Primary, IT Prim Uccle, Deputy CE IT Sec), Tanja TROJOK (SL Prim Uccle, CE SL Prim Uccle), Jan TYMOWSKI (PL Sec), Javier VILLEGAS BURGOS (member elected by GA, CE ES Uccle Prim)

Proxies: Kremena MILEVA (EN Prim Uccle) to Valentina PAPA

Deputy Board Members CA (non-voting): Bartosz HACKBART (FR Berkendael, Deputy CE FR Sec),

Other participants: Noemie BEIGBEDER (CE FR Sec), Talia BOATI (Deputy CE IT Uccle Sec), Santiago CALVO RAMOS (ES Prim Uccle), Imola NEMES (EUREKA), Laura SERRAO (Deputy CE IT Berkendael), Louiza PAPAMIKROULI (CE – EL Berkendael)

APEEE Secretariat: Guendalina COMINOTTI, Selena GRAY

1. Adoption of the Agenda

President Sigfrido RAMÍREZ PÉREZ thanked departing APEEE representatives for their work, including EUREKA volunteers and gave the floor to Coordinator Imola NEMES who reported on the work involved and reminded of the request to investigate possibilities for APEEE to pay EUREKA Coordinators. Board members discussed the request with divided opinions notably on the principle of paying volunteers. President Sigfrido RAMÍREZ PÉREZ reported that the Secretariat are exploring the modalities and cost of the OMarché App as a platform to sell second-hand books and as a possibility to also use for EUREKA.

The agenda was adopted with a note to discuss BAC review under points on Secondary.

2. Approval of Board minutes 10 April 2025

The minutes of the last board meeting were not ready for approval; they will be sent for Written Approval or for approval at the next meeting.

POINTS FOR DISCUSSION AND/OR DECISION

3. APEEE delegates to official bodies and working groups: clarification and reminder vacant roles to be filled, nominations of candidates; survey Gifted Children and appointment Educational Support Coordinator; soliciting Sustainability Coordinator (IP); Well-Being Working Group, Addiction Prevention and Abuse Working Group/Drug Policy Task Force, Darkness into Light; presentation EURÉKA, soliciting new Coordinator; second-hand book sales

President Sigfrido RAMÍREZ PÉREZ reiterated that this point is kept on the agenda as a reminder that volunteers are solicited and to update Board members on ongoing activities of the Working Groups.

For the Pedagogical Working Group: Representative of the Gifted Children subgroup, Coordinator Margarita SAVOVA reported that the survey on Gifted Children was run, and they would like school management to provide a plan for Gifted children. With the busy end of school year, they will come back to this in September.

President Sigfrido RAMÍREZ PÉREZ reminded the Board that the Educational Support subgroup still requires a Coordinator to replace Sven MATZKE. As various candidates had come forward, he suggested to wait until



September to appoint the new Coordinator and for board members to check with their sections in the meantime. There may be the need for more than 1 Coordinator as the Interparents group is very active in their effort to change rules as well as follow what is implemented already in school. An additional Coordinator for interacting with school and parents (as information is insufficient). VP of Primary Nadia ROSINI reported on the Educational Support meeting held on 17 April which was attended by 23 people and referred Board members to the presentation uploaded on OneDrive. Most parents were not well informed on how to get support. She suggested to create 3 groups for Educational Support: Primary, Secondary and Gifted.

For the Well Being Working Group: Noémie BEIGBEDER introduced the proposal by the Berkendael French section to organise a conference for teachers and staff on the question of prevention of bullying. Expert Emanuelle PIQUET, in charge of a French psychology centre working specifically on bullying will be in Brussels on 6 October and available for a 2-hour conference: Empowering children to deal with bullying in courtyard and on online. If funding of 395 EUR could be reallocated from the Spring Call 2024 funding awarded for *Conférences et atelier pour accompagner la nouvelle politique sur les téléphones portables à l'école et la sécurité en ligne* and the bureau could contribute their ceiling of 300 EUR, then the remaining amount would be covered by the Berkendael French section to cover her fee. The proposal was approved by consensus.

President Sigfrido RAMÍREZ PÉREZ reminded that a Sustainability Coordinator is still solicited, in the context of the Interparents Sustainability Working Group. He asked Board members to check in their sections.

On EUREKA, Coordinator Imola NEMES informed of her departure and supported the request made at the previous Board meeting by Marta MIGUEL MARTINEZ-SORIA for paid volunteers. President Sigfrido RAMÍREZ PÉREZ clarified that the request is for compensation and not as paid employees. Options are being explored to see how this could be done, including self-financing through the sale of non-claimed items or explore the possibility of APEEE Services managing it. The Board were divided on whether volunteer work should be remunerated, and it was agreed to have further discussion and soliciting of volunteers at the Board meeting in September. Sara MARTELLI suggested to contact the volunteer managing the Berkendael Lost & Found to meet with the EUREKA volunteers as she has managed to streamline the organisation of this due to being alone. The issue of humidity in the basement where EUREKA items are stored was also raised.

For the sale of second-hand books, he reported the Secretariat have explored costs and options to have an application (OMarche App) used by the Luxembourg European School, the cost of which would be approximately 2000 EUR. Including the sale of calculators could also be considered.

4. School Working Group on Bring Your Own Device Policy (BYOD), school Working Group on homework policy, school Communication Policy Working Group: update

WG representative Noemie BEIGBEDER updated the Board on developments. Following the last CA she and Talia BOATI met with Secondary Deputy Director MS MAKARSKA during the 20 May CE meeting, who confirmed school will follow through with the BYOD test phase and share results. This would be for S6 and S7 with their own laptop and not compulsory. She will work on the content of this and see how to assess, together with the teacher's survey, and draw lessons from this phase. This would run from September to December 2025. She made clear this is a test phase and there is no Policy yet.

President Sigfrido RAMÍREZ PÉREZ stated that when APEEE transmitted its position on BYOD it was made clear this was against having to bring own computers. Noemie BEIGBEDER reiterated that it was clear this would not be compulsory and had reminded teachers that a smartphone could not be used as an alternative learning device. The President insisted this point should be brought to the SAC and admin board, to underline APEEE disagreement and remind of their proposal to continue with the 5 EUR parent charge to buy computers, as there is not enough material to continue the strategy of learning with device, a proposal the school refused. The school was also reminded of cyber security and had insisted on a limited period connected to school WIFI, but it is to be seen how they will implement this. It is also out of the question to implement now for lower years. Noemie BEIGBEDER confirmed that she had clarified with MS MAKARSKA that there was never an option to run this with S4, only S6 and S7. She argued there is a need to move onto the next phase which is only a test phase at present and to report when there is more information on the content of the test phase.

Board members discussed the launch of this test phase with divided opinion and several observations, with a strong concern that if the test phase is run there is always the risk a Policy will be presented without having proper discussions, as has been the case in the past. While some Board members remained concerned as most sections had expressed clear preference against BYOD, it was also recognized by some sections that it is a necessary opportunity for higher levels to have a computer in class as these will be needed for university.



There was also continued concern over the issue of the test phase being voluntary and the risk for those who do not bring laptops. It was agreed nevertheless that it is positive there is dialogue with the school and an understanding that the school cannot produce a Policy unilaterally.

Noemie BEIGBEDER underlined again this is a test phase, that it will be run whatever the BYOD position is, voluntary for both teachers and students. All elements will be assessed, which is why this phase is positive. At present she is waiting for details. She also reminded Board members that there is a teacher representative in the WG so a space for discussion with several stakeholders. In general, it was agreed on the need to keep involved, the hard work of the representatives was recognized and input positive. There was a consensus for the President to take the position of the Board to the SAC and admin board. It was concluded to engage constructively with the school administration to influence the test phase's outcomes and ensure transparency in evaluation criteria. Additionally, the board discussed the need for a shorter test phase duration and the importance of addressing broader digital education goals rather than focusing solely on the device policy.

Representative of the Communication WG Hjordis DALSGAARD (DA Sec) reported on the Communication Policy following a meeting with school and Gaelle. This could be hopefully presented soon.

5. 20 May CE Secondary: 20 June meeting on activities for school closure during BAC

Representative Noemie BEIGBEDER reported on the 20 May CE Secondary meeting. There were tough discussions on the 180 days, and she referred Board members to the still valid 2018 position paper uploaded on OneDrive. Board decision online following the decision of the Board of Governors in April 2025. She explained that although in the European School Statutes the school year lasts 180 days, Secondary students finish 2 weeks before due to BAC exams in addition to the issue of absences of teachers, creating concern among parents regarding syllabus, competences, etc. The Board of Governors delegated to the admin board in September to decide on activities of a pedagogical nature provided by the school for students S1-S6 during the 2 weeks during Oral BAC exams. It is therefore compulsory for Director TRAN to put forward a proposal to be adopted in the admin board. Levels concerned are S1-S4 as S5 are on work experience. There is no obligation to organise for S6 as they may still have exams.

The Director made a proposal to organise 4 days activities starting on a Tuesday (giving full flexibility to the Monday for all staff to organise the BAC) and will hold a meeting tomorrow to collect opinions. S1 and S2 will be voluntary for parents but once students are registered then parents will be liable for costs. If there is still space, compared to what is feasible to organise, this can be opened for S3. She referred Board members to the document uploaded on OneDrive on June 2026 activities. The Board discussed the voluntary aspect and registration for activities, inquired about statistics on student absences end of school year, the importance of organising activities of a pedagogical nature and of including S3. They also recognised the challenges for the school regarding the number of students present on campus during the BAC to ensure sufficient calm for exams and availability of teachers. Statistics show that there were 140 students registered to the APEEE Services stage this year from S1-4 so only 10% opting for paid activities. President Sigfrido RAMÍREZ PÉREZ concluded to agree for the moment on the voluntary aspect with parents obliged to pay once registered.

6. APEEE Spring Funding Call: recommendations by 4 June Awards Panel, approval by Board

Financial Adviser Gundars OSTROVSKIS presented a PowerPoint on the Spring Funding Call 2025 and the recommendations made by the Awards Panel. The Awards Panel was held on 4 May to deliberate on the 11 applications. 5 projects received a negative opinion, 2 mixed and 4 positive. The Awards Panel recommended to award funding for a total of 6100 EUR to 6 projects, 2 of which could have a slight increase (remaining within the 7000 EUR package) subject to justifications. The Bureau was given the mandate to approve these directly and to inform the board procedurally if an increase was allocated to either of the 2 projects. The Awards Panel recommendation for the Spring Call 2025 was approved by consensus.

It was agreed that the initiative to hold a Question & Answer session on project funding (held 7 May for the Spring Call 2025) before Call deadlines was a positive one and should be continued.

7. Approval of calendar of APEEE meetings 2025-2026

President Sigfrido RAMÍREZ PÉREZ took the Board through the calendar of meetings scheduled for the next school year, including suggestions for the next APEEE Board meetings. Next step is to cross check against Parliament session weeks, and a revised proposal will be resubmitted in the September Board meeting. The next Board meeting suggested for 18 September in Uccle was approved by consensus.



POINTS FOR INFORMATION

8. APEEE Communication Working Group: APEEE website revamp, newsletter (post-Fête)

Communication Working Group Coordinator Evangelia SYLLELIADOU could not be present so the presentation of the APEEE website revamp was postponed. Secretariat staff member Guendalina COMINOTTI informed the Board of the Communication Working Group's plans for the coming months, following the launch of newsletter in April. The plan is to publish a second edition before the end of the school year reporting on the school Fete. Another short one is planned for the rentrée explaining APEEE membership with a Welcome from the President. In the meantime, work is ongoing regarding the website with its revamp and updating of texts alongside.

9. School Fête 17 May 2025: meeting stand holders 15 June, debrief and accounts

Fete Coordinator Valentina PAPA took Board members through a PowerPoint presentation on the results and debrief of the Fete. She reported that a debriefing session had been held online with stand holders on 15 June. Her presentation outlined the successes including the organization of 69 stands, sports activities, charity stands, performances, sales of hoodies and funds raised; improvements after the last Fete including on the payment modalities, more participation from teachers and positive coordination with the school; less successful elements including reusable cups, volunteers for ticket sales, registration and absence of the CdE (Student Committee). She suggested some improvements for the next Fete including organization of access and waiting lists and the need for additional Coordinators for food stands and performances. She thanked the President for his trust in her coordination, the Board members for their coordination, the Secretariat for their support and praised the commitment of the volunteers. Next steps are to create a To Do list for future fetes and she welcomed any additional feedback to be sent to her by email.

10. APEEE Treasurer: update, Berkendael account, membership fees, CdE

Treasurer Miklos NAGY reported on the need to plan carefully for the new budget as APEEE is running quite a large deficit every year. During the handover meeting he had at the beginning of the year with the previous Treasurer and external accountant, the concern with inflation had been discussed and the Board advised to return to a discussion on membership fees and consider an increase in membership fees for the school year 2026-2027. President Sigfrido RAMÍREZ PÉREZ reminded that the suggestion had been to delay this discussion for the school year 2025-2026 due to the 5 EUR addition in the school charges and agreed that the Board should now return to this consideration.

11. Sibling Rule: appeal to the new sibling rule application by the OSGES

President Sigfrido RAMÍREZ PÉREZ had been contacted by Greek section in relation to the Berkendael case on the violation of the Sibling Rule sent to the to Complaints Board. This concerns the case of Greek students being sent to Ixelles from Berkendael for transition to Secondary and therefore a total breach of the Sibling Rule. Central Office allows this is broken between 2 schools as a direct result of the flexibility between 2 sites of same school justified through overcrowding. It is important to support this case as otherwise the risk is that the impact for our school will be higher as it will happen more often, if the Complaints Board accept to remove entirely the principle of this Rule, which is different from giving it some flexibility.

Elena CHATZI (EL Berkendael) explained in more detail underlining that if the School wins the case against the Greek section, then this will create a precedent. Newcomers should at least be given a choice even if the Greek section do not have any other choice. The Hearing will be held on 20 June.

12. Educational Support 17 June online meeting

The point has been discussed during Point 3.

13. Transition P5–S1: 24 June School meeting, 10 June FR Section meeting

Sandrine PIERLOZ reported on the online meeting organized by the French section which was attended by some 70 participants, good attendance and a successful meeting with S1 and S2 sharing experience. It would be useful to further extend to other sections, but important to note that it already involved a lot of coordination. There will be a meeting organized by the school on 24 June. and interesting to see how it complements this first one.

14. Locally Recruited Teachers (LRTs): update following 19 March demonstration and 1 April strike

Teacher representatives Peter CADY and Thomas BANKS were invited but could not attend due to a busy



end of the school year but also confirmed there are no further updates to give at present. They may be invited to the September Board meeting if anything new to report at that time.

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

- **InterParents, 9-11 April Board of Governors (BoG) meeting**

President Sigfrido RAMÍREZ PÉREZ referred Board members to the Minutes on the OneDrive. Interparents will have a meeting tomorrow on the discussion of the reform of Interparents Statutes, necessary because of the new law governing Associations in Luxembourg. More time may be needed to think carefully, not only to adapt but to check if there are elements to correct and improve and for the time needed to submit to APEEE boards. He informed that the yearly IP Membership fee had been paid.

- **12 June CE Berkendael**

Elena CHATZI (EL Berkendael) reported briefly to the Board on the 12 June CE Berkendael meeting. The topics covered were the planning of trips for the next school year, bullying and surveillance, the new visual closures covering the entrance gates.

16. Review and solicitation of agenda points for upcoming meetings 2025

- **24 June CE Primary Uccle**

Minutes had not been received but Javier VILLEGAS BURGOS (member elected by GA, CE ES Uccle Prim) had circulated some points on safety and monkey bars concern. Nadia ROSINI confirmed all points had been sent beforehand to the school. President Sigfrido RAMÍREZ PÉREZ requested that the Agenda and Minutes of the previous meeting are sent for upload for Board members to be able to consult.

- **26 June SAC Meeting**

President Sigfrido RAMÍREZ PÉREZ referred Board members to the Minutes of the January Admin Board uploaded on the OneDrive, received only in May. These include a series of points. He invited Board member to read through them and send an email for any comments before the SAC Meeting on 26 June. He outlined already the following points noted to include: the Rule of 180 days, BYOD conclusions from the point in the agenda discussed earlier, trips that have taken place and evaluation of the agency, L2 review, BAC results, Gifted children, Catalan as a minority language approved by the Board of Governors and if already to be applied next school year, 2nd psychologist, teachers absences. Valentina PAPA suggested that he should ask before this meeting if the school will approve the Pedagogical Plan and if so then remind that APEEE should be given a draft before the end of the school year and a short SAC should be schedule just on this in September in order for comments to be gathered during the next Board meeting and prepared before the SAC. The issue of school book lists being received late was also raised but it was noted that this is as a result of the need to first assign teachers who then decide the book lists.

AOB

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

The next meeting is scheduled for 18 September 2025 (Berkendael)