

## MINUTES APEEE BOARD MEETING 24 March 2026 (Berkendael)

**Board Members CA (voting):** Noémie BEIGBEDER (CA Member elected by GA, VP Secondary), Agnes BOROS (HU Prim Uccle, ES Prim Uccle), Elena CHATZI (EL Berkendael), Almudena DOMÍNGUEZ GARCÉS (ES Berkendael, Deputy CE ES Berkendael), Maria GERHARDT (DE Sec), Bartosz HACKBART (CA Member elected by GA), Delphine HEBERT (CA Member elected by GA), Peter KOCVÁR (SK Berkendael), Maciej KRZYSZTOFOWICZ (PL Sec), Kremena MILEVA (EN Uccle Prim), Miklos NAGY (HU Sec, Treasurer), Sandrine PIERLOZ (FR Prim Uccle, Deputy Secretary), Sigfrido RAMÍREZ PÉREZ (CA Member elected by GA, President), Nadia ROSINI (IT Sec, Deputy CE IT Sec, VP Primary Uccle), Yasemin TURETKEN (EN Berkendael), Ky Vinh TRAN LUU (FR Berkendael)

**Proxies:** Michael BERZ (DE Prim Uccle) to Maria GERHARDT, Magdalena HORODYSKA (PL Prim Uccle to Maciej KRZYSZTOFOWICZ, Laura SERRAO (IT Berkendael) to Delphine HEBERT, Nadia ROSINI (IT Sec, Deputy CE IT Sec, VP Primary Uccle) and Rachele TOSTI (IT Prim Uccle, CE IT Prim Uccle) to Sigfrido RAMÍREZ PÉREZ, Valentina PAPA (EN Sec, Secretary) to Kremena MILEVA

**Deputy Board Members CA (non-voting):** Silvia PEDERZOLLI (IT Berkendael)

**Other participants:** Margarita SAVOVA-PEYREBRUNE (Coordinator Gifted Children Network, Languages Working Group)

**APEEE Secretariat:** Guendalina COMINOTTI, Selena GRAY

### 1. Adoption of the Agenda

2 points of information were added under AOB: Talent Show and Meeting with APEEEs of Brussels European schools and the European Parliament Staff Committee. The agenda was adopted by consensus.

### 2. Approval of the Minutes of the 26 February 2026 APEEE Board Meeting

President Sigfrido RAMÍREZ PÉREZ clarified V2 of the minutes due to a last-minute modification to the conclusion in Point 9: Regrouping of siblings. The minutes were adopted by consensus.

## POINTS FOR DISCUSSION AND/OR DECISION

### 3. APEEE delegates to official bodies and Working Groups

- **update from (school and/or APEEE and/or INTERPARENTS) Working Groups**

Margarita SAVOVA-PEYREBRUNE confirmed her resignation as Coordinator of the Gifted Children network (sub-group of the Languages Working Group) and was thanked for her many years of work.

VP of Secondary Noémie BEIGBEDER updated the board on various working groups:

- Homework Policy Working Group: uploaded on OneDrive revised as per comments received since the last Board. As this will be endorsed in the coming days, any remaining comments should be sent to her urgently.
- Assessment Policy Working Group: Deputy Director Ms MAKARSKA is preparing an Assessment Policy for Secondary with the aim to finalise by December 2026; the Board approved by consensus the appointment of Noémie BEIGBEDER and Hjørdis DALSGAARD (DA Sec) as APEEE representatives for this Working Group.
- Communication Policy Working Group: progressing well with the work of APEEE representatives Hjørdis DALSGAARD and DOLÉANS Gaëlle. The document was not uploaded as still a work in progress. The focus is on Secondary, but she warned that Primary may come with a similar request so important to nominate Primary representatives to follow developments closely.

- **nominations: APEEE referee for Primary Trips**

A board member was solicited for the role of primary representative for trips. This was elaborated further in



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Point 8 on School Trips.

#### **4. S1234 Activities during oral BAC exams**

President Sigfrido RAMÍREZ PÉREZ debriefed on his meeting last week with Director TRAN and the school Activities Coordinator on outings and activities organized during the 2 weeks of BAC exams in June when there are no classes. He had requested a report on their plans for the 4 days, Tuesday to Friday. These would be related to several topics including Cultural Diversity and Environment. He reminded these should avoid repetition of European hours and have pedagogical content; sports activities could also be an option as PE teachers are available. Activities will depend on numbers registered, some 330 to date although exact numbers will depend on activities finally offered. Outings will most likely dominate as school space is lacking due to organization of the BAC. He underlined the importance of following closely as this may create a precedent for the future. APEEE Services would still organize activities but only for the second week, a declaration of interest had been sent by Césame.

#### **5. Communication platform HAPPEEE – evaluation test phase**

Ky Vinh TRAN LUU (FR Berkendael) reported on the communication platform HAPPEEE: 13 representatives signed in since the last Board meeting when it had been decided to pilot the platform with section representatives and then key members such as Coordinators of Working Groups before expanding to the broader parent community. He concluded it is not the ideal working platform as not made for drafting documents but might have value as a social network. The decision was to continue testing and discuss in the June Board meeting to continue this through the summer and potentially expand access to Coordinators of Working Groups and class representatives.

#### **6. Berkendael Fête Saturday, 25 April 2026**

Parent coordinators Delphine HEBERT, Ky Vinh TRAN LUU and Yasemin TURETKEN reported on the planning process of the Berkendael Fete. The school is taking primary responsibility for the organization of the 25 April event to celebrate the school's 10th anniversary, and parents will be involved through food stands and volunteers. With a capacity limit of 3,000 people, the school is managing registrations and will send invitations based on first registration numbers, the event will be restricted to 2 adults per family and siblings. They raised the issue of finding payment solutions and the need for non-cash solutions, with the school requesting help from the APEEE setting up a payment system for ticket sales and handling individual reimbursements for stands, though details about how the system would work remained unclear. There was discussion about how reimbursements would work, with concerns raised about the APEEE accounting requirements and the need for proper invoices. They added that the school was organizing a schedule of shows and performances and purchasing drinks through the canteen. It was agreed that APEEE could sell Fete 2023 cups. The next meeting with the school will be on 26 March to clarify further.

#### **7. APEEE Project Funding - Spring Call 2026 and Panel members**

The Board approved by consensus the Spring Call for project funding, which will follow the same principles as previous years. There will be a total funding package of 8,000 EUR and up to 1,500 EUR per project. President Sigfrido RAMÍREZ PÉREZ outlined the panel members including working group coordinators and stakeholder representatives, clarifying there is the possibility to add the Treasurer and President to participate in the evaluation. The Call will be launched on the 13 April after the Easter break.

### **POINTS FOR INFORMATION**

#### **8. School Trips**

Noémie BEIGBEDER reported on issues related to school trips and parent engagement. She highlighted the challenges in maintaining the ski trip, also informing on concerns regarding a recent S7 outing which raised both political and security questions among parents, though these were resolved by the school administration with a guarantee that proper security measures were in place. The group discussed the new centralized trip agency system, which has been criticized for lack of competition and recurring quality issues resulting in safety concerns, loss of parent trust and challenges faced by teachers. The European Court of Auditors will launch an audit for the procurement initiated by the Central Office, into the management of the travel agency Move to Study contracted for the European schools. Board members were referred to the Interparents document and summary of the situation uploaded on OneDrive.



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Board members were solicited for the role of primary representative for trips, as for now Gaëlle DOLÉANS only covers Secondary. It was clarified that everything needs to be set up for primary by requesting a meeting with Ms MAKARSKA, as there is no official Working Group and for now the structure exists only for secondary. Almudena DOMÍNGUEZ GARCÉS volunteered for Berkendael; VP of Primary Nadia ROSINI was suggested for Uccle, to be approved during the next meeting when she is present.

Concerns were highlighted regarding parent behavior during a recent school meeting on the school trip to Austria for P4 Uccle. The Board acknowledged the importance of being demanding as parents but emphasized the need to support the school in addressing these challenges, underlining the negative impact of aggressive behavior from parents, reminding that it is already difficult to convince teachers to participate in them and that our school is among those who have more trips than minimally requested

#### **9. APEEE Languages Working Group: update L3/L4 survey; languages extra-curricular**

Margarita SAVOVA-PEYREBRUNE, Coordinator Gifted Children Network, Languages Working Group, updated on the 2 surveys run by the Languages Working Group.

Languages extra-curricular: the survey launched by APEEE, to enable a discussion on this transversal issue affecting all sections and levels of the school, received more than 650 replies. Referring Board members to the analysis of results uploaded on One Drive, she showed that although indicative, these demonstrate a clear demand and interest for a large range of languages. There is sufficient demand identified for example for 9 classes in Berkendael and 15 in Uccle. Currently there are extremely few language classes organised compared to other European schools. She noted that while current logistical constraints exist, parents have shown willingness to help overcome these challenges, citing an example of a mother organizing a Romanian language group with 20 interested children. She expressed concern about resistance and lack of progress in offering diverse language options in the past. Board members discussed the challenges and opportunities for expanding language classes and grouping such classes, also highlighting the importance of balancing popular languages like English and French with less popular options, while also considering practical challenges such as cost, management, and levels of language knowledge. In conclusion it was proposed to start small with additional language classes and request support from the Languages Working Group and APEEE Services to move forward with the initiative with the same approach as for other activities. The need for a Coordinator was identified to lead the follow up with the support of the APEEE Secretariat, to contact these parents and constitute groups before the APEEE Services registration deadline end April. Pauline DITTE was suggested as a potential candidate to solicit; Margarita SAVOVA-PEYREBRUNE and Ky Vinh TRAN LUU offered to approach other interested parents. President Sigfrido RAMÍREZ PÉREZ will try to meet with the President of APEEE Services to raise awareness of these results

L3/L4 survey: L3 Language Group Coordination Plan - the discussion focused on L3 language options at the school and how to support parents in making choices, with consensus that the school need to provide better information about available language options for L3 as a compulsory option. It was suggested to create and circulate an Excel sheet to help P5 parents organize groups for less popular languages for L4.

#### **Language Classes Expansion Discussion**

##### **10. Administrative Meeting Reports – reporting on system level meetings: updates on meetings and latest developments**

- **3 March CE Secondary**

Official Minutes had not yet been received from the school.

- **10-11 March Budget Committee (central level)**

President Sigfrido RAMÍREZ PÉREZ reported on updates and discussions related to the Budget Committee and Board of Governors and explained the procedures of Interparents interventions. He highlighted the importance of the IP meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> April for the preparation for the Board of Governors, including reviewing interventions from Interparents made in the Budget Committee. He highlighted that a new agenda item for 10<sup>h</sup> April regarding the potential accreditation of a new private School in Belgium had been introduced with the support of the Dutch-speaking community. Concerns were raised about the process and potential impact on existing schools, the costs associated with accredited schools and financial implications for the European school system as a whole, in particular this expansion in some countries like Luxembourg, where these are public schools. The implication on the number of inspectors was raised during the Board



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discussion, and it was requested that the Board of Governors should be asked to increase this proportionally.

Another important discussion was around the APEEE request to have an additional Deputy Director in EEB1 since there are now more secondary students than correspond to the capacity for a Deputy Director. This faced opposition from some member states and therefore not likely to be approved at the Board of Governors. Board members were referred to the Interparents interventions at the Budget Committee and notes from the General Assembly uploaded to One Drive, not for wider circulation as currently Interparents is having a consultation with the Office of the Secretary General of European Schools (OSGES) about which documents could be shared more broadly.

- **19 March CE Primary Berkendael**

Almudena DOMÍNGUEZ GARCÉS (ES Berkendael, Deputy CE ES Berkendael) gave a brief update referring to the informal notes uploaded from the 19 March CE Primary Berkendael meeting. 2 main issues were raised: the Call for Tender for canteen which will be launched, as the contract with Compass is coming to an end; the new transport fee to Longchamps for swimming classes to be charged to parents at Berkendael, but not to those from Uccle, which will be calculated by Administration. Section representatives complained and proposed alternative solutions to be brought to the Deputy director. The complaint regarding insects in the sand in sandpits was also raised.

#### **11. Review and solicitation of agenda points for upcoming meetings 2026**

- **10 April Interparents Meeting (preparation Board of Governors – BoG)**

No agenda has been received yet. The meeting will take place online.

- **15-16-17 April Board of Governors (BoG)**

The draft agenda was uploaded to One Drive.

- **23 April CE Primary Uccle**

## **AOB**

Board members were referred to the APEEE email to the school uploaded on One Drive, congratulating school management on the success of the recent Talent show.

President Sigfrido RAMÍREZ PÉREZ updated the Board on the meeting of the APEEE representatives of the Brussels European schools with, and at the initiative of, the European Parliament Staff Committee. This included discussions on mental health concerns and overcrowding issues. The conclusion was to suggest that the staff committees of European institutions could coordinate the discussion with Interparent representatives through a Working Group of all these committees in order to follow the schools which are present all over Europe

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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 23 April 2026 (online)*