

Brussels, 10 September 2026

Minutes of the APEEE Board Meeting 11 June 2026 (Uccle)

Board Members CA (voting): Noémie BEIGBEDER (CA Member elected by GA, VP Secondary), Agnes BOROS (HU Prim Uccle, ES Prim Uccle), Hjørdis DALSGAARD (DA Sec), Almudena DOMÍNGUEZ GARCÉS (ES Berkendael, Deputy CE ES Berkendael), Maria GERHARDT (DE Sec), Bartosz HACKBART (CA Member elected by GA), Magdalena HORODYSKA (PL Prim Uccle), Elisabeth KAVALIERAKIS (FR Sec, CE FR Sec), Miklos NAGY (HU Sec, Treasurer), Valentina PAPA (EN Sec), 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), Laura SERRAO (IT Berkendael), Rachele TOSTI (IT Prim Uccle, CE IT Prim Uccle), Ky Vinh TRAN LUU (FR Berkendael), Tanja TROJOK (SL Prim Uccle, CE SL Prim Uccle), Yasemin TÜRETKEN (EN Berkendael)..

Proxies: Michael BERZ (DE Prim Uccle) and Georg RAAB (DE Berkendael, Deputy CE DE Berkendael) to Maria GERHARDT, Delphine HEBERT (CA Member elected by GA) to Ky Vinh TRAN LUU.

Deputy Board Members CA (non-voting): Martina JERMAN (SWALS Uccle, CE SWALS Uccle)

Other participants: Laurence AVILA (EUREKA Coordinator), Marek BOBIS (President APEEE Services), Ruta KRASTINA (CE LV Sec), Margarita SAVOVA-PEYREBRUNE (Coordinator Gifted Children Network, Languages Working Group)

APEEE Secretariat: Guendalina COMINOTTI, Selena GRAY

1. Adoption of the Agenda

The agenda was adopted by consensus.

2. Approval of the Minutes of the 23 April 2026 APEEE Board Meeting

The minutes of the 23 April 2026 APEEE Board Meeting were approved by consensus.

3. Welcome new President APEEE Services

Newly elected President of APEEE Services Marek BOBIS introduced himself and reported on the recent APEEE Services extraordinary General Assembly, which addressed the approval of accounts, increased transparency and presentation of the draft budget for the coming school year. He gave an overview of the departments and coordination work involved in APEEE Services, reporting that this school year more than 3,000 pupils enrolled in Uccle canteen and transport services; over 1,000 in after-school activities Uccle, almost 600 Berkendael; 2,222 pupils were provided with lockers, with no current waiting list due to the introduction of family-sharing arrangements and installation of additional cabinets in cooperation with the school. APEEE Services require significant staffing (33 permanent staff, 30 subcontracted canteen staff, around 80 transport monitors and approximately 100 contractual staff), and he praised the significant operational work carried out by the Director and staff. Transport prices remained stable despite the increase in number of electric buses and optimisation of routes resulted in four fewer lines. He commended the work of parent volunteers active in the Transport Committee, notably Kevin O'CONNOR and Ivo SCHMIDT. No major changes are expected for the next school year; salary costs are expected to remain broadly stable. He concluded by encouraging more volunteer parents to become involved through participation in the Steering Committee. The application procedure is published on the APEEE Services website, interested parents are first invited to participate as observers to understand how APEEE Services operates.

In response to queries concerning language-based after-school activities, he explained that APEEE Services cannot organise formal language classes as it is not a language school. However, he confirmed that APEEE Services is examining the possibility of offering activities conducted in or linked to languages, in response to the strong demand from parents. He stressed that all activity requests are treated according to the same rules, whether they concern art, sport, languages or other. Proposals must follow the published procedure, and require the identification of an instructor, a minimum number of participants and the assessment of practical

feasibility, such as room availability, capacity constraints and cost-efficiency. Several Board members underlined the importance of the survey results on languages, noting that they demonstrated clear parental interest, particularly in relation to minority languages, identity and respect for the diversity of the school community. APEEE Services acknowledged this and asked for patience while assessing which language activities may realistically be proposed for the next school year. The discussion concluded with a reminder that parents may influence the priorities of APEEE Services by submitting proposals, participating in its governance structures and standing as candidates for the APEEE Services Board in accordance with the applicable procedures. Moreover, considering that the maximum members of APEEE Services Board is not completed and therefore each year there are positions available to sit in the Board, permitting nearly all linguistic sections to present a candidate (to be voted by the GA of APEEE Services).

POINTS FOR DISCUSSION AND/OR DECISION

4. APEEE delegates to official bodies and Working Groups

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

EUREKA Coordinator Laurence AVILA informed the Board that she would be leaving the school, and a new Coordinator is solicited. She presented a complete overview of EUREKA's work, including the collection, sorting and classification of lost property, as well as the main challenges encountered during the year, such as theft and the large number of unlabelled and unclaimed items. EUREKA periodically sells PE items and donates bags of unclaimed clothing to charities and the infirmary. Labelled items are kept for nine months, while unlabelled items are kept for six months. Valuables are handed over to *La Vie Scolaire* and Primary Secretariat. During the current school year, 23 volunteers supported EUREKA, involved in logistics, statistics, communications & social media, and financial control and working closely with APEEE and the school. 2 volunteers collect items Thursday mornings from 16 collection points; an additional volunteer assists during opening hours. EUREKA is generally open Thursdays and one Friday per month, usually the last Friday of the month or before a holiday break. Additional openings were planned in June to address the end-of-year increase in lost property whereby EUREKA organises a final large-scale collection resulting in approximately 600 items of clothing. Once a month, volunteers also carry out an inventory and prepare bags of unclaimed clothing, while the coordinator organises transport to charity associations. The main challenge for the next school year will be to find a new EUREKA Coordinator and additional volunteers as at least five are expected to leave. The EUREKA team suggested that the school consider establishing a dedicated EUREKA secretariat providing part-time administrative support given the scale of work involved. Other priorities identified included encouraging labelling of items (exploring a possible QR-code solution proposed) and finding a sustainable approach for unclaimed lunch boxes and bottles. More cooperation with the school and teachers would be beneficial, instances of teachers bringing classes to EUREKA should be further encouraged. President Sigfrido RAMÍREZ PÉREZ thanked Ms AVILA for her work. The possibility of temporary financial compensation, similar to a student job, is being explored as a possible short-term solution. Several Board members expressed reservations about compensating APEEE volunteers and it was concluded to first approach the school and APEEE Services to discuss solutions.

Regarding **school trips**, President Sigfrido RAMÍREZ PÉREZ reported on a recent Interparents meeting concerning the position of the Brussels European schools in relation to the current travel agency contract, following concerns raised by one school and about the possibility of terminating the contract. The main conclusion was that feedback should be raised with the agency and that a standard survey should be carried out after trips to assess quality and value for money. The Board agreed that the pedagogical aspects of school trips remain a matter for the school. A meeting with the Court of Auditors was scheduled in the context of its audit of the Brussels schools, including questions related to the compulsory use of the designated travel provider under the framework agreement. It was observed that, while there have been improvements compared with the previous year, continued pressure should be maintained on the provider, particularly in relation to costs. Board members also discussed the need for greater transparency. The President indicated that the issue would also be raised at the School Advisory Council. He emphasised the importance of discussing the pedagogical objectives of trips, including team-building activities and option-related trips, while also considering the number of trips offered and the role of pupils in the choice of destination.

Regarding the **Communication Policy**, the Board was informed that Gaëlle DOLÉANS and Hjørdis DALSGAARD are working with Deputy Director Ms Emilia MAKARSKA on this, including guidance on the role of class teachers and who to contact for different situations. The aim is to help parents identify the appropriate contact point while avoiding unnecessary duplication of messages to the school. They were referred to the document uploaded on OneDrive which remains a live document, further suggestions from Board members are welcome. Noémie BEIGBEDER noted that tracked changes are being discussed, while changes to the document remain difficult to secure.

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- **Nominations: Languages WG Coordinator, Primary Trips representative, CE Primary Uccle delegate, EUREKA Coordinators**

The nominations were postponed to the next Board meeting, as no candidates were present.

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

Project Adviser Nadia ROSINI presented the APEEE Project Funding Spring Call 2026 referring to a PowerPoint presentation uploaded OneDrive. The Call received 22 applicants for a total funding of 23,322 EUR. Following the meeting of the Awards Panel held on 6 December involving 3 hours deliberation, discussion and collective assessment, final funding recommendations were reached for 13 projects, including 5 for partial funding and 8 for full funding. The recommendations of the Awards Panel were approved by consensus.

6. Enrolment Policy: Regrouping of Siblings

ES representative Berkendael Almudena DOMÍNGUEZ GARCÉS presented the proposal that aims at authorizing the transfer with justification of siblings of pupils in the *glissement* from P5 Berkendael to S1 Uccle. Board members were reminded of the procedure and development cycle of the enrolment policy, stressing that the policy would be elaborated for next year, that in the current form the proposal seems to open up also transfers for sections that are being consolidated on Berkendael and the proposal would need to be re-worded in several aspects. Uccle CEA representative Bartosz HACKBART reminded that the next enrolment policy to be discussed would apply for 2027-28, that this proposal goes against the easing of the protection of siblings rule (i.e. that the protection is maintained per level in the same school but not across levels allowing sibling being still in the same school but on different sites) which was considered fundamental as a way to address overcrowding across all EEB schools, that there is already a possibility for requesting transfer (albeit under strict circumstances), that such a move would dampen the consolidation of sections, and therefore it should be limited to the section (ES) asking for it, but that this would create a difference of treatment with other sections. EN Secondary delegate recalled the difficult discussions on the issue of the rule of siblings, and consolidation of classes in Berkendael in the past during the discussion on the 5th school, as well as procedural aspects of the voice of parents in the CEA. HU delegate recalled his (and many other parents) experience with children being schooled on both sites as something manageable. The ES delegate was open to different reformulations but insisted on the need to make the request in the CEA. President Sigfrido RAMÍREZ PÉREZ closed the discussion by encouraging the different representatives to consult each other and return to the topic in September ahead of the discussion for a consensuated position on the next policy in the CEA.

7. Approval of calendar of APEEE meetings 2026-2027

President Sigfrido RAMÍREZ PÉREZ explained how Board dates were reached, avoiding conflicting meetings such as Parliament week. An APEEE Welcome session is planned for parents on Saturday 3 October. The proposed Calendar was approved by consensus.

POINTS FOR INFORMATION

8. Berkendael Fête Saturday, 25 April 2026: debrief

President Sigfrido RAMÍREZ PÉREZ informed that school management had been requested to share the accounts of the Berkendael Fete, but these were not yet finalised. FR Berkendael Representative Ky Vinh TRAN LUU reported briefly on the Fete, informing that reimbursements to parents for stands had all been completed.

9. APEEE Languages Working Group: update languages extra-curricular

The President of APEEE Services reported on this in Point 3. President Sigfrido RAMÍREZ PÉREZ added that aside from APEEE Services there is also coordination at the school level involved, and most importantly if there is available space or not for proposed activities. Information on these final decisions should be made available to APEEE.

10. Re-sit S7 B-Tests: Hist 2, Geo 2, Math 5

VP of Secondary Noémie BEIGBEDER briefed the Board on the leaks during the B-Tests whereby almost all S7 students had to re-sit. Director TRAN was very transparent and met with all S7 Class representatives. All S7 students had received information on the sanctions for cheating at the start of the year and in S6. She will follow up with Deputy Director Emilia MAKARSKA on what the school plans to do to improve the situation and for better communication on sanctions. A reflection has been started on how to secure exams, and the school encouraged teachers and subject coordinators to work on this issue. APEEE legal working Group Coordinator Elisabeth KAVALLIERAKIS reported she was in touch with school management regarding the issues and attended disciplinary councils, giving assistance to families during meetings. MATH 5 disciplinary council had

already taken place, the other 2 inquiries are ongoing. School management is looking into how to improve the teacher-related side of the situation. She confirmed that the situation had taken a lot of meetings and a re-sit was an unavoidable result. Board members discussed the situation and their concerns, what sanctions were given and what was being done to avoid repetition. Hjordis DALSGAARD reported this had also been discussed during the May CE meeting, with parents requesting more information regarding the sanctions and consequences to be imposed for cheating. Elisabeth KAVALIERAKIS confirmed that the culprits for MATH 5 had been identified and sanctioned within the realms of possibilities regarding timing and level and that students will be better informed that there are clear consequences for cheating. The 2 cases (Math5 and HIS2&GEO2 on the other side) were not related and happened differently. School management has also been requested to add this point under discipline points during the first school presentation to students in September.

11. Transition P5–S1: 24 June School meeting, 20 May FR Section meeting

The usual transition meeting for P5-S1 students was held by the school on 24 June with a specific informal one organized for parents by the French representatives for FR section of both sites on 20 May.

12. Class alliances against screen addiction

FR Berkendael Representative Ky Vinh TRAN LUU reported briefly underlining the negative impact of smartphones on the psychological development of kids, stating that the only way to postpone this type of addiction is for families to form an alliance between students to not have a smartphone, relieving the social pressure. In Berkendael they have none before the age of 12. He referred Board members to the *APEEE Woluwe Parent Pact on Smartphones use* uploaded on OneDrive, as a positive action in line with other national pacts. Juan MACHO (APEEE Woluwe and founding member of the campaign) had been invited to present but the meeting ran too late and his presentation therefore postponed to the September Board meeting. He concluded by recommending APEEE to communicate to parents, to raise more awareness on the impact and be more proactive in convincing parents to raise awareness.

13. HAPPEEE for Working Groups

The PowerPoint presentation previously introduced by Board member Ky Vinh TRAN LUU was uploaded on OneDrive. The point was postponed for further discussion during the next Board meeting at the start of the next school year.

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

- **12 May CE Uccle Secondary**

The CE Secondary representative was no longer present to report.

- **11 June CE Berkendael Primary**

Berkendael Representative Almudena DOMÍNGUEZ GARCÉS reported that there was no decision yet on swimming classes but there was movement for payment to be required. CE section representatives have agreed this will not be accepted, as swimming classes are in the curriculum and costs should be solved within the school budget. She will try to send a written formal complaint to Director TRAN on behalf of all sections before the end of the school year. There was a consensus to try to raise this in the SAC meeting as Board members argued that there is no reason this should be paid when not the case before and that Berkendael parents should not pay if Uccle parents are not. It was recommended to explore the situation in other European schools as one of the arguments used by school management is that in some other schools parents do pay. In any case, no decision on additional payments can be taken without a decision of the School board after having submitted a written and quantified justification for additional costs.

15. Review and solicitation of agenda points for upcoming meetings 2026

- **23 June CE Uccle Primary**

The agenda for the upcoming CE Uccle Primary meeting was uploaded to OneDrive which includes a point on trips. VP Primary Nadia ROSINI reported that like last year they will give composition of classrooms and announce trips for the next year including destination for P3-P4 and whether P3 will go to Blankenberg or align with Berkendael. Current year organized P3 Classe Verte and P4 Classe de Mer. Idea is that P3-P4 will only be in Belgium and P5 in line with L2 class. She reminded that 2 volunteers to act as representatives for Primary Trips and follow discussions with school management are still solicited, 1 for each site. This involves attending at least 2 meetings in situ before trips to coordinate questions from parents and 1 meeting afterwards.

- **26 June SAC Meeting**

President Sigfrido RAMÍREZ PÉREZ confirmed the points he had collected during the meeting to raise during

the 26 June SAC meeting, adding also a point to inquire about the school kitty.

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