



## Administrative Board Meeting/Réunion du Conseil d'Administration

Brussels Tuesday, 17 September 2013; 12:30-14:30; Room: J-79 02/03, Rue Joseph Deux, 79

### MINUTES

**Presents:** Sarah Conyers Barber, Freake Nigerl(Pascal), Ilieva Kunka, Iseult Lennon Hudson, Steve O'Byrne, Anja Mangels, Max Strotmann, Joelle Salmon, Martina Sindelar, Lebel Serge, Eric Piettre, Schulze Erika

**Absents :** Marc Henriques de Granada

Absent	Represented by
Pascal Manzano	Nigel
Monika Paulus	Erika
Streul Carola	Joelle
Wischermann Ralph	Joelle
Benoit Vandergeeten	Steve

**Chairman:** Steve O'Byrne

### AGENDA

1. Adoption of Draft Agenda (5 minutes)
2. Adoption of minutes of meetings: 29/08 (5 minutes)
3. Upcoming Extraordinary Board of Governors meeting (Sept. 23) – items: Cost Sharing,
4. Upcoming School Admin Board meeting – discussion items
5. Review: Interparents meeting: WG on secondary schools studies
6. Review / Analysis of "team building exercise" on 29 June
7. Review: Coffee Morning for (new) parents
8. Review: Book Sales – new EN section books with Audivox / second hand books
9. Services: Periscolaire
10. Services: Canteen
11. Services: Transport
  - Nursery – Teachers want to put pupils on buses earlier than 15:15.
  - Secondary – changes to timetable have impact on second bus lines for Tuesday & Thursday. Should the school contact the transport office directly?
12. AoB (10 minutes)



## MINUTES

### 1. Adoption of Draft Agenda (5 minutes)

Approval of the last GA minutes postponed to the next CA.

Joëlle informed the CA that the next GA must be held by the end of January 2014 (according to the statutes of APEEE). Accordingly, the documentation for parents must be prepared and sent in time (3 weeks at least before the date of the GA) and a room must be booked.

### 2. Adoption of minutes of meetings: 29/08 (5 minutes)

Adopted

### 3. Upcoming Extraordinary Board of Governors meeting (Sept. 23) – items: Cost Sharing,

Very long debate on the cost sharing of European Schools (ES).

Yseult gave a broad overview of the situation, with the various stakeholders and lots of reminders of the story of ES (See also the annex).

As many parents do not fully grasp the rather loaded details of how their children's schooling is financed and why cost sharing seems to be an issue, we've put together a short crib sheet, aide-memoire or whatever term for a brief overview would be familiar to you :-)

Handy background reading would be the presentation given at last year's cost sharing working group which summarized the situation then :

[http://www.gudee.eu/Finance/costsharing\\_pres1.ppt](http://www.gudee.eu/Finance/costsharing_pres1.ppt)

#### 23rd of September - Extraordinary BoG meeting -

to discuss options paper 2013-07-D-18-en-2. It is the majority view that none of the options in this paper is workable. Either they are unacceptable to some Member States (Spain and Italy will send teachers to teach in their languages, but won't send cash to pay for their nationals to be taught by British or Irish teachers) or they require an increase in the contribution from the EU budget (at a time when the Member States are calling for a further reduction in this contribution at the Council level or both

<http://register.consilium.europa.eu/pdf/en/13/st13/st13176.en13.pdf>

**Interparents has requested** that the Modified Munich model

[ <http://www.gudee.eu/Finance/Munichmodel.doc> ] which was under discussion in February 2012 be brought back to the table for discussion. This would require a contribution from Member States based on GDP or GNI. While seemingly fairer in that it would take into account the ability of newer MS to contribute, there remain difficulties - e.g. Italy would still have to make an additional cash transfer of 3 to 3.5 million euros which is pretty unlikely to go down well in a country that is already financing a type II school in Parma.

So, we can safely presume that it will then be referred to **the Council of Ministers meeting in November**. This could have the advantage of bringing political pressure to bear on the BoG to find a sustainable financing model for the European Schools. OR it could totally backfire as the investment that some Member States make to the system is highlighted to Education Ministers faced with 'having' to impose austerity cuts on their home education systems. As a result, we could see a far more rapid removal of seconded teachers from our schools.



### **December 3rd, 4th and 5th - Board of Governors**

Whatever the outcome of the Council meeting in November, the ball will then be bounced back to the BoG. At this stage, nobody can reliably predict how this one is going to play out.

#### **What can we do?**

Lobbying. The Member States primarily. Parents need to develop a strategy of targeted lobbying of the MS that represents the different stakeholder perspective of each. Sarah and Iseult will be going to an EEBS cost sharing working group meeting on **Wednesday the 18th of September**. Hopefully part of this meeting will be used to pin down strategic messages and identifying the targets for any and all lobbying efforts.

We also have to come up with creative solutions, possibly on a school by school basis, but also on a system level e.g. The UK needs more Spanish language teachers; Spain could second teachers directly to the UK via the EACEA run Comenius programme and in return the UK would second teachers to the ES system.

**Some Reassurance:** it may feel like we're facing doomsday for the European Schools, BUT none of this discussion is new and the outcome of similar discussions in the past has led to the very positive expansion of the ES system - most recent additions being the 2012 opening of schools in:

The Hague: <http://www.europeanschoolthehague.nl/>

Bad Vilbel: <http://www.es-rm.eu/>

and new in 2013, Tallinn: <http://www.est.edu.ee/>

Funding has been an issue for the schools since day one, but for the sake of brevity, we'll start this from the European Commission's Communication on Options for Developing the European Schools System:

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2004:0519:FIN:EN:PDF>

Reading this alone should demonstrate that none of the issues are "new" and that none of the issues apply only to certain sections or certain schools, but indeed affect all of the children.

This led to the Noordwijk Conference in 2006 organised by the Dutch presidency of the ES at the time. Commissioner Kallas' opening speech could be used verbatim by Commissioner Sefcovic if another such conference is called for during the current discussions. We have not moved on very much in the last decade, unfortunately.

Kallas opening speech :

[http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_SPEECH-06-300\\_en.htm?locale=EN](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_SPEECH-06-300_en.htm?locale=EN)

Information supplied by the Dutch Presidency (conference organizers):

<http://gudee.eu/Futur/62412050.pdf>

Conference closing document: <http://gudee.eu/Futur/58079756.doc>

So, onwards and upwards. Every and all comment, suggestion and contribution (especially financial ;-) is welcome!

#### **4. Upcoming School Admin Board meeting – discussion items**

Joëlle suggested mentioning in the point 9 of the agenda the issue "sécurité des bâtiments". In particular, is an exercise of evacuation planned, especially for the canteen?

Steve and other participating board members will try to meet Mr Schlabe beforehand to alert him on / discuss upcoming points, in particular regarding the issue of local teachers and the importance of presence and as active as possible participation of pupils' representatives.



- 5. Review: Interparents meeting: WG on secondary schools studies.** See the annex.
- 6. Review / Analysis of "team building exercise" on 29 June**  
Members shared views on content and conduct of the meeting, with mixed feelings. While discussions and in particular staff commitment were generally appreciated, some members felt that timing and process could have been more flexible. A more structured feedback could be useful, e.g. through a web based questionnaire.
- 7. Review: Coffee Morning for (new) parents** Postponed
- 8. Review: Book Sales – new EN section books with Audivox / second hand books**  
Postponed
- 9. Services: Periscolaire**  
It is reported that reuse of enrolment automatic answer not very informative. Eric said that a number of activities required minimum attendance. Another problem is that new parents may not be really informed. Thus, information should be put on the website.
- 10. Services: Canteen**
- 11. Services: Transport** Postponed  
Eric mentioned an important point: Vaiva asked maternelle leaves at 3:00 instead of 03:15, in order to ease the access to the bus at 03:05. If so, it would mean more cost for the monitors, more cost for the bus company and a longer period for the kids in the busses.  
Erika reminds that the school is obliged to attend 20 minutes after the school finished.  
It was agreed with Vaiva to set leaving time at 03:10.  
  
**Decision 2013-09-17\_1:** The Administration Board unanimously supports the director to maintain the leaving time at 03:10.  
  
It is reported that the bus line 56AM reached the school with delay, quite a number of times. Apparently, this is due to the last four stops, added to the route of that line. These stops will be set to another line. As a consequence, departure time could be delayed
- 12. AoB (10 minutes)**



## ANNEX

### INTERPARENTS Brief report for APEEE BRU4 CA 2013-09-17

#### REPRESENTING Bru4:

CONYERS BARBER Sarah (Secondary)

LENNON HUDSON Iseult (Primary)

STREUL Carola - resigned September 2013 -Many thanks for all her efforts and hope that Carola will continue to support us informally, bringing her long experience in the system.

#### ACTIVITIES:

Summer Break: Ongoing dialogue and informal meetings with reps of other Bru schools and liaison with our School Director, leading up to...

**September 6th** - Interparents extraordinary meeting Brussels (Sarah and Iseult attended for Bru4)

**September 12-13th** - Secondary Reform Working Group of BoG meeting (IP reps: Rachel and Ana)

**September 18th** - Cost Sharing Bru APEEE Working Group: 'SoS' = 'Sustain our Schools' (Sarah and Iseult attending for Bru4)

**September 23rd** - Extraordinary Board of Governors Meeting on Cost-Sharing and Secondary Reform (Ana and Stephane representing IP)

#### COST SHARING NEWS:

IP review (Sep 6th) of paper before BoG concluded that:

- Cost-sharing issues are a reflection and consequence of a general problem
- BoG attempts to resolve impasse on funding of seconded teachers will almost certainly fail.
- Nevertheless, a system of cost-sharing based on GNI (as an independent measure of MS ability to pay) would be fairer than a system based on the stated Nationality of the child (often a confused picture) - ACTION: September IP letter to BoG asking them to take this into consideration, see [www.interparents.eu](http://www.interparents.eu) to download EN and FR. NB: Unlikely to be accepted by MS!

- An interim solution will also be needed urgently to fix the problems associated with over-dependency on local hires (a point strongly emphasised by Wulf Schlabe) - ACTION: Will probably be a verbal point from IP during BoG meeting

#### SECONDARY REFORM NEWS:

- **Summer Break** - Proposal document from WG critically reviewed by IP reps, big concerns about so-called filieres proposal massively limiting flexibility of options in upper Secondary and also overemphasis on L2 even L3, exacerbating challenges for SEN/education for all'. Supposed cost-savings not obvious nor any impact assessment done on university acceptability.

- **Sep 6th** - Presentation to IP of an alternative plan to consolidate options - accepted with some modifications and part of IP proposal to WG

- **Sep 12-13th** - BoG WG: constructive approach of IP "appreciated" but very little progress achieved on key points. Changes to original proposal limited mainly to: Religion and ethics



will go to L2 from S3 and retention of Maths and Sciences in L1. Changes to start SEPTEMBER 2014

- **Proposed follow-up:** IP Joint letter to be read out (customised if necessary) for Admin Boards calling for proper impact and economic assessment. See IP letter circulated this morning, September 17th.

#### **COMING UP:**

**25th November** - Education Council Meeting (where cost-sharing issue likely to end up after September 23rd BoG meeting on same subject)

**Admin Boards** - Mol starts on the 17 followed by Bergen, Alicante and Culham on the 18, 19 and 20 respectively. Then Karlsruhe on the 25, Munich 26, Varese 27. The Brussels schools (IV, III, II and I) on the 1, 2, 3 and 4 October respectively. With Luxembourg 1, 2 and Frankfurt on the 16, 17 and 18 October respectively.

#### **Other dates for 2013**

JTC 10 and 11(am) October – IP preparation on 7(pm) and 8 October in BXL I

Budgetary committee on 5 and 6 November 2013

BoG 3, 4 and 5 December – IP preparation in Mol exact dates to be determined

#### **Dates for 2014**

JTC 13 and 14(am) February – IP preparation in BXL II (Woluwe) or III (Ixelles) exact dates to be determined

Budgetary committee on 11 and 12 March 2014

BoG 8, 9 and 10 April - IP preparation in Varese exact dates to be determined

You can check out the diary for yourselves:

[www.eursec.eu/index.php?rub=agenda&date=2013/9/2](http://www.eursec.eu/index.php?rub=agenda&date=2013/9/2)

#### **ACTIONS:**

New thinking! SoS group meeting Wednesday

Lobbying - NB: BG contacts? (ES presidency)

**End of the annex**