



Administrative Board Meeting/Réunion du Conseil d' Administration

Brussels Thursday, 7th May 2020

ZOOM Video Meeting: 13:00-15:15

Present: Stephanie Buus, Kristin Dijkstra, Dorothée Farwerck Lefort, Alexandre Grigorescu Negri, Ambar Hernandez Pacheco, Karim Kettani, Vladas Kukulskis, Angela Muraca, Horst Nickels, Dan Nicolae, Victoria Petrova, Dana Adriana Puia Morel, Luigi Rosario Filippo Sciusco, Tobias Stricker, Pénélope Vlandas.

Absent : Luca Dussart Ilies, Mariana Ghitoi, Nadia Kichaout, Tzvetomir Penev, Iulian Vasile.

Excused : none

No proxies

Guest: Manuela Pamio, Secretariat of APEEE and, Eric Piettre, the Director of the APEEE of Brussels IV.

Minutes 07.05.2020

The quorum is present. Ms Dijkstra chairs the Administrative Board meeting.

1. Approval of agenda.

One item is added to the agenda:

1) Educational support during COVID-19

The agenda is adopted as amended.

2. Approval of Minutes from General Assembly 2/12/2019.

Unanimously adopted without any remarks

3. Approval of Minutes from March 5, 2020.

Adopted without any remarks

4. Discussion on reimbursement to parents.

Mr Piettre presents to the Board the total figures to be reimbursed to parents for the services already paid but not provided during the lockdown period, from 16th March 2020 to the end of the school year.

As agreed at the last Executive Board meeting, all reimbursements were calculated on a pro rata temporis basis.

The total amount to be reimbursed to parents is 361.446 euro. In order to better understand the calculation, Ms Vlandas would like to know the amount that each self-payer family should get back as a refund for the unused transport service.

#	Action	Owner	Deadline
01 CA 07/05/2020	To provide the amount of reimbursement per family and per service (canteen, transport and extra-curricular activities).	Piettre Eric	Tomorrow

Mr Piettre informs the Board that the four APEEEs based in Brussels are in contact with PMO in order to cover some costs related to the school bus companies that are in great difficulties at the moment. According to the Federation of Bus Companies in Belgium, the fix costs of bus companies would be around 28 percent but the proposal with PMO, agreed with the 4 APEEEs based in Brussels, was to cover the 15 percent of these costs. A meeting between the APEEEs and PMO on this topic will be held tomorrow. If the PMO agrees to cover these costs, we can give them back to the bus companies subject to AB approval of each APEEE. Mr Sciusco and the Treasurer of the APEEE are not in favour of paying fix costs to the bus companies and ask why we should help private companies.

Ms Petrova, the Board responsible for transport, points out that the aim of this proposal is to ensure the business continuity. She explains that there is a risk that service providers may not survive in this situation and it is in our interest to have a diversity of operators to cover our needs. The President of the APEEE clarifies that the parents' association has not the obligation to pay fix costs to the bus companies but there are limited numbers of bus companies in Belgium and we need that they may survive. It is important that the financial support to the bus companies implies that they should be bounded by contractual obligation to continue to provide the transport service to our pupils in the future.

Ms Petrova would like to use the Community Fund to support the bus monitors because they have the worst income and to cover the fix costs for the self-payer families in financial hardship.

The Board discusses which principle should be applied to proceed to the parents' reimbursement. Mr Grigorescu-Negri asks the Board to take a written decision. He identifies two options:

1. We take a part of costs and we reimburse the rest to parents in order to have 0 benefit (breakeven) at the end of the 2019-2020 school year.
- or
2. We reimburse parents for each day that we have not provided our services due to the lockdown period.

Ms Muraca refers that the easiest solution would be to reimburse only the parents who are leaving the EEBIV and to keep money toward next enrolment. It is clarified that from an accounting point of view, the best approach is to reimburse all parents for the services not provided by the end of this school year.

The Board unanimously agrees that Mr Grigorescu-Negri will write the written procedure to be launched on Bitrix platform. He will take into account all comments expressed at today's meeting.

#	Action	Owner	Deadline
02 CA 07/05/2020	To write and send the text for the written procedure to the Executive Committee members. Once finalised, the text will be uploaded on Bitrix platform.	Grigorescu-Negri Alexandre	In the coming days

The discussion focuses on enrolments to the APEEE services for the next school year. The Board unanimously agrees to launch the transport enrolment in mid-May and the registration to the canteen service and the extra-curricular activities in early June. Parents will be informed during the enrolment phase that some adjustments could be made to the service rules and procedures due to coronavirus.

#	Action	Owner	Deadline
03 CA 07/05/2020	To ask the communication officer to write a short announcement stating that some adjustments could be made to the service rules and procedures due to coronavirus.	Piettre Eric	In the coming days

The President of the APEEE introduces another point related to the Apeee services. We need to request another Group the Suivi meeting with Mr Marcheggiano, the Secretary General of the European Schools, in order to discuss the plans for the Evere school, the transport situation in Brussels (reduction in speed limits, streets cut off from bus traffic) and the implications for enrollment policy.

#	Action	Owner	Deadline
04 CA 07/05/2020	To update and send the letter to the Executive Committee for comments. Once completed, to submit the final version to the next Group de Suivi meeting, hopefully in June.	Dijkstra Kristin	In the coming weeks

5. Yearbook 2019-2020.

Mr Piettre is in contact with the communication officer of the EEBIV for the 2019-2020 Yearbook. It is clarified that the yearbook is managed by the school and the parents' association will offer the facility to collect money from the parents to a specific APEEE bank account. Mr Piettre would like to see the printing company's offer submitted to the school before starting this collaboration.

The price per each copy would be 18 euro: 12 euro is the printing price, and the difference, 6 euro would be transferred to the CFC bank account. With reference to the content, Ms Dijkstra invites the Board to reflect on this academic year and to send their contributions for inclusion in this year's edition as agreed with the school director.

Ms Fernandez Pacheco would like to include the Community Fund projects developed during this school year and asks that the APEEE communication officer may work on this. The 2019-2020 yearbook will also include the word from the President of the APEEE and the pictures of the APEEE staff and Board.

Mr Grigorescu Negri informs the Board that there is an on-line platform, already used to sell Somerfesto tickets on-line, that could be useful for selling the Yearbooks. This on-line platform allows you to quickly know the exact number of orders and to have proper invoices.

#	Action	Owner	Deadline
05 CA 07/05/2020	To send the contributions for the 2019-2020 Yearbook	The Board	In the coming weeks

#	Action	Owner	Deadline
06 CA 07/05/2020	To ask the Communication officer of the EEBIV the offer received by the printing company and mention the on-line platform that could be used for the Yearbook sales.	Piettre Eric	In the coming weeks

6. Distance Learning feedback/Ped WG/Preparation for September/IP Survey June-July.

As agreed at the last Pedagogical working group meeting held on 24th April 2020, the section representatives sent a message via class representatives in order to collect the parents' feedback on distance learning. Ms Puia Morel compiled and sent the feedback from Primary parents to Mr McGrath, the new Deputy Head for Nursery/Primary cycles. Ms Buus, Ms Hernandez Pacheco and Ms Muraca offer their help to make the same for the Secondary cycle.

Except some cases, the feedback from parents was generally positive. A discussion was launched about planning for an eventual hybrid teaching in September. A possible model of hybrid teaching was to have a limited number of pupils into the classroom with the teacher and at the same time a number of students at home following class from a distance. Ms Vlandas refers that this approach could be good for Secondary classes, but it could not be applied for Nursery and Primary classes. She points out that it is important to make a distinction between levels of education and ensure that all kids get the same level of education. Ms Dijkstra announces that many APEEEs launched surveys on distance learning at the beginning of the confinement period but there is now a discussion about having a harmonized survey at the end of June-beginning of July through Interparents.

Some Board members share their points of view and express their concerns on distance learning. Mr Sciusco would like that the general guidelines on distance teaching and learning may be shared with parents.

The Vice President for Pedagogical affairs refers that TEAMS, the platform used by teachers, works technically well but we should focus on the fact that distance learning replicates the problems that we have in quality of teaching in normal times. The very important issue is that few teachers can cover a full curriculum. Ms Buus gives a positive note on distance learning but she expects that the OSG and the school management will have a plan by September to communicate to parents. Ms Puia Morel refers that according to Mr McGrath, all teachers in Primary cycle are following the curriculum. They are doing new lessons.

7. Education support during COVID-19.

Ms Muraca, the Board member responsible for LS matters, has been contacted by the Education Support Coordinator from EEB2. They are launching a survey to parents on Education Support for distance learning. They would like to know if we have any plans to launch this type of survey and if we could contribute in formulating the questions.

Ms Muraca notes that the timing is too short, a survey on distance learning was already made a few weeks ago and the comments received from parents were positive. The President of the APEEE has also received a positive feedback from parents on Learning support in our school.

Ms Muraca will reply to the Education Support Coordinator by explaining that she will be in contact with the LS coordinators. She would like to fix a meeting with LS coordinators in order to know what parents think and eventually decide together a plan for September. A survey on Education Support could be launched at the end of the school year in preparation of the next school year.

8. Return to school.

To date, there is no official communication from the OSG with regard to whether or not the European schools will reopen.

9. Preparing the support to parents/students who would be affected by changes in S4-S6 marks and BAC results.

The discussion focuses on how the APEEE may support parents/pupils affected by S4-S6 marks and BAC results. Mr Kettani would like to send a communication to parents by explaining their right to challenge the class council decisions on repeat or BAC results and the procedure to follow.

He refers that it could be useful to set up a small group of people at EEBIV that could provide advice to parents. No specific law background is required, they should be able to understand the General Rules of the European Schools and the steps of procedure.

Ms Dijkstra refers that traditionally, at the Interparents level, there is a BAC group. Every European School identifies 1 or 2 people to collect complaints about exams. She proposes to send a communication to section representatives and see who would be interested in this matter.

#	Action	Owner	Deadline
07 CA 07/05/2020	To update a 'guide' for parents to be published on the APEEE website	Kettani Karim	In the coming weeks

#	Action	Owner	Deadline
08 CA 05/05/2020	To send a communication through the section representatives in order to see who would be interested in this matter	Dijkstra Kristin	In the coming weeks

The Board meeting ends at 3:15 pm.