



Administrative Board Meeting/Réunion du Conseil d' Administration

Brussels Tuesday, 20th October 2020

ZOOM Video Meeting: 12:40-14:40

Present: Stephanie Buus, Kristin Dijkstra, Luca Dussart Ilies, Mariana Ghitoi, Alexandre Grigorescu Negri, Karim Kettani, Nadia Kichaout, Vladas Kukulskis, Horst Nickels, Dan Nicolae, Tzvetomir Penev, Victoria Petrova, Dana Adriana Puia Morel, Luigi Rosario Filippo Sciusco, Tobias Stricker, Iulian Vasile, Pénélope Vlandas.

Absent: Dorothée Farwerck Lefort, Angela Muraca.

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

Minutes 20.10.2020

The quorum is present. Ms Dijkstra chairs the Extraordinary Board meeting focused on Covid-19 crisis.

1. Rotation scheme.

As confirmed by the school, the President of APEEE of Brussels IV announces that the rotation system will be organized as follows:

- All S6 and S7 pupils will be in situ for 5 days a week.
- From S1 to S5, each group will have 4 days in situ and 1 day online.

Some Board members think that in case of rotation, we should adapt our services and our rules. Ms Petrova clarifies that all bus lines will be operational. She refers that if we run a service, we run for everybody in any circumstances and in the best mandatory conditions.

Mr Piettre informs the Board that the holiday period will be not extended in our school and pupils should return to school on 3rd November 2020.

2. Reimbursements: When in quarantine/During rotation.

The Treasurer of the APEEE would like to fully reimburse the APEEE services when a kid is sick and forced to stay at home for more than three weeks for quarantine reasons. The VP for Pedagogical Affairs reminds that this approach is against the principle took last school year when we reimbursed only the variable part of services not provided due to the lockdown. This decision could set a precedent for later on. Mr Kettani insists on the fact that we need to have a prudent approach due to the uncertain situation, the evolution of the Covid-19 pandemic is not predictable. Mr Sciusco points out that whatever decision we take, we must communicate properly.

The President of the APEEE of Brussels IV points out that we have not enough information to make a decision on reimbursements. She clarifies that we can't spend all reserves to reimburse parents because we have to keep a part of reserves in the event that we have to dissolve the association.

Ms Petrova would like to create a Covid-19 Fund to allow families whose children are forced to remain at home for quarantine reasons to turn for reimbursement after having provided all supporting documents. She proposes to manage each case separately and make the reimbursement based on the variable costs without the fixed costs. Mr Kettani points out that if we set up a fund, we need to have some Board members involved in the decision-making process and a related procedure in place.

Mr Grigorescu-Negri and Ms Vlandas are against the creation of a specific account or Fund for Covid-19. It would be good to have an agreement on principle and notify to parents that we can reimburse but the amount will be communicated at the end of the school year due to the uncertain evolution of the coronavirus.

It is clarified that in case of rotations, we do not apply reimbursements, but in specific cases of long-term absences of individuals due to coronavirus or mandatory distance learning of a class for quarantine reasons we can consider the reimbursement. According to Ms Petrova, the idea of having a fee per week is a brilliant proposal because it might simplify the process.

We should invite parents to keep all documents required to support their future reimbursement requests in the coming months as well as we should state that we will do the best reimbursements for extended absences related to the coronavirus.

#	Action	Owner	Deadline
01 CA 20/10/2020	To work on the text that Ms Petrova has presented in e-mail and then, if necessary, to move to a written procedure for vote.	ALL	ASAP

3. Mixing European Hours/Swimming/Food in class.

Different opinions are expressed on the maintaining of L2 and European Hours at school during the coronavirus pandemic. Ms Puia Morel wonders why the European Hours should not be held at school if the afterschool care centers, where kids are mixed, are open. Mr Grigorescu-Negri points out that the perception of risk is very personal, and the European Hours could be replaced with something that does not require the mixing of pupils' groups. Ms Vlandas is in favour of keeping L2 and European Hours at school if there are no clusters or risks of infections. This position is also supported by Ms Kichaout who points out that is not sustainable for a long term to keep kids at home. The subject European Hours is a compulsory course for all pupils of the Primary cycle, years 3,4,5 and it is an important part of the curriculum. Kids of different language sections are not only involved in musical activities with the orchestra, the quire but they also make craft works, create games with questions, prepare leaflets etc. They learn additional skills that they do not have in other classes. Ms Vlandas refers that if a choice must be done, her priority would be for L2. We should encourage school to take the primary pupils all days and provide L2 in the weekend or evenings. Another alternative might be to distribute teachers in order to mix less people in the class. It is clarified that the decision to keep the European Hours and L2 in situ belongs to the school only. It is referred that the school management's approach is to keep as many

pupils in school for as long as possible by maintaining the highest level of safety for everybody. The decisions taken by the European Schools are based on the evaluation of risks and on analysis of the situation in Belgium and in the Brussels area. According to Mr Kettani, the four European Schools in Brussels will be acting together in block after the advice and the consent of the Secretary-General and the Medical Service.

With reference to the swimming lessons organized by the school, Mr Dijkstra informs the Board that the security officer of the school had gone along with the primary pupils in the swimming pool and made a full report in compliance with the Belgian regulations.

Mr Sciusco points out that if kids have to stay at home for quarantine reasons, the school must ensure appropriate distance learning. Ms Dijkstra refers that Interparents is working very hard on this topic and we have a teamwork with the Pedagogical Unit in the Central Office.

4. Vulnerability.

It is not clear the Central Office's position on distance learning and how the guidance on distance learning are going to be built. An Extraordinary Board of Governors meeting is planned for today. Ms Buus will keep the Board informed as soon as she has more information. In the meantime, she informs the Board that the proposal to extend the definition of vulnerability to family members was rejected.

Ms Dijkstra refers that the priority of parents is to have clear information about what obligations and guidelines are going to be given to the Directors and Teachers for providing distance learning. Interparents is really pushing for that.

5. Detailed lists of Covid-19 cases.

The President of the APEEE of Brussels IV would like that our parents' association may have access to the detailed list of Covid-19 cases by level and by section as shown in the Luxembourg Model. Ms Dijkstra has emphasized to the School Director the importance of having an overall understanding of Covid-19 cases in our school in order to better organize our services. The Director of the APEEE is willing to communicate the global numbers of Covid-19 cases in our school at the next Covid-19 Task Force meetings. Ms Dijkstra informs the Board that in comparison with the other European Schools in Brussels, the EEBIV has now the fewest number of cases.

6. Thursday meeting: communication with Parents-APEEE.

Ms Dijkstra announces that on 22nd October 2020, our parents' association will host a virtual meeting at which section representatives will be introduced and parents will have the opportunity to ask questions on pedagogical issues to the APEEE Pedagogical team and the School Management. In order to better structure the meeting, the registration form has included an area where parents can submit questions beforehand. This Pedagogical meeting, normally scheduled for an hour, will start at 7.00pm. Ms Puia Morel will be the moderator. It is referred that some parents did not receive the invitation letter by e-mail due to spam problems. The information was also posted on the APEEE website and in Facebook groups. A section representative asked to have access to the mailing list for the purpose to reach as many parents as possible. The VP for Administrative Affairs is not in favour of sharing the mailing list of all APEEE parents with the section representative and asks if this is in line with data protection regulations. It is clarified that it is possible because parents are contacted for the APEEE purpose which is to reach and inform all parents on Covid-19 impact on teaching. Mr Piettre suggests checking the technical side with Milena first.

#	Action	Owner	Deadline
02 CA 20/10/2020	To check the technical side with Milena first.	Eric Piettre	ASAP

7. Record: resignation Administrative Board member (Ms Dorothée Lefort Farwerck)

Ms Dorothée Lefort Farwerck has resigned from the APEEE Board by e-mail on 12th October 2020. The Board thanks Ms Lefort Farwerck for her dedication during her term on the Board and takes note of her resignation as such. The APEEE Board is now composed of 18 members.

The President of the APEEE explains that Ms Farwerck Lefort has launched important projects for the well-being of children such as Virages and Stop à la drogue. Ms Dijkstra asks if any Board member is interested in supporting these projects in the future.

8. Discrimination/xenophobia between students.

Discriminatory remarks between students were reported in our school. This problem was raised by Ms Ghitoi at the Nursery and Primary Education Councils and it was also discussed at the Secondary level. Mr Kettani informs the Board that the school has established a dialogue with UNIA, an independent public institution that combats discrimination and promotes equal opportunities, a convention will probably be signed to set up a project. In this context, Mr Castorini, a secondary school teacher and representative for seconded teachers, has presented an action plan for this project that should be finalized by the end of the school year. He would like to prepare a student survey on discrimination in a wide sense and set up a Working Group with parents and pupils of the Secondary cycle. Ms Kichaout, Mr Vasile and Mr Kettani are interested in joining this Working Group. A call for volunteers might be made at the upcoming Pedagogical meeting. Ms Puia Morel suggests that both parents and teachers of the Primary cycle may be involved in this project if possible. It is clarified that there are no disciplinary meetings in the Primary cycle, but workshops or lessons can help to promote and reinforce the mutual respect and tolerance in primary kids.

#	Action	Owner	Deadline
03 CA 20/10/2020	To contact Mr Castorini and provide the names of Board Members interested in joining the Working Group.	Karim Kettani	In the coming weeks

It is agreed that the dedicated e-mail address behaviour will be forwarded to Ms Puia Morel and Ms Buus.

#	Action	Owner	Deadline
04 CA 20/10/2020	To forward the functional e-mail box to Ms Puia Morel and Ms Buus.	Eric Piettre	In the coming days

9. AOB.

-Size of bus lines/flexibility for secondary students to embark on 1st bus departure/ Update on Green buses.

In this context of Covid-19, Ms Petrova would like that all school bus lines with a regular population of 21 passengers may benefit of a bus capacity of 35 seats at least. In fact, the volume of 21 seat bus is not the same as in a standard school bus and it is not an optimal situation to have less space and less air.

Ms Petrova explains that due to the variable time schedule, many secondary students might stay on the school premises without having the last school period (from 15:10 to 16:05). We should have the flexibility to allow them to embark on 1st departure buses in order to return home earlier. The aim is to limit the mixing of classes and age groups and reduce the risk for exposure to Covid-19 on the school premises.

With reference to the Transport Working Group on Green Buses, Ms Petrova informs the Board that the Parents' Associations of BXL 1 (Uccle) and BXL 2 (Woluwe) strongly support the idea of having electric buses even if costs are high. The discussion is on-going, some reservations on electric buses were expressed by our Executive Committee.

Ms Petrova refers that she is ready to look into the feasibility of obtaining electric and hydrogen buses with related costs. Her perception is that parents might be more in favour of spending money for additional or bigger buses in order to reduce the risk for exposure to Covid-19 rather than spending the same amount to have green buses. We could send a small pool with figures to parents asking what their preferences would be. She is willing to dig into the preferences expressed by parents.

Mr Piettre is in close contact with Bus Companies in order to check their availability to provide bigger or additional buses for our Parents' Association. A communication from the Bus Companies is expected for the next week.

The Board meeting ends at 2:40 pm.