



## Minutes of COVID WG - March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021

### Participating

<b>Manuel Bordoy MB</b>	<b>Kristin Dijkstra KD</b>
<b>Isabelle Verwilghen IV</b>	<b>Karim Kettani K2</b>
<b>Martin McGrath MMG</b>	<b>Dina Dragomirescu DD</b>
<b>Niina Viima NV</b>	<b>Judith Ecker JE</b>
<b>Caroline Hulsen CH</b>	<b>Diane Werhert DW</b>
<b>Justine Dauchot JD</b>	<b>Stephanie Buus SB</b>
<b>Laure Nossent LN</b>	<b>Ambar Lietar AL</b>
<b>Eva Puttkamer EP</b>	<b>Dan Nicolae DN</b>
<b>Peter Segers PS</b>	<b>Marianna Cosco MC</b>

### Update on COVID cases

EP: 2 teachers positive in P section and 1 Secondary student who came in once last week.

Information came in on Friday PM that the case was positive.

Parents of “high-risk” students have been informed. Students are also giving names of their close friends so that they are part of the “high-risk” list.

Reminder: no code for PCR test are given by the infirmary because there are no school doctors on site.

PCR codes are given by the family doctor.

S7: 18 students are in quarantine, uncertain whether it is a new strain or not.

IV called all the parents on Saturday afternoon with all the information.

Nothing to report in Primary.

MB states everyone needs to be very attentive this week for new cases, whether in S7 or elsewhere.



## **Proposal to brainstorm ideas for keeping morale high, to promote well-being and positively encourage/reinforce safe behaviour for the entire school community**

KD: points raised from parents because in different levels and different sections individual parents have informed us that some teachers do not wear their mask properly.

A reminder should be sent out to everyone that keeping the community safe is everybody's responsibility.

MMG: teachers are complying with the measures, not aware of any relaxation in adherence to the Covid-rules.

IV: Students wear their masks and teachers are asking students to use gel and wash their hands.

Social networks account are checked, many pictures of S5, S6 and S7 of going out in parks, which increases the risk, but rules are respected at school, but not outside of school

MB however thinks rules are well respected outside of school, to judge by the low number of cases.

DD: from Primary, in the hallways, there's no distancing possible when they are leaving the classrooms to go on breaks.

MMG: will look at the situation and remind the teachers to watch their groups.

DD: students have informed their parents that a few teachers do not wear their masks properly, both in Primary and Secondary.

IV would like to receive the names of the teachers, who will be notified by saying: "I was informed that you do not wear your mask correctly".

She cannot accept that the teachers are not wearing their masks correctly in front of the students.

The concern about students' wellbeing is strong among parents.

K2 is asking if the school noticed among students a fatigue in respecting the rules. The directors are not aware of such a phenomenon.

IV: she had a meeting with the Comité des élèves (CDE) and they find the workload sometimes unbearable.

She was reflecting on their comments over the weekend.



Currently, the DL classes are taking place as follows: students log in, teachers make a short presentation and give assignments to be completed by the end of class and the workload given during these 30/40 minutes is too important, with students who often cannot finish on time, and who on top of this are given homework.

Accumulation is huge at the end of the day to finish these assignments.

K2: Souvent, le contenu est diffusé par des liens (YouTube notamment) ou docs PDF ou PPT, mais la présentation active du cours par l'enseignant est ressentie comme un manque pour les élèves du Secondaire. Lecours se résume parfois à dire bonjour, recevoir les tâches et faire les exercices. Cela devient assez lourd pour les élèves.

IV: Difficult to find a balance between do's and don'ts. Teachers were advised to do this type of lessons, in order for pupils not to have seven or eight hours of consecutive on-line lecturing, but the school now realises children cannot take it anymore, after being on DL for one year. IV will have a discussion with the Comité du Personnel (CDP) to see how teachers work within the school day and will discuss changes in their way of teaching to lighten the burden on pupils. She has asked teachers to turn on their cameras during class.

Students should work during the school day, and teachers should limit work to 30 minutes to lessen the workload.

MB: CDE might confuse classwork and homework as classwork is not always completed during the class time and this then becomes homework.

IV and MB will try to help students manage their time.

MB understands that everyone is tired of this COVID situation, it's been almost one year and it's hard on everyone, especially the students.

SB: S4-S6 children are in despair. They can't absorb anymore... this is the feedback we receive from parents from parents who usually never complain.

## **Urkund**

SB feels that the anti-plagiarism programme Urkund has not been introduced well. Students feel they are being monitored.

This has created a lot of confusion and stress.

It is creating more stress and anxiety for pupils.



MB says the information about Urkund has been going on for some time now, and it is about helping pupils referencing and sourcing their work properly, if they see Urkund as a policing instrument it is because they have not been paying proper attention.

Urkund is a pilot project mainly for S4-S7 and is normally not used in S1-S3. Pupils will not be penalised for not keeping up with Urkund standards.

K2: on the principle, this initiative is welcome... but maybe not the best moment (in the middle of the pandemic).

MB agrees but states that the company allowed one school to take the project free of charge. And he felt he couldn't pass this opportunity.

## **Well-being**

AL: S1-S3 FR section are wondering why Urkund is gaining a month of dedication and why not a month of wellbeing?

IV: a group of students in S6 will organize "EEB4's got talent", a talent show. S1-S4, S5-S7, pupils will make shows, there will be a selection of the best shows, and a recording of those selected.

AL has volunteered to help the school with well-being ideas, and IV has agreed to discuss those with her.

MB suggests that the school ringing bell be changed to a fun song, like the Macarena.

Putting music would allow all the students to cheer up.

KD: a poster contest of the golden rules could be held for younger students.

It could be displayed for the students and older students could comment on these.

JD: an intern within the school is translating some school documents in German. Help from parents is requested to make sure the translation is correct.

JE is volunteering to help.

K2: The well-being issue for secondary pupils is really the workload issue. The rest will not be helpful is this is not addressed.

**Association des Parents d'Elèves de l'Ecole Européenne de Bruxelles IV Aisbl**

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**AOB**

Physical education (PE) classes: light outdoors activities are now held in order to allow for more exercise and physical activities, but masks have to be worn in accordance with FWB guidelines as explained by IV.

Authorisation was given to the teachers.

PE coordinators received all the instructions, but quite limited.

**Next meeting**

Meeting to be held on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> of March, 2021 at 9:00.