



Administrative Board Meeting/Réunion du Conseil d' Administration

Brussels Thursday, 17th June 2021

ZOOM Video Meeting: 12:30-14:00

Present: Kristin Dijkstra, Alexandre Grigorescu Negri, Karim Kettani, Nadia Kichaout, Maria Koidu, Vladas Kukulskis, Dan Nicolae, Tzvetomir Penev, Dana Adriana Puia Morel, Tobias Stricker, Pénélope Vlandas, Diane Werhert.

Absent : Victoria Petrova.

Excused : Cerasela Botoroaga, Stephanie Buus, Marianna Cosco, Mariana Ghitoi, Luigi Rosario Filippo Sciusco, Iulian Vasile.

Proxy : Cerasela Botoroaga, Mariana Ghitoi and Luigi Rosario Filippo Sciusco to Alexandre Grigorescu Negri, Stephanie Buus to Maria Koidu, Marianna Cosco to Diane Werhert, Iulian Vasile to Karim Kettani.

Guest: Manuela Pamio, secretariat of APEEE, Renan Minoche, the canteen manager and Eric Piettre, the Director of the APEEE of Brussels IV.

Minutes 17.06.2021

The quorum is present. Ms Dijkstra chairs the Administrative Board meeting focused on the canteen. The aim is to approve the new business model for the canteen and open the canteen subscriptions for the next academic year.

1. Approval of Minutes from 6th June 2021.

POSTPONED. The Minutes of the Administrative Board meeting held on 6th June will be approved at the next Administrative Board meeting or by written procedure.

2. Extra-budgetary activities and role of the EEBIV with regard to the management of the APEEE services.

Before introducing the new business model for the canteen, the discussion focuses on the management of extra-budgetary activities in the European schools as well as the school's role in the management of the APEEE services. Some weeks ago, the President of the APEEE shared with the Board some information, received via Interparents, about changes to the way the budget of the European Schools, which is coming from the Commission and the Central Office to the School's directors, is being handled. They want to put more and more extra-budgetary activities on parents' associations and out of the hands of the School's Deputy Directors and the financial administration. Ms Dijkstra refers that we had some questions about school trips which are obligatory school activities. She informed Interparents representatives that some years ago we, as parents' association, had a decision at the General Assembly against our taking over of the management of school trips.

The President of APEEE refers that if you have a financial and administrative responsibility for an activity, you also have the decision-making power. We need to work together with the school, but it

seems they want to push all financial and administrative responsibilities on the APEEEs and still retain the decision-making power and this is becoming problematic. It is outlined that in our school, decisions are taken without any consultation with the APEEE. Mr Kettani declares that it is extremely important for every APEEE Board member to remember that we are independent from school. The Central Office and the European schools are public bodies and cannot impose activities on us which we do not want to have. If we accept a new activity from the school, we need to agree with them not only the financial terms but also the operational ones. Mr Kettani draws the attention of the Board on two matters:

- The parents' association is a separate entity from the European school and the Central Office, so they have no right to interfere in the APEEE activities or impose unilaterally activities which are normally managed by the school.
- The APEEE does not get funds from the school for its activities. The parents' association runs and organizes some activities, such as transport and canteen, that normally should be managed by the school and takes financial risks.

3. VOTE: Approval of the business model for the canteen and launch of canteen enrolments for the 2021-2022 academic year.

Mr Stricker, the Board member responsible for the canteen, submits to the Board the 2021-2022 business model presentation for the canteen including the related forecast.

As agreed at the last meeting, it was decided to make the subscription process more flexible for parents due to the impact of Covid-19 and the uncertainty of the upcoming year. According to this new operational model, parents will have the possibility to register their child(ren) to the canteen service for either a single quarter or for the whole year. Mr Stricker explains that no cancellation, refund, or changes of days are allowed during the quarter. He clarifies that the payment of an annual subscription will be made in three instalments. Parents can modify or cancel their annual registration before the start of the next quarter. With reference to prices, there is no distinction between nursery/primary pupils and secondary students and prices will remain the same as those voted at the General Assembly meeting. It is explained that, as agreed at the last APEEE General Assembly meeting held on 25/01/2021, canteen prices have already been increased by 25 percent. The same price increase will also be applied to the cafeteria items as well as to the Wednesday's meals and the afternoon snacks provided to the after-school care centre (OIB) next year.

The Board member responsible for the canteen announces that both snack shack and cargo bike will be accessible to P4 and P5 pupils next year. These kids will not be mixed with secondary students, because they have a different lunchtime schedule. With reference to the subscription process, the new canteen business model includes the following formulas:

- 5 days per week for secondary students.
- 4 days per week for nursery /primary pupils and secondary students.
- 3 days per week for nursery /primary pupils and secondary students.
- 2 days per week for secondary students.

Ms Vlandas asks for more flexibility. She wonders why we do not offer a subscription of one meal per week to all students or a subscription of two meals per week to nursery and primary pupils. She would like that nursery and primary kids attending the extracurricular activities on Wednesdays have the possibility to register for Wednesday's lunch as foreseen for secondary students. Currently, a pupil who is not enrolled in the Laeken after-school care centre (OIB) and wishes to attend an extracurricular activity on Wednesday must be registered for lunchtime supervision or lunchtime supervision and hot meal organized by the extracurricular team. Mr Stricker explains that the price charged to the extracurricular pupils for the Wednesday's lunch is higher because it includes the supervision provided by the extracurricular team. The other school days the lunch supervision is provided by the school. He also clarifies that a one-day formula is not proposed because canteen tickets can be purchased for an occasional use of the canteen by students and visitors. The price of a canteen ticket is 9 euro.

Ms Vlandas proposes the following amendments to the business model:

- to clearly indicate that parents can modify the annual subscription before the beginning of the next quarter and clarify how the full year price will be paid by parents.

- to extend the subscription of two meals per week to P4/P5 pupils at least because the cargo bike /snack shack will be accessible for these age groups next year.

The President of the APEEE refers that before Covid-19 hit, the school cafeteria and the snack-shack were relatively new, and they were growing very well. The canteen manager was expanding the offer with a broader range of products, so the school cafeterias were becoming very popular among students. At this stage, we cannot predict how the school cafeterias will be used once we will be able to fully reopen. With reference to the capacity, it is explained that our canteen is smaller than the others in the European Schools. According to the canteen manager's point of view, we should be able to welcome both *cantinistes* and *tartinistes* next year provided that the lunch schedule agreed with the school is maintained.

#	Action	Owner	Deadline
01 CA 17/06/2021	To send out the 2021-2022 canteen timetable to the Executive Committee.	Eric Piettre	In the coming days

With reference to the lunchtime, it is important to ensure all students adequate time to eat for building healthy eating habits. Our parents' association has signed a convention with the EEBIV stating that lunchtime should be at least 30 minutes long for primary and secondary students and 45 minutes long for nursery children. We should insist that our school management complies with the timing set out in the Convention.

The discussion focuses on the Food & Beverage forecasted budget which is based on 2020-2021 registrations. Mr Stricker submits to the Board the proposed budget by explaining that the difference between revenues and expenditures is negative. The deficit amounts to -202.559 euro.

With reference to revenues, Ms Koidu would like to have clear information about assumptions on cafeteria and canteen tickets. Mr Grigorescu Negri fully agrees with Ms Koidu and Mr Nicolae that the revenues and the forecast should be better detailed in the budget. The Treasurer of the APEEE refers we will have a better view of the final result after we count the real subscriptions at the end of August. He suggests that the Board members approve the opening of 2021-2022 canteen enrolments, based on the flexibility given through the business model, at today's meeting. He would like that the Board members postpone the decision to open the canteen at the end of August when we make clarity with the rules issued by the *Fédération Wallonie - Brussels* and the other constraints.

Mr Kettani expresses concerns about this negative budget and fully agrees with Mr Stricker's suggestions to adjust prices. He points out that the modification of prices is not a prerogative of the General Assembly that is not financially liable, but it is a prerogative of Board members who are personally liable. Ms Koidu refers that if we want to open the canteen enrolments with this new formula, we need to increase prices. In this case, a question should be discussed: do we wish to equally increase prices in the canteen and the cafeteria? Mr Grigorescu-Negri and Ms Koidu refer that we should not decide to open the canteen when we have a negative result. The Treasurer of the APEEE adds that increasing prices might not be the solution because we might lose 'clients' and not to have positive results.

Ms Kichaout thinks that the canteen manager and the Director of the APEEE have to come back with a workable budget so the Board can take a decision based on current figures. She considers that when you opt for a quarterly registration rather than an annual subscription, you should pay more for this flexibility. Ms Kichaout points out that we need to open the canteen in September and convene another Board meeting to formally approve a workable solution. Mr Piettre identifies the following actions which are agreed by the Board:

#	Action	Owner	Deadline
02 CA 17/06/2021	To discuss together with the Treasurer and the Board member responsible for the canteen, the business model presentation that will be submitted to the Board for approval.	Eric Piettre and Renan Minoche	ASAP

#	Action	Owner	Deadline
03 CA 17/06/2021	To come back to the Board with proposals and complete figures in order to launch the 2021-2022 canteen enrolments as soon as possible, ideally on 28/06/2021.	Alexandre Grigorescu Negri, Tobias Stricker Eric Piettre and Renan Minoche	By early next week.

The Board meeting ends at 2:00 pm.