



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

**Brussels Thursday, 30<sup>th</sup> March 2023**

**Teams Video Meeting: 12:36-14:31**

**Present:** Johanna Alkhafaji, Cerasela Botoroaga, Marianna Cosco, Nicholas Costello, Angela Guarino, Dan Nicolae, Tzvetomir Penev, Victoria Petrova, Stefan Petrovski, Dana Adriana Puia Morel, Iuliana Serbeniuc, Adja Awa Sissoko, Diane Werhert.

**Absent:** Mariana Ghitoi.

**Excused:** Stephanie Buus, Romina Garbi, Josephine Norris, Jane Okafor, Pénélope Vlandas.

**Proxy:** Stephanie Buus and Josephine Norris to Dan Nicolae, Romina Garbi and Jane Okafor to Diane Werhert, Pénélope Vlandas to Adja Awa Sissoko, Marianna Cosco to Dan Nicolae from 2:00 pm, Victoria Petrova to Dan Nicolae from 2:16 pm, Diane Werhert to Dana Adriana Puia Morel from 2:28 pm.

**Guest:** Eric Rega, the Director of the APEEE of Brussels IV, Manuela Pamio, secretariat of the APEEE of Brussels IV.

### **Minutes 30.03.2023**

The quorum is reached. Mr Nicolae chairs the Administrative Board meeting.

#### **1. Adoption of the agenda.**

Point 8 becomes point 4.

The agenda is adopted as amended.

#### **2. Approval of the Board Minutes of 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2023.**

Unanimously approved without any remarks.

#### **3. Resignation of Board Member Yannick Hartstein.**

The Administrative Board takes note that Yannick Hartstein is no longer a member of the Board from 24<sup>th</sup> March 2023. The Administrative Board is now composed of 19 members.

#### **4. Update on Summer Camp Enrollment Policy.**

Ms Guarino, the Board member in charge of extracurricular activities, announces that the extracurricular team will be happy to organize a Summer Camp this year. She explains that for logistical reasons, the extracurricular team cannot organize a Summer Camp for 250 pupils but can increase the capacity and offer a maximum of 112 places. Registrations for the 2023 Summer Camp will be made using our online

enrollment system. For the allocation of places, two options were discussed with the extracurricular team:

-The first come, first served option. Registrations for Summer Camp will be processed in the order they are received. The first 112 parents who fill out the registration will receive a payment request to validate their registration.

-The random approach. A number will be assigned to each registration and an IT tool will be used to extract the 112 pupils.

Ms Guarino informs the Board that the extracurricular team prefers the first come, first served principle and is currently looking into the possibility of adding another sub-criteria and reserving more places for pupils in the lower grades (S1/S2) rather than those in the upper grades (S3/S4) because they are more in need of assistance.

Mr Nicolae clarifies that the start of Summer Camp registrations will not be notified to all parents of the EEBIV but only to those who have paid their 2022-2023 APEEE membership fee. According to his point of view, all decisions regarding the Summer Camp, such as the enrollment policy, are operational decisions to be made by the Extracurricular Working Group and the Extracurricular Team.

## **5. Resignation of Communication Officer.**

The Director of the APEEE announces that Ms Beumers Le-Doaré will leave the parents' association on 12<sup>th</sup> May 2023 for new professional horizons. Mr Rega informs the Board that he has prepared the job advertisement for the recruitment of a new communication officer.

## **6. Proposal to re-elect Judith Ecker (Secondary DE Section Representative) as InterParents representative for EEB4 for 2023/2024.**

The Board unanimously agrees to re-elect Judith Ecker, one of the German section representatives for the secondary cycle, as InterParents representative for the EEB4 for the 2023-2024 school year.

## **7. Update Pedagogical Affairs.**

Ms Puia Morel explains that this item was put on the agenda to improve the communication between the Pedagogical Working Group and the APEEE Administrative Board. Board members are invited to inform Ms Puia Morel and Ms Werhert of the topics to be included on the agenda of the next Pedagogical Working Group meeting.

Ms Puia Morel gives a brief update on Pedagogical affairs and presents three outstanding topics that need to be discussed with the school management:

1) The development of the Chill-Out room used by S4/S5/S6 students during their free period. It seems that the school is trying to put in place some alternatives to the Chill-Out room like a board game room or the possibility for students to go outside.

2) Bring Your Own Device and tests. It is explained that secondary students take their notes on a device and are not used to handwriting during classes and then when they have their B tests, pre-Bac, and Bac exams they need to handwrite. Ms Alkhafaji thinks that students should have both skills, bearing in mind how they will be taking exams at university in the future. One of the issues raised by the pedagogical group is that we need to check what the requisitions are for university tests.

3) The Bac Ceremony for S7 students. It is important to know what the school can offer, and what parents would like to have and find a solution if necessary.

Ms Sissoko raises another issue concerning the school's supervision in the playground. She thinks that young children, especially in P1 and P2, should have the opportunity to complain and speak in their own language with a teacher or assistant who can understand them regardless of the language they speak. Ms Puia Morel will ask the school management what the procedure is and who is supervising.

#	Action	Owner	Deadline
01 CA 30/03/2023	To discuss the outstanding topics with the school management and get information about the school's supervision in the playground.	Diane Werhert and Dana Adriana Puia Morel	In the coming weeks

## 8. Update on Somerfesto.

Ms Werhert gives positive feedback from the Somerfesto meeting held with the school last Thursday morning. A communication from the Somerfesto Committee should be sent to the whole school community (students/teachers/parents) as soon as possible, ideally before the Easter break. Important information about access to the event, pre-subscription, and ticket sales will be provided, so that everyone knows that Somerfesto is taking place and where they can register to volunteer or buy tickets. She invites Board members to give at least one hour of their time for this great event because there are only 72 volunteers, and this is not enough for such a party. Mr Nicolae points out that it would be nice to have Board members at the APEEE stand and reminds everyone that any action taken for the Somerfesto by a Working Group, or a board member must first be communicated to the Somerfesto Committee in order to ensure better coordination. Ms Alkhafaji emphasizes that Somerfesto is the APEEE calling card, it is not only an opportunity to see the school from the inside but also to get in touch with our parents' association. We should have an APEEE stand where there are APEEE Board members who can interact with parents and answer their questions. Ms Alkhafaji and Ms Serbeniuc will be the coordinators of the APEEE stand at Somerfesto.

Ms Puia Morel and Mr Rega have kindly offered their help for the APEEE stand. Ms Werhert announces that there will be a technical meeting with Somerfesto coordinators before this event.

## 9. Update on Transport Indexation.

Ms Petrova informs the Board that the Belgian Federation of Transport (FBAA) has decided to call for an indexation of about 7,32 % based on September prices due to rising costs (increase in fuel price, energy, etc.) and that the three APEEEs based in Brussels have agreed to apply this transport price indexation. She points out that we need to apply the transport price indexation for two main reasons: firstly, we must continue to progressively increase prices and not have brutal increases, and secondly, we need to keep workable relations with transport companies and secure as many bus lines as possible for next year. This price increase should be included in the third installment and communicated to parents.

Mr Petrovski fully supports the indexation of transport prices because we have to follow market rules and maintain transport and service quality to ensure good working conditions for bus companies and drivers. He believes that the increase in transport prices should be communicated to parents in advance so that parents can put money aside and fully understand why they should pay more.

Mr Rega explains that the financial impact for parents with full transport registrations would be around 25 or 27 EUR for the third installment.

#	Action	Owner	Deadline
02 CA 30/03/2023	To write a communication to parents about transport price indexation and submit it to Ms Petrova for approval.	The Communication officer and the Transport Manager	In the coming weeks

## 10. Update on « Candidat étudiant accompagnant » question.

Mr Rega informs the Board that according to Belgian law, the transport office may hire a 15-year-old child as a bus supervisor on a school bus if he/she has completed the first two years of secondary

education. He clarifies that there is no legal reason to postpone payment until the age of 16. Mr Nicolae concludes this information point by thanking Mr Rega for his explanation on this matter.

**11. Status of Working Groups - which are active/dormant.**

Ms Puia Morel identifies five Working Groups related to pedagogical affairs which are active or dormant: the Diversity Working Group, the Educational Support Working Group, the Well-being Working Group, the Community-building Working Group, and the Digital Working Group.

Ms Alkhafaji emphasizes the need to have a clear list of all active working groups and a portfolio list for each working group. She suggests publishing a list of all active Working Groups on the APEEE website so that interested parents may volunteer for a specific group. Ms Serbeniuc outlines that we need that each working group has its own identity, mission, and priorities. She also gives a brief update on the Educational Support Working Group. The collaboration with the school is positive and they are currently working on some documents to make the information as clear as possible for parents.

Mr Costello explains that the Diversity Working Group needs at least a second person to start working. He invites anyone interested in joining this Working Group to contact him. Ms Werhert proposes to make a call for volunteers to parents through the section representatives. Mr Nicolae suggests that the chairs of each Working Group contact Ms Alkhafaji and Ms Serbeniuc to confirm which working groups are active and what they are doing. It would also be useful that every three months, each working group could report on its activities to the Board for information.

#	Action	Owner	Deadline
03 CA 30/03/2023	To confirm which Working groups are active and what they are doing to Ms Alkhafaji and Ms Serbeniuc.	The chairs of each Working Group	In the coming weeks

**12. Information on a petition launched by the EEB2.**

Mr Nicolae invites Board members to read some e-mails sent by Ms Cosco regarding the EEB2 petition. This point will be discussed at the next Board meeting if needed.

**13. AOB.**

**-APEEE results on 28/02/2023 and comparison with the previous year.**

Mr Rega is pleased to announce that the financial results for the three services (Transport, Food & Beverage, and Extracurricular activities) are now positive. He explains, through a PowerPoint presentation, that at the end of February, we had a positive result of EUR 241 K compared to a loss of EUR 185 K in the same period last year. In terms of the treasury, we improved on the previous year due to the increase in revenues and because we spent less, especially on the canteen, with the reduction of the number of our subcontractor’s staff. He points out that the combined effect of these two elements leads to a better treasury and a better result than last year. Overall, we are on track to close the year 2022-2023 with a positive result.

The Board meeting ends at 2:31 pm.