



General Assembly of the Parent Association of the European School Brussels IV

CCAB, Rue Froissart, 36. B-1040 BRUSSELS
January 31st 2012, 19:00

Meeting Record

AGENDA

Part I (19.00 – 20.00): Election

1. Appointment of the Electoral Board
2. Presentation of candidates
3. Election

Part II (20.00 – 21.30): Open to the public

4. Introduction by the President of the Parents Association
5. Discussion on the future move to Laeken:
 - Mr Kivinen, General Secretary of European Schools
 - Mr Schlabe, Mr Fäldt and Mrs Ivanauskiene, School Director and Deputy Directors
- Presentation of the Working group on transport.
- Questions/Answers

Part III (21.30 – 23.00): For Members only

6. Report on Activities and Presentation of Accounts 2010-2011
 - Questions and Answers
 - VOTE** on discharge of the Board on the Certified Accounts 2010-2011
7. Presentation of the Budget 2011-2012
 - Questions and Answers
 - VOTE** on the Budget 2011–2012
8. Resolutions
 - 8-a. Resolution on the maintenance of the Budget Control Committee and vote on the potential new board members
 - Questions and answers
 - VOTE** on the resolution on the maintenance of the Budget Control Committee



8-b.Resolution: A new European School in Brussels, The experiences of Brussels IV

Questions and answers

VOTE on the resolution on a new European School in Brussels

9. Amendment of the statutes

Questions and answers

VOTE on the amendment of the statutes

10. Results of the elections

11. AoB

Attendance of the General Assembly

The GA was held on January 31st 2012 at the Albert Borschette Conference Centre, Rue Froissard, 36, B-1049, BRUSSELS.

The meeting was attended by 90 “full members”, some of which hold proxy authorisations for voting by other full members, resulting in a total of 116 votes present or represented.

This number of voters present or represented satisfies the quorum condition (10%) as requested by the article 9 of the statutes of the APEEE, to the voting of points 6, 7 and 8. The quorum of two thirds (Cf. Article 23 of the Statutes) of the “full members” was reached as well to the voting of point 9. Further, affiliates members and guests are present as well.

The President of APEEE, Horst NICKELS, chairs the GA. The meeting starts at 19:20 and ends at 24:08.

Minutes of the General Assembly

The President of APEEE, Horst NICKELS, chairs the GA. He opens the meeting at 19:20, and he welcomes the attendees to the 5th regular General Assembly. He then introduces the agenda.

The documents are available in French and English.

Part I (19.00 – 20.00): Election

1. Appointment of the Electoral Board

The President asks the attendees to volunteer to the electoral board. Three persons volunteer and introduce themselves.

1. Elisabeth PERSENAIRE
2. Caroline KETTNER
3. Nikos FISTAS

Decision 2012-01-31_1 *The three volunteers, Mrs Elisabeth Persenaire, Caroline Kettner and Nikos Fistas are APPROVED by acclamation (unanimity).*



2. Presentation of the candidates to the next Administration Board

In addition to the 9 previously announced candidates, the President asks the attendance for further candidates at the Administration Board. This results in the following table of 17 names:

1	Carola STREUL
2	Kunka ILIEVA
3	Anja MANGELS
4	Sigfrido RAMIREZ
5	Pascal MANZANO
6	Andrea WEBER
7	Holger PLUMHOFF
8	Isabelle LECOQ
9	Jacqueline TROQUET
10	Claudia HAHN
11	Eva SCHRIEVER
12	Jacopo LOMBARDI
13	Daniella TERRUSO
14	Maximilian STROTMANN
15	Martijn HESSELINK
16	Lucian CERNAT
17	Thierry LEGUAY

Each candidate introduces himself/herself and answers to questions by the attendees. The main issues discussed are about the move to Laeken, transport and canteen services.

3. Election

Election takes place, each voter having a maximum of 12 votes. Due to the length of secret ballot process, pending results will be announced later (See item 10).

Part II (20.00 – 21.30): Open to the public

4. Introduction by the President

The President welcomes our guests:

1. Mr Kivinen, General Secretary of European Schools
2. Mr Schlabe, School Director
3. Mr Fäldt, Deputy Director for secondary school
4. Mrs Ivanauskiene, Deputy Directors for nursery and primary schools

5. Discussion on the future move to Laeken. Questions/Answers

Mr KIVINEN gives us a broad vision on the historical development of the school, both on its provisional and final site. He answers many questions, in particular about



the impact on parents and pupils (especially for small children of the nursery and primary schools) of the geographic location, as well about the general enrolment policy at European Schools. As for the possibility to keep the Berkendael site open for EEB4, he states that the next priority of Régie des Bâtiments is the renovation of Uccle School, that operation been now pending for years. He also informs the GA he has just sent the Belgian Prime Minister a letter stressing the pressing need for a 5th European School in Brussels due to the increasing number of children of EU institution agents.

Mr Schlabe gives numerous figures on school population evolution, classes, linguistic sections and teachers in EEB4. He announces a Bulgarian section will open next September. He confirms the school will move to Laeken without any doubt since the Régie des Batiments expects to process the official delivery of the buildings in June 2012.

As for the school organisation, Mr Schlabe stresses the lack of seconded teachers, taking the example of UK that gives British seconded teachers in accordance to the number of British pupils and not up to the number of pupils in English speaking sections. He also provides some important dates related to school activities or projects. Somerfest is planned on 23rd June 2012. The Laeken school site will be open to he public on 15th-16th September 2012 for open monument days. Official inauguration of the Laeken School will happen on 25th October 2012. As for the setting up of a garderie in Laeken, Mr Schlabe is open to such project since there is enough space in Laeken. Nevertheless, such a decision is to be made by OIB of the EU Commission. A parent asks if the school time schedule as presented by Mr Schable, could be delayed by 15 minutes in order to allow small kids to get up a bit later. Mr Schlabe answers that such a proposal has to be coordinated with the transport committee, because such a shift could result the busses be in heavier traffic jams.

Mrs Ivanauskiene says that EEB4 is happy to open and welcome a new Bulgarian language section that will be established in September 2012 for Nursery and P1. A great attention has been paid for a good preparation of opening this new section. For this purpose, a working group has been created. The BG vice minister of Education and the Board of Governors visited the school. They held a meeting with parents and school management, and a special information meeting to answer parents' questions was organized. An action plan has also been prepared to ensure a smooth transition to the new section, even though the BG students in levels other than Nursery and P1 levels will remain SWALS (students without a language section).

Mr Fäldt gives information about the project of a Green School Certificate: development of a mobility plan, setting up small garden activities with kids, and installing solar panels on the roof. Moreover, he informs that EEB4 will participate the European Science Symposium in March 2012, in order to promote science subject. Next year (March 2013) this Symposium will be hosted by EEB4 in Laeken. It will expose scientific works done by children and organise competition to their scientific projects.

Ralph Wischermann, on behalf of the working group on transport, presents a comprehensive survey on transport service for next school year in Laeken. He gives some results from the questionnaire handed in to parents in October 2011. These data are useful inputs to preconfigure the transport plan next year, in the perspective to minimise the school transport duration for kids. He also reminds that enrolment for transport service will not be open until May 2012, and final results will be given in

August 2012. He also reminds that the transport service is no longer subsidised by the EU Commission.

Part III (21.30 – 23.00): For Members only

6. Report on Activities and Presentation of Accounts 2010-2011

The Treasurer gives a presentation on the accounts, with tables on incomes and expenditures. The increase of income by 2% combined to a policy of cost reduction led, for the period 2010/2011, to a positive outcome of 72.437,21 Euros, to be compared to a planned loss of 58.944,13 Euros. This is the result from a cost control applied to the main cost factors in all sectors.

The CA proposes this positive outcome be allocated to reduce the cumulative losses of former years.

Questions and Answers

There are some questions to clarify technical vocabulary such as what “internal personnel” or “equipment” consists in. A question arises on the price of meals at the canteen. It is then reminded that the price per meal that is charged today (5,92 €) refers to a decision of CA, to adjust the price on actual costs. For the next school year, no definitive price can now be given because it heavily depends on how many pupils at the canteen will share the fixed costs. That number is of course still unknown.

VOTE on discharge of the Board on the Certified Accounts 2010-2011.

Decision 2012-01-31_2 *The discharge of the Administration Board on the certified Accounts 2010-2011 is APPROVED by majority (unanimity, no abstentions, no cons).*

7. Presentation of the Budget 2011-2012

The Treasurer presents the budget for the current year 2011-2012. This budget also incorporates an amount of 27000 € to partly reimburse a loan granted some years ago by other Parents Association of the European Schools.

Key figures for the proposed budget for year 2011/2012 are the following :

- Total revenue : 1.909.117,98 Euros
- Total expenditures : 1.882.408,08 Euros
- Net income : + 26.709,90 Euros

As a general remark, the increase of APEEE budget is proportional to school population increase. At the time this budget proposition is done, no figures about the move to Laeken are yet available. Then the budget as proposed cannot integrate specific expenditure item for the move to the new site. It is nevertheless worth noting that a dedicated amount is allowed to the IT expenditures.

Questions and Answers: Some points on technical vocabulary are clarified.

VOTE on the Budget 2011–2012

Decision 2012-01-31_3 *The budget 2011-2012 as proposed to the GA is APPROVED by majority (unanimity, no abstentions, no cons).*

8. Resolutions

8-a. Resolution on the maintenance of the Budget Control Committee

Erika Schulze explains that at the last GA (2010-2011 school year), it was decided the 2012 AG examine the added value of a budgetary control committee and decide on its continuation for one more school year. With the recruitment of the Director of the APEEE, the regular controls done by the treasurer, and the check done by the external auditors, it turns out there is little added value to such a Budget Control Committee put in place in 2011.

Questions and answers

VOTE on the resolution on the maintenance of the Budget Control Committee

Decision 2012-01-31_4 *The proposal not to maintain the budgetary control committee is APPROVED by majority (unanimity, no abstentions, no cons).*

8-b. Resolution "A new European School in Brussels, The experiences of Brussels IV"

Erika Schulze proposes a resolution of the experience gained on the establishment of EEB4. A discussion follows about two amendments :

-in §8, should geographical criteria be added in the enrolment policy to sustain the welfare of the pupils.

-Adding a §9 stating a second criteria related to general and environmental impact assessments in line with European standards, for the budget of the European Schools.

After discussion, the final text, as given in extenso in annex 1, is submitted to the votes.

VOTE on the resolution document on a new European School in Brussels

Decision 2012-01-31_5 *The document on a new European School in Brussels as given in extenso in Annex 1, is APPROVED by majority.*

This vote results from 3 intermediary votes.

A first vote at majority (pros 44, abstentions 9, cons 30), decides these amendments are stated in separated paragraphs.

A second vote at majority (pros 80, abstentions 6, no cons) decides to adopt amendment on §8.

A third vote at majority (pros 75, abstentions 15, no cons) decides to include §9.



9. Amendment of the statutes

Due to an editorial error following the founding General Assembly on June 7th 2007, the Statutes refer in Article 12.4 - that deals with the replacement of Board Members during a running mandate – to a clause that does not exist. Causing confusion, this reference should be deleted from Article 12.4 of the Statutes.

Since the number of effective members present or represented at this moment is 83 out of 116 effective members, it follows that the quorum of 2/3 is reached, pursuant Article 23.3 Statutes.

Questions and answers

In the following debate, members express that a mechanism to enable quick replacement of Board members during a running mandate would be useful and should be considered.

The members are reminded that the issue has been discussed at several occasions in the CA, and had already been proposed for modification of the Statutes to the GA of last year, but could not be voted because the quorum was not reached in that time.

VOTE on the amendment of the statutes

Decision 2012-01-31_6 *The proposed amendment on the article 12 of the statutes is APPROVED by 2/3 majority (pros 68, abstentions 19, no cons).*

10. Results of the election of the new Board Members

The electoral board gives the full results for the election of 12 new Board members :

No	Name	Language Section	No of votes received	Ranking
1	Carola STREUL	DE	79	1
14	Maximilian STROTMANN	DE	79	2
3	Anja MANGELS	FR	78	3
5	Pascal MANZANO	FR / EN	78	4
15	Martijn HESSELINK	NL	76	5
13	Daniella TERUSSO	FR	74	6
12	Jacopo LOMBARDI	IT	70	7
9	Jacqueline TROQUET	FR	64	8
8	Isabelle LECOQ	FR	63	9
6	Andrea WEBER	DE	62	10
2	Kunka ILIEVIA	EN	57	11
16	Lucian CERNAT	FR	57	12
7	Holger PLUMHOFF	DE	56	
4	Sigfrido RAMIREZ	FR	55	
17	Thierry LEGUAY	FR	49	
11	Eva SCHRIEVER	DE	46	
10	Claudia HAHN	DE	40	



Decision 2012-01-31_7 *The GA decides to appoint the 12 following names as Board members:* Carola Streul, Maximilian Strotmann, Anja Mangels, Pascal Manzano, Martijn Hesselink, Daniella Terruso, Jacopo Lombardi, Jacqueline Troquet, Isabelle Lecoq, Andrea Weber, Kunka Ilieva, Lucian Cernat.

The President welcomes the new Board members.

11. AoB

None

The President closes the GA at 24:08.



ANNEX 1

A new European School in Brussels. The experiences of Brussels IV

Five years after the opening of the European School Brussels IV (EEB IV), its parents association looks back at the experiences of the first years. For the evaluation, the following has to be taken into account:

The EEB IV was filled solely with pupils joining the European School System for the first time;

The EEB IV has 5 language sections (FR, EN, DE, IT, NL) and two categories of SWALS (RO and BG):

The EEB IV had to start in 2007 at the temporary site in Berkendael, 8 km away from the final site of the school in Laeken;

The Board of Governors endorsed the "Groupe de Suivi" recommendation that the site in Berkendael can host up to 1.000 pupils;

The opening of Laeken was considerably delayed (from 2009 to 2012) resulting in the need of additional space in Berkendael that was created firstly by adding the Berkendael 66 building in 2010 for secondary and in 2011 by installing prefabs for about 100 additional pupils in the carpark;

In 2007 and 2008 all pupils enrolling for the first time in the European School system in Brussels in the sections open in EEB IV were sent to Berkendael;

EEB IV had about 200 pupils in the first year, 400 in the second, 600 in the third year, 850 in the fourth and 1050 in the fifth year¹;

This management of enrolments did not considerably reduce the number of pupils in the other European Schools in Brussels with the result that in 2009, 2010 and also in 2011 many pupils were sent to EEB IV despite the parents preference for another school;

More than 50% of EEB IV pupils are in the Francophone section;

The Dutch section is so small that the "Board of Appeals" ruled that a pupil of P4 could be transferred to the corresponding class in EEBIII as she was, at that time, the only pupil in her class which, according to the Court, went against the social function of a school; whereas furthermore the "Board of Appeals" allowed two transfers for pupils in NL P4 to EEBIII NL P5 because of the uncertainty if a Dutch secondary would be opened in EEB IV;

Since 2007, the enrolment policy for EEB IV was highly unpredictable for parents entering the European School system in Brussels combined with the fact that the final destination of the school in Laeken is rather far away from the homes of the parents²;

The Parents Association of the EEB IV (APEEE IV) was set up on June 7th 2007 with the financial support of the Parents Associations of the other three Brussels European Schools who lend the APEEE IV more than 100.000 Euros to be paid back starting in

¹ For comparison: Ixelles started with about 1000 pupils

² see result of the survey on APEEE homepage



2012 to start the delivery of the services transport, canteen and extra curricular activities;

The Board of Governors recognised the need of support for the APEEE IV in relation to the special conditions for enrolment to EEB IV and decided to grant a subsidy compensating for the higher transport costs for self-paying parents for the school years from 2007/2008 till 2010/2011;

These circumstances caused some difficulties for the APEEE IV:

a) Difficulties of a general nature:

The high number of parents having a preference for another European School in Brussels³;

a constant management of change due to the fast and high increase in numbers of pupils for which the services had to be offered;

a majority of inexperienced parents regarding the functioning of the European School system and the efforts needed to provide services and pedagogical support to parents and pupils of EEB IV;

a lack of financial means resulting in a high workload for the voluntary parents that were willing to assume the task to set up and run the services for the pupils of EEB IV;

problems with the Belgian "Board of Works" (Régie des bâtiments) as their willingness to invest in the temporary Berkendael site was low⁴;

b) Difficulties for the transport services struggling for a balance between efficiency and a pupil friendly transport service with timewise reasonable itineraries because of:

a much larger catchment area than the other European Schools in Brussels based on the above mentioned enrolment policy;

a smaller number of pupils than the other European Schools spread over the whole area of Brussels and (far) outside the ring⁵;

a higher share of small children using the transport service as EEB IV started in 2007 only with MAT 1 to PR 3;

the consequent need to work solely with monitors on the busses on the basis of ALE cheques⁶;

c) Difficulties regarding the canteen service having to deal with a number of shortcomings of the kitchen and the canteen in Berkendael as it had been designed to cook for 650 pupils at a maximum and the responsible "Board of Works" were not willing to improve the conditions as it was only a temporary site:

small rooms for storage with the result that it was not possible to buy a higher quantity of food at a better price;

³ since the enrolment phase for the school year 2008, ... parents have asked for a transfer to another school or even turned to the "Board of Appeals" to enforce this demand;

⁴ In 2007, it was not even clear if a kitchen in line with modern hygiene standards would be installed to allow for the preparation of food at school;

⁵ longest distances: Kortenberg (? km), Braine l'Alleud (km ?), Waterloo (? km) while in the other schools the farrest distances are about 20 km;

⁶ The A.L.E. (Agences Locales pour l'Emploi) are Belgian organisms which help long term unemployed people and people with a low unemployment benefit to find small paid jobs while kipping their unemployment allowance. 25 ALE are employed by APEEE IV.

frequent breakdowns of machines⁷;

high noise level in the canteen;

d) Difficulties for the extra curricular activities that were hampered by several unfavourable conditions:

extra curricular activities on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays could only be attended by pupils living near the school or who were enrolled in garderie on site as there was only one bus service after school due to the small number of pupils;

For the same reason, the APEEE was forced to concentrate on a large number of activities on Fridays to provide a sort of garderie for the younger pupils not enrolled in garderie services but waiting for the departure of the busses⁸;

the lack of sports facilities at the school;

Based on these considerations, the APEEE IV:

1) Strongly recommends not setting up the 5th European School in Brussels in the same way as the 4th school.

2) Draws in this respect the attention to the fact that it caused serious imbalances in the distribution of sections over the 4 existing schools in Brussels and within EEB IV without, however, preventing the other 3 schools from aggravated overcrowding.

3) Asks therefore the Board of Governors to provide for an in-depth evaluation of the management of the setting up of EEB IV and to provide for lessons to learn for the new school.

4) Requests that the Secretary General integrates the work of the Central Enrolment Authority (CEA) and of the "Groupe de Suivi" better as decisions on enrolments in Brussels are very much dependant on the available infrastructure; takes the view that the separation of these issues in the past seems technically necessary but has not proven efficient in terms of results;

5) Proposes therefore that the Board of Governors asks the Secretary General to set up a Round Table that will provide input to the CEA and the "Groupe de Suivi" on the future of the fifth school in Brussels by bringing together all relevant participants; asks that this Round Table for the 5th school should in any case include representatives of the parents associations of the 4 European Schools in Brussels, the Future Parents Association but also a high-level representative of the Belgian Federal Ministry responsible for the infrastructure of the European Schools;

6) Requests that the 2nd task of the Round Table should be developing and recommending concrete steps on how the European Schools could be better integrated into the landscape of Belgian and international schools in Brussels by taking into account the large number of enrolments in the French section, the requests for joining the European Schools in Brussels, for example from children of UN staff and CAT III pupils, and the possibilities created by the recent reform of the European School system.

7) Underlines in this respect that this integration is particularly relevant for the acceptance and continuation of the European School system as a whole.

⁷ mainly the elevator for goods, the dishwasher and the boiler;

⁸ MAT 1- PR 2 finish school at 12.15 on Fridays, the busses leave at 15.30 after the lessons of the other pupils ended;



8) Requests furthermore that the Board of Governors asks the SG to initiate in the CEA long term planning until 2020, for the enrolment management of the European Schools in Brussels taking into account the estimated numbers of new pupils, the developments regarding overcrowding in the Brussels schools, the location of the fifth school and a possible preliminary site: asks that the yearly decisions on enrolments are made on the basis of this long term planning, with consideration for geographical proximity between home and school, possibilities for inter-school transfers, and including a budgetary forecast.

9) Asks for general and environmental impact assessments being foreseen in the budget of the European Schools to be carried out in line with European standards⁹ before decisions are taken that have a high impact on pupils schooling and the budget of a European School with a view to improved budgetary management by avoiding unnecessary costs for parents and schools and in favour of good governance as a whole.

⁹

In accordance with the recommendations of the Court of Auditors on Impact Assessments