

Association des parents d'élèves de l'école européenne de Bruxelles IV AISBL

Parents Association of the European School, Brussels IV Aisbl
Elternvereinigung der Europäischen Schule Brüssel IV Aisbl
Associazione dei genitori della Scuola Europea di Bruxelles IV Aisbl
Oudervereniging van de Europese School Brussel IV Aisbl



Board Meeting/Réunion du Conseil d'Administration
Brussels Thursday 7th July 2011 / Jeudi 7 juillet 2011

European School Brussels IV: rue Berkendael 70-74 1190 Brussels, 12h30-14h00

MINUTES

Present: De Lorenzo Antonino, Henriques de Granada Marc, Lebel Serge, Mangold-Lecocq Isabelle, Plumhoff Holger, Popa Adela Raluca, Salmon Joëlle, Schulze Erika, Sindelar Martina, Streul Carola, Wischermann Ralph.

Absent (apologies): Beltrame Francesca, Cenini Antonio, De Waard Wouter, Nickels Horst, O'Byrne Aedín, O' Donoghue Aingeal, Paulus Monika, Sergio Giovanni.

Absent: Sabatini Roberto.

Ms Sindelar chaired the meeting at 12.45 pm, the following proxies had been sent for this meeting:

- 1) Mr De Waard gave a proxy to Ms Schulze.
- 2) Ms O'Donoghue gave a proxy to Ms Schulze.
- 3) Ms Beltrame gave a proxy to Mr De Lorenzo.
- 4) Mr Cenini gave a proxy to Mr De Lorenzo.
- 5) Mr Nickels gave a proxy to Ms Sindelar.
- 6) Ms Paulus gave a proxy to Mr Wischermann.

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Point 1 Adoption of the agenda 7.07.2011.

The agenda was adopted as follows:

Point 2 Adoption of Minutes of 16 and 23 June 2011

Point 3 Employment of Director

Point 4 Appointment of the APEEE President as well as of new Vice President for Communication

Point 5 Transport: state of play

Point 6 Setting –up of an additional extra-curricular activity

Point 2 Adoption of Minutes of 16 and 23 June 2011.

The Minutes dated 16th June were adopted without any remark.

The Minutes dated 23rd June were adopted with Ms Salmon's remarks on page 3 (points 6-8).

Point 3 Employment of Director.

The debate focused on the Director's contract. Important contractual terms were discussed such as the duration of the contract, the amount of salary, working hours, the probationary period and the list of duties.

After a detailed analysis, the Board took the following decision:

DECISION 20110707-01: The contract would be proposed as discussed in the meeting. The annex with the task list would be subject to further review and might need to be adapted according to the working mode between the CA and the director. The details of the decision will be published in an annex to this decision available for the board members. (Annex 1)

Point 4 Appointment of the Association President as well as the new Vice President for Communication.

DECISION 20110707-02: Mr. Nickels was appointed as the new President of Association with effect from July 2011 by unanimity.

DECISION 20110707-03: Aedín O'Byrne was appointed as Vice President for Communication and Information and Mr Lebel as support.

Point 5 Transport: state of play.

DECISION 20110707-04: The Board decided that in case the staff for the transport office were still on sick leave by Augst 16th Ms Salmon and Ms Schulze have the authority power to take the necessary measures for employment in order to resolve the situation.

Point 6 Setting –up of an additional extra-curricular activity.

Mr Plumhoff informed the Board that as additional activity an Arab language course would be offered as an extra- curricular activity for the next school year if there was enough interest.

DECISION 20110707-04: The board decided that no donations– independent of the donor or course content – will be accepted by the Association to finance courses in order to guarantee independence of course contents.

Ms Streul, on behalf of the Board, thanked Ms Schulze for her positive work as President of the Association during the last two years. Ms Schulze shared some reflections on her time of presidency (Annex 2)

At 2:00 pm the Board meeting finished.



ANNEX 2 – Reflections on Presidency by Erika

Reflections

After two years in the position of the President of the Parents Association Brussels IV, I would like to share with you some of my reflexions on the work of the Association.

- My first aim was to make the work of the Association more professional. This included the introduction of a selection procedure for new staff, yearly staff reporting exercises (for 2011, it still has to be done) and a rules based approach to the management of the Association. In this respect, I would like to say a very big thank you to Joëlle who has supported me a lot in this respect (more appropriate to say that I supported her). For example, she took care of finding the way through the Belgian labour and social security law. I would also like to thank Roberto and Aedín who took care of the procuring a new website and IT equipment.
- Concerning professionalism, my latest task was to ensure the employment of a director for the Association office. My objective in this respect was to have someone "on the spot" taking care of the day-to-day business of the Association, be the focal point between staff and Board members and provide guidance in areas in which we are not experts: financial and human resource management.
- I wanted to ensure that the role of the Association as enshrined in the Convention of the European Schools remains a feasible task for the voluntary parents of the 21st century. In this respect, the Director will hopefully considerably and in an perceptible way improve the situation of the Board members. This objective is of course closely related to my first aim but it has also another dimension.
- Pupils are rather easy to please, however it seems to me that, at least some, parents are rather demanding. Therefore, I did not stop repeating that the Association cannot correct problems created by the decisions of others, parents or actors of the European School system alike.
- In this respect, I strongly disagree with how the 4th School in Brussels was set up. Adding another large number of pupils every year in order to fill the school gradually, in German you would say, Salami-Taktik, has put a very heavy burden on us. Inexperienced parents had to run a business with a limited, borrowed budget and affording constantly a management of change. In addition, over years about 5-10 % of the parents tried to leave the school with a view to avoid the move to Laeken while many others were misled by rumours about the move and the future of the different sites. I hope that our experience can be used to avoid this unfortunate procedure for the 5th School.
- However, fighting against all odds creates a strong community feeling and the last Somerfest showed me that not only children, parents and school are working closer



together but also that the school is developing an identity and I am sure that in a few years, our children will also shout whole heartedly "Laeken, Laeken" as they did at the demonstrations in March with Ixelles.

- I think that it is fair to say that this is one of the results reached by the voluntary parents of Brussels IV who were and who are ready to organise the Parents Association with its services and its participation in pedagogical affairs. They were and are taking action where others see themselves only as consumers. Therefore, I would like to thank all Board members who worked with me on the Board these last two and a half years for their support. Additionally, I am very grateful for the warm words of those parents who expressively recognised the work we are doing in favour of their children.
- I am afraid that we will have to continue underlining that the services we provide are common services that are meant to be available to all pupils without any discrimination and with in full transparency. I am very grateful for the support of Monika who strictly applied this principle without losing sight of the interest of the children in question and constantly looking for the best available solution.
- In my view, this kind of commitment is only possible in an environment that recognises the efforts of the parents and that encourages creativity and team spirit. It is obvious to me that nobody could manage the Association alone and that cooperation and respect is key for the work of the Board. I am therefore very grateful to those Board members who did not refrain from presenting their point of view, not avoiding conflict with a view to finding the best solution.
- I think it is the task of the President to bring as much as possible the different pieces of the puzzle together in order to complete the picture. Therefore, it seems to me rather an advantage if the President does not have preferences for certain solutions but is free to identify those that are supported by a majority and which help the Association to move forward.

I wish Horst good luck and I would like to assure him of my support. I think the Board is presently a good team and I am confident that the challenges ahead will be mastered as long as we cooperate.

I am looking forward to the school moving to Laeken as its infrastructure will provide for a special environment for education and learning. In relation to this I would like to add that I am convinced that the European School system will only survive if it will be able to integrate into the Belgium daily life, as I do not think that there is still common agreement for a special school for European officials. The idea of the European School, however, is unique and should, in my view, be spread as far as possible.

For the time being, I will join Monika in her support of the transport service. I will promote the NL Section of Brussels IV that is threatened by the present lack of pupils. Besides, activities in favour of equal treatment of girls and boys, the non-violent school ethos and a local amnesty international



group set up of secondary pupils are three projects that I have in mind to realise – hopefully with other enthusiastic parents.

Erika

July 2011