

Dear class-reps,

as this text contains lot of my personal views on the subject, I ask you to decide yourself if you like to distribute it among the parents.

thanks + regards,

Horst Nickels

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12.01.2012

Dear parents,

The Board has received the request to add the petition signed by about 200 parents for about 300 kids for adoption by the APEEE to the agenda of the General Assembly (GA) that is scheduled for 31 January 2012. This request was sent to us on 10.01.2021, signed by 1 parent.

The Board cannot follow this request as the Statute of the parents' association as published on our website, foresees in its Article 6 that any request to put items on the agenda of the GA have to be introduced 3 weeks before the GA and signed by at least 20 members (parents) or 10 class representatives or 2 Members of the Board. The deadline was consequently tuesday at 12.00 pm. Supportive emails received after the deadline do not change the situation.

At this occasion, we would like to remind you that the Statute is not a void formality to annoy parents but our legal foundation under Belgian law that the Board has to comply with. Besides, it is known since before the Christmas holidays that the Board of Governors (BoG) refused the petition. Therefore, there were no time constraints to assemble the necessary and very low number of signatures and to present the request in time.

Independent from these legal constraints that are supported by a decision of the Board taken at its meeting on tuesday, 11.01.2012, I would like to take this opportunity to give you some personal impressions that are, by the way, shared by some other Board members, about the way how a few parents try to hostage the whole association for their own purposes.

It might be eclipsed from the attention of the petitioners that there is another share of parents who do what is possible to avoid that their pupils will have to stay another year in Berkendael and who cannot wait to see the opening of the Laeken site. Reasoned or not, these parents see the petition as a danger to this objective.

Therefore, the Board decided to stay neutral as even within the Board both opinions are present.

Therefore, it is not true that the Board blocked the spread of information but leave it in first instance to the individual class-reps to decide if information on the petition is passed on or not. Actually, the Board did not even get a request asking to spread the info via class-reps in the beginning but only a complaint that the class-reps are not doing so and

that we should force them to do.

Looking at the latest developments, the request to put the petition-subject on the next GA, I want to state that the subject has already been dealt with in the last Board of Governors meeting in December 2011 and that all Member State voted against the petition, only the Commission was in favour and Interparents representatives abstained.

What makes me and some other Board members angry about the whole situation is that the initiators of this petition use the "neutral" status of the APEEE and - in my private opinion - use the people signing the petition for their own interest claiming to do something for the good of all petitioners and dump them afterwards.

WHO HAS ACTUALLY READ THE LETTER THE INITIATORS SEND TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE BoG? (attached)

Does your signature actually give also the mandate to sign this letter which actually proposes to exclude some language sections from staying in Berkendael? Maybe you are not aware of it but it seems that the initiators did not intend to keep the Berkendael-site open for everyone who signed. By the way, I forgot to mention that the initiators do not foresee any school transport for Berkendael.

Looking at all the problems and costs this initiative has already caused and feeling personally assaulted by the comments of the initiators about and against the Board, respectively its members, I am not willingly to stay neutral anymore and openly oppose this petition.

I will not use my "spare" time to defeat this approach which in my opinion is an isolated action of some people knowing perfectly how to lobby the system and having good personal contacts to reach something for their own good using the masses to reach their aim. What they do forget in all this, besides ruining the image of Brussels IV, is that instead of building a community, they destroy the first steps which have been reached.

PLEASE, read the attached letter and make up your own mind.

As far as I am concerned I would like to mention that, as some reorganisation of the APEEE took place during the year, I still hope that we can focus more on education than on managing a business in the future. Therefore, we need active parents in the Board that will not only represent their own short-time interest but work for a viable school community. Please consider to get more engaged in our APEEE.

Regards,

Horst Nickels

President