



2012-2013 - EDUCATION COUNCIL FOR NURSERY & PRIMARY 2

Date: 29.11.2012
Time: 16h00
Room: Vaiva's office, J00.038

For Management	Vaiva IVANAUSKEINE, Chair	
	Harriet KIRBY, Coordinator Primary	
For the teachers	Nursery	Levke BONSE
	BG	Natalia STAYKOVA
	DE	Andrea Kinschel
	EN	Karen-BURKE LOGUE
	FR	Nicole McLellan
	IT	Rosa GIULIANO
For the parents	NE	Greet LANCKMANS
	EN	Iseult Lennon Hudson
	FR	Sarah Asmanis de Schacht
	IT	Pier Paolo Parzanese

- 1. Designation of minute taker**
The parents (Iseult Lennon Hudson, EN).
- 2. Apologies for absence**
Martina Sindelar (APEEE)
- 3. Approval of the agenda**
Points added: Parking; homework and Shoebox Campaign
The agenda is approved.
- 4. Approval of the minutes of the previous ECNP**
Attendees needed correction. The minutes are approved.
- 5. Matters arising from the minutes**
L2 - this appears to be an ongoing issue as it is now tabled for the APEEE AGM. Parents want special conditions and education tailored to their personal preferences, which isn't possible as we have to follow the curriculum. The importance of developing the four competences [Oral, Comprehension, Reading & Writing] was reiterated. A child can excel orally whilst not having the same

ability in written expression. It is important to focus resources where the need is greatest.

Parents queried if half an hour wasn't too short a time. Pedagogically, 30 minutes at a P1 & P2 level is the correct time. Learning is best done through daily repetition.

Mrs Ivanauskiene reminded all that the ES system has 60 years of experience.

6. Management

Oral Communication

It has been a busy time for the school and the pupils. Art Week was a great success with the children's work now on display in the Salle Polyvalent. Parents commented that the artwork produced by the children was quite remarkable and wonderfully creative. The experience of cross sectional cooperation during Art Week was an enriching one.

The children have also had a presentation on the project in Uganda which is supported by the school through, for example, the sale of Calendars.

Saint Nicholas will be celebrated at school as usual.

There have also been many visitors who are coming to see the "new" school.

The Board of Governors of the ES system will visit the school on the 5th of December. The European Hours choir will perform for them.

Multi-annual Plan Preparation - This is done up to 3 to 5 years in advance. Planning is done by the coordinators - i.e. middle management. It has to be prepared in time for the January meeting of the School Advisory Council (SAC). It then goes to the School Administrative Board in February. Mrs. Ivanauskiene invited attendees to brainstorm for elements to consider for the plan.

Pedagogical Working Group (School)

The school established an internal working group on Assessment which has now developed into an Assessment & Pedagogical WG. Syllabi come from headquarters, however at the implementation level, the school would like to further harmonise across sections. This is an immense project and an ambitious one, and so the speed at which this can progress is not yet clearly known. An example of how it would be done is the recent experience of Art Week exchanges between sections. The school would like to see this expand outwards through the syllabi.

Sex Education Working Group - Sex education in schools is implemented differently across the EU. In the European School system, it is broached in P5 through the Discovery of the World (DDM) lessons. However, this may be a little late for some and to avoid the spread of misinformation, starting a little earlier could be beneficial. As it is a sensitive topic the school is establishing a working group to see how to better deal with this topic. Parental involvement in the group would be welcome. This group aims to meet from January.

School Trips - P5 - Following the request from parents for the school trips to be made longer, at least for P5, the school is planning the following trips this year:
P3 - there is no change to the usual programme. It will be 3 days (2 nights) of classe de mer in Blankenberge. The hotel has room without carpets in order to accommodate children with allergies.

P4 - Classes Vertes - again 3 days (2 nights).

P5 - In the future these trips will be done as L2 class trips. In this transition year however, all pupils will go to the Kingswood Centre in Kent in the UK. The school has been able to negotiate a very price for this - +/- 230 euro rather than 330euro. Planning is still in progress, so transport is not yet finalised and not included in the price.

Playground Working Group - as previously reported, the teachers organised this group to look at solutions for the playground and have consulted with the children. Restrictions exist due to the site. Several meetings have now been held with various providers.

There's a fund of 60,000 euros available (including 8,000 from the sale of the Berkendael playground equipment to Uccle) of which 36,000 euro has been assigned to Maternelle.

Maternelle update - the plants are in. Awaiting the arrival of the sandpit and other equipment for the end of January (presuming no major hitches with the tender procedure).

The school would like to do some fundraising during the Christmas concerts - calendars, programmes.

Whilst exact figures aren't yet available, parents asked to have a "ball park" figure of how much money would be needed for the playgrounds. The current estimate is somewhere in the region of 120,000 euros.

Christmas Concerts

There will be 6 concerts over two mornings (17th & 18th of December) organised by year group. The timings are 8.45am; 10.15am and 11.45am

Programmes, calendars, etc will be on sale beforehand - as fundraising for both the Uganda project and the playgrounds. Volunteers are requested from among the parents in order to do this - 4 parents for half an hour before each performance.

7. Parents points

Security

There is still some confusion on the use of parent badges and parents have had very varied experiences when accessing the school. Sometimes one is challenged to produce the badge, yet at other times one can walk straight in. This is not an issue which can be resolved fully at the primary level and so it will be raised with Mr. Schlabe and Mrs. Cheron. Parents asked that a clear policy be developed, communicated and then adhered to in the future.

There is now a security working group in the school which Mr. Schlabe leads.

A fire drill will be held shortly.

On supervision in the playground, Mrs Ivanauskiene explained that there 10 supervisors for a maximum of 3 year groups. Additionally, there are 3 supervisors for children with SEN and 1 teacher as a mediator.

Evaluation

Parents do not understand the evaluation system and, the differences in practice between sections, merely adds to the confusion. For example, parents in the German receive no updates such as exam results other than the 3 reports during the year. Meanwhile the NL section has tests throughout the year.

The Assessment WG (see above) should work on this. However, Mrs Ivanauskiene points out that at the first parents evening, the teacher explains how evaluation will be done. The DE teachers ask that parents please contact the teacher for updates on their child's progress. The NL teachers explain that the "tests" they do are actually required by the NL government and happen only 3 times a year (November, March & June). Teachers ask that any information from the questionnaires by passed to their Assessment WG as all input is useful.

Library

Parents ask why the children only borrow books in their mother tongue and not in second language?

Pedagogically, this is to avoid confusion as the children begin to read and write in the mother tongue, or indeed for many, in a dominant language which may not be a home language. This should be well established in the first language before moving to the second. However, teachers can be flexible and usually discuss with the children their choices of books.

IT

The situation currently is that 1 ICT suite is up and running. It is equipped with 22 computers and a Smart board. Both qwerty and azerty keyboards are available and easily interchangeable. Classes with more than 22 children do have to share a computer.

The school is aiming to have 3 computers installed in the classrooms for P3 and upwards.

The entirety of the ground floor of Primary is still without Smart Boards. The school informs that these will be installed over the Christmas holidays. The installation takes a full day and as frequently the chalk boards also have to be moved, the children cannot be present.

A.O.B.

The school asks if parents would like to participate in the 'shoe box' campaign again this year. As each donation is voluntary, the parents welcome the school's willingness to help organise such a collection.

Concern was raised as to the impact the Secondary timetable will have on the Nursery/Primary children's day next year. If no second bus service is provided, as is done in other EEBs, the maternelle children will face a very long day. Already to accommodate the secondary timetable this year, their school day was lengthened to 15.30. Certainly, a shorter day is preferable at this age.