



2012-2013 - EDUCATION COUNCIL FOR SECONDARY 1

Date: 18.10.2012

Time: 16h00

Room: Building: W local 119 (1er étage)

For Management	Pär Arvidsson FÄLDT, Chair
For the teachers	Colm O'Connor
For the parents	Carola STREUL Sylvia KREUZBERGER Yves SUSANNE Nigel FREAKE
For the students	Bertram Kress Carlo Stella Serrano

1. **Designation of minute taker**
Mr O'Connor was designated as the minute taker.
2. **Apologies for absence**
Fulvia Gallas & Mr Schlabe were excused.
3. **Approval of the agenda**
The agenda was approved.
4. **Approval of the minutes of the previous ECS**
The minutes were approved without alteration.
5. **Matters arising from the minutes**
Matters arising were revisited under 'Any Other Business'.
6. **Management**
 - 6.1. **Starting the school**
Mr Fäldt outlined the many problems and challenges experienced by staff, students and management as a result of the move. The lack of experience with the Administration system, he said, exacerbated problems such as:
 - The difficulty in creating various class groups due to fluctuating class sizes
 - Teachers who left either just before or just after the start of the school year.

- A large influx of new staff inc. 18 Chargé de Cours and 5 Detachés.
- Conflicting advice regarding the possibility of extra supervision. For now this has been resolved and so the Parade Ground will open at lunchtime after the break.

Bertram asked if the Parade Ground would remain open indefinitely and Mr. Fäldt replied that it depended on the availability of sufficient supervisors. Carlo asked if additional seats and data projectors had been ordered and Mr. Fäldt reassured him that they have been.

This led to a discussion about lunchtime in which Mr. Fäldt stated that he hoped the tartinistes could also eat in the canteen in the future, instead of in the Salle d'Etude. He also stated that next year there would be three sittings in the canteen, which would be facilitated by an extra period and a second bus run in the evening for secondary students. Ms. Streul replied that the third canteen service would depend on the uptake amongst the students.

In a related discussion about the canteen Ms. Streul stated that the APEEE had investigated if a self-service counter would work but they deemed it to be too slow. Problems associated with APEEE canteen cards were also raised. Ms. Streul suggested that it might be possible to have a list of students instead, which could then be checked, but that this might be an expensive system to operate.

Mr Kreuzberger raised concerns about the length of the lunch break for some S3 students (just 30 mins). Mr. Fäldt replied that this situation, though regrettable, is necessary due to the fact that there is just one bus service in the afternoon, i.e. the primary and secondary must finish at the same time.

The final item discussed in this section was the issue of what students could do during 'free hours' immediately before or after lunch. Mr. Fäldt said that they could go to the yard or the Salle d'Etude and perhaps the Library but supervision issues would have to be addressed first.

6.2. Inauguration

Mr. Fäldt briefly outlined the programme for the upcoming inauguration of the new site on the 24th October and the various ways in which the pupils would be involved.

6.3. School trip

Mr. Fäldt outlined that our general approach to school trips was to balance the benefits for the students involved with both the energy costs on the staff and the impact on those students who are not involved. This would mean that students would normally go on three trips during their time in the school, namely:

- S2: Science Trip to Euro Space Centre
- S4: L2 Trip
- S6: Humanities Trip

This year there will be two exceptions however.

S1 have been to Gerolstein as a team-building exercise, which will help to integrate them into their new school and prepare them for their S2 Unplugged programme which deals with similar themes.

S3 will also be brought on a once-off trip in January. The French section will go to Paris for three days, whilst the Anglophone, Italian and German sections will go to London for two days.

Ms. Streul suggested that forms related to this trip and others should be available to parents online.

6.4. Lockers

The issue of the size and cost of lockers was then discussed. Regarding the size, Mr. Fäldt said that the smaller lockers would remain but that they should be rotated amongst the students in order to maintain a sense of fairness. He also stated that, as there were no funds available from the school to buy lockers, the only option had been to charge parents a yearly fee if their child required one. This decision, he said, had been approved by a previous meeting of the CE; had subsequently gone to the SAC and would soon go to the Admin Board for final approval.

7. Parents

7.1. Pedagogical value of test week for S2 in June 2012

Mr. Fäldt explained that this week took place as part of our on-going efforts to harmonise the students' educational experiences. He explained that, in his experience, subject department meetings can be unproductive encounters and so instead, he gave the departments a general goal: to set a common test. This would require teachers to discuss the syllabus and to plan and negotiate together. However the implementation was affected negatively by the reaction of some teachers (particularly in the German section). This accounted for the different information that parents and students received prior to the test week. In principle, he stated that he was not fixed to the idea of 'a week of tests'; but rather, that he sees the process of negotiation between sections as a valuable one which would continue and improve this year.

7.2. Participation of SEC pupils in ped. Councils and inter-European Schools events

The issue of students becoming involved in the CE meetings has been resolved.

Under this heading the question was also asked as to why only S2ENA students were included in the ESSS trip to Alicante last year. Both Mr. Fäldt and Bertram explained that the school's participation in the event happened at short notice and that this class had already been doing project work of that kind with their teacher Mrs. Baines. In the future, wider access would be ensured. A new ESSS website has been developed by EEB4 who will host the event this year.

7.3. Teachers absences

Under this heading Mr. Fäldt explained the procedure that exists when a teacher is absent. If the teacher is absent for more than a week, a replacement teacher can be employed. However for shorter absences seconded teachers are asked to replace the classes in the first instance (maximum of 2 classes per teacher per week). Failing that, the students may be supervised by an educational advisor either in their room or in the study hall or by a Chargé de Cours teacher. Mr. Fäldt explained that there was a need for greater supervision capacity in general and that one person had already been employed in that role. However, he noted that there would be a new budget in January and that he was unsure what would

happen then.

Carlo also asked if L2 courses were standardised. Mr. Fäldt replied that the structures were the same but that flexibility remained for the teacher.

7.5 Website secondary

Following criticisms of the school website, such as the fact that it has three separate calendars, booklists with no links and PDF overload *inter alia*. Mr. Fäldt explained that time pressures are the source of the problem and that we are a small staff trying to do many things. Nevertheless 50% of a new site had been completed last year and he is confident that the rest will follow soon.

7.6 Location of tartinistes and lunchtime for S3

See 6.1

7.7 Miscellaneous

Betram asked about the correct procedure if one wanted to make a complaint against a teacher. Mr. Fäldt replied that complaints should be made at the appropriate level. That is, in the first instance one should try to talk directly to the teacher involved. If this fails or is not seen as an option, one could speak through your student representative or perhaps one's parents or parents' representative. If this fails one could approach the DDS.

Mr. Schlabe then visited the meeting and explained that places would be available to the parents' representatives for the inauguration ceremony. He then asked that all of the parents be written to in order to ask them to tell their children not to cross Dreve St Anne to buy ice cream etc. The road, he said, is much too dangerous at the present time; though a traffic management review will come in due course from the commune.

Mr. Fäldt was then asked if the school planned to deal with the issue of internet security. He replied that other priorities prevented much time being devoted to the issue as yet, though that it would be in time. He added that, as with the Unplugged programme for drug prevention, our focus would be on giving the students accurate information and building up their social skills and self-confidence, rather than an exclusively prohibitive stance.

Finally Mr. O'Connor asked if the meeting would support naming the Giraffe Project as the official charity of the secondary school. He outlined the events held for the charity last year and the level of support that they had received from the staff and students alike. The meeting unanimously supported the idea.

8. Teachers

9. Date of the next meeting

The next meeting will be held on 06.12.2012 at 16.00