



2012-2013 - EDUCATION COUNCIL FOR SECONDARY 2

Date: 06.12.2012

Time: 16h00

Room: Building W, room 119

For Management	Pär Arvidsson FÄLDT, Chair
For the teachers	Fulvia GALLAS
For the parents	Martina SINDELAR, APEEE Anne Marie BAGIEU Nigel FREAKE Veronika HAGER VON STROBELE-QUARONI Sylvia KREUZBERGER
For the students	Bertram KRESS Carlo STELLA SERRANO

- 1. Designation of minute taker**
Mrs Quaroni was designated as the minute taker.
- 2. Apologies for absence**
Mr Colm O'Connor was 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 form the minutes**

Lockers: Mr Fäldt reported that the rotation system regarding small and big lockers in order to guarantee greater fairness among the students has been approved by the Admin Board.

Tartinistes: Mr Fäldt explained that the issue of placing the tartinistes in a suitable location (preferably the canteen instead of the Salle d'Etude) during lunchtime has not been resolved yet but is on top of his agenda.

6. Management

6.1. Projects running

Mr Fäldt discussed the activities of the current 11 Working Groups/Projects carried out by teachers and challenges these groups are faced with:

The **School Yard-Working Group** is trying to accommodate the students' request to work out meaningful programs during break. However the possibilities are limited due to architectural constraints of the new site (such as many windows lining the yards) as well as overcrowding of the open space. Solutions need to be found especially in light of next years considerable increment of students. The requests voiced by the students representatives for soccer goals and basketball stands as well as the permission to use hard balls in the school yard have been acknowledged by Mr. Fäldt who assured the student representatives to continue his efforts to solve the matter as soon as possible.

Concerning the initiatives of the **Green School-Working Group** (garden in the school yard, solar panels for the school) the student representatives voiced their concern about the high amount of waste produced by the canteen. Carlo complained about too much left-over food being thrown away every day. As solution the students proposed an improvement of the quality and appearance of the food. It was also discussed to involve students more in the preparation of the menu by putting up a box for ideas by the students. Given the importance of the matter Mrs Sindelar added she would put these issues on the agenda for the next APEEE meeting.

Mr Fäldt reported about the ongoing effort by the **Discipline and School Rules-Working Group** to revise the school rules of conduct. Experience over the last three months has shown that rules need to be adapted to new challenges posed by an increased student body and the new school site. Changes in the rules will be presented to the School Advisory Council (which meets on December 10) and published right after ratification.

Mr Fäldt then outlined the difficulties by **The Extraordinary Events-Working Group** to coordinate rehearsals of the school choir due to the different lunch times for S1 and S2. Carlo reported on the dwindling number of participants in the school choir as a result of this.

In order to manage music classes more efficiently Mr Fäldt envisions for next school year (this regards only the current P5 and S1) the choice for students to participate during one of the two compulsory music hours in either the school choir, the school orchestra or in a computer based music class. The rules regarding this selection for students currently enrolled in P5 and S1 have not been formulated yet.

Mr Fäldt explained that an other option for the next school year could be to organize group music activities as after school program.

For the theater group in S3 Mr Fäldt envisions rehearsals during the 6th period which next school year is planned to be free for S3 students.

For the **Christmas Show** the following dates have been set: on Thursday, December 20, at lunch time the students from the French section will have their theater performance. In the evening of the same day the show will be presented to the parents of the French section. The general Christmas Show (for students ONLY, of all language sections) with the performance of the school choir and some elements of the French theater production is scheduled for Friday, December 21, during the last two periods.

Particular attention was given to the efforts of the **Communication (ICT and Website) Project** carried out by Mr Macalister who gave a short presentation of

his intensive work. (See details at 6.3)

6.2. Options for S4

All information concerning options for S4 can now be found on the newly designed school website.

6.3. Website

Mr Macalister presented the school's newly designed website planned to be fully operational starting December 11. In an effort to keep things as simple as possible the website contains now all relevant information for parents and students. Much attention was devoted to an improved and easily accessible list of teachers' contacts, an item of frequent criticism by parents in the past. The new website is going to be maintained by Mr Macalister and Ms Sarah Belli (assistant to Mr Schlabe) to whom parents can make special requests for postings on the school website or send their feedback to.

6.4. Social activities

Mr Fäldt announced two events (the first during Carnival, the second at Somerfesto) programmed for the current school year as a result of the strong interest expressed by students for disco parties in order to strengthen the sense of community within the school. The exact dates have not been set yet. Mr Freake was designated as initial co-ordinator of the two events. Everybody agreed that students themselves should be involved as much as possible in the organization of these parties (e.g. by choosing a student DJ).

7. Parents

7.1. Charitable status

Mr Fäldt confirmed that the Giraffe Project pursues no evangelical role. (This issue had been raised following the school's adoption of the project at the previous Council Meeting on Oct 18).

7.2. Books

Mr Fäldt discussed the underlying problem of insufficient funding of the school library. According to an outdated school rule the budget of the library is based on the number of students. The current budget has not been revised to reflect the increased number of students due to the move to Laeken. A book fair (profits from sales of used books by students could be invested in new acquisitions for the library) and an invitation to the British publishing company Scholastic to organize a sale of its books at EEB 4 (profits from which Scholastic would invest in new library books) were proposed by Mr Freake as possible solutions to the problem.

Parents enquired about the possibility to put the references of library books online in order to facilitate access for students and parents. No decision has been taken yet.

7.3. Differential teaching

Mr Fäldt expressed his reservations in regard to differential teaching within the class. Teachers are advised to deal at their own discretion with the different needs of students trying to balance as much as possible the diverging interests of stronger and weaker students.

7.4. Homework

Parents have complained about the uneven distribution of homework and tests over time and the lack of coordination between teachers. This was backed up by the student reps present. Mr Fäldt assured everyone that he is very much aware of the problem and stressed that teachers have been advised to consult each other more in order to avoid overloading students with homework and tests.

7.5. P/S transition

Mr Freake raised for discussion the wish expressed by some students and parents to allow pupils making the transition from P5 to S1 to express a preference to remain with one or two friends. Mr Fäldt explained that keeping students together is not always desirable given occasional “bad connections” between some students. Efforts are under way to find in cooperation with teachers the best solution for each class.

7.6. Security at the gate

Taken off the agenda following the reply given at the AG of the APEEE (05/12/2012). This is something the school is aware of & is looking into.

7.7. Lost property

Taken off the agenda following the Eureka! Initiative.

8. Miscellaneous

- Mrs Sindelar briefly reported on the General Assembly of the APEEE on December 5 and the election of new board members. She informed the Council that she will continue her work on pedagogical affairs but will from now on focus on nursery/primary related issues while Mr Freake will take over the secondary related issues. This has to be confirmed by the CA of the APEEE.

- Mrs Quaroni asked if the school has a protocol in case of accidents on campus involving students. After two minor incidents in fall during which two students were lightly injured the question has been raised by parents of the Italian section. They complain about the lack of communication between the school and the parents when an accident occurs as well as the lack of communication and coordination within the school during and after a medical emergency. Mr Fäldt answered that indeed no such protocol was in place but promised to look into the matter.

9. Students

Carlo and Bertram raised the following issues:

- return policy of tests.

Responding to the students' request to be allowed to take corrected and graded tests home Mr Fäldt explained that changes to the current practice are being discussed.

- lack of time for room/facility changes for students.

Mr Fäldt underlined that students have been advised to prepare their material for after lunch classes before going to the canteen in order to manage time more efficiently.

- excessive wait for students to enter canteen

By following the above advise students could cut down waiting time.

- quality and portioning of food (see also 6.1)

- prohibition to go to lockers for latecomers in the morning due to bus delays.

According to Mr Fäldt the problem has already been solved.

- use of ICT room during break. Mr Fäldt explained that serious cases of vandalism in the school make such use of the facility impossible.

- insufficient number of accessible toilets for students

Mr. Fäldt explained that many toilets, mostly in less used areas of campus, have to be kept closed because some students have occasionally used them as hiding place during class or vandalised the facilities. New more effective measures of prevention such as the installation of surveillance cameras on hallways are being considered.

10. Date of the next meeting

The next meeting will be held on 07.03.2013