

Brussels Thursday, 6th June 2024
Teams Video Meeting: 12:30-14:55

Present: Johanna Alkhafaji, Rachel Aviotti, Marzia Brofferio, Pavlina Canova, Marianna Cosco, Alexandre Grigorescu-Negri, Angela Guarino, Dan Nicolae, Josephine Norris, Stefan Petrovski, Dana Adriana Puia Morel, Ionut-Adrian Sandu, Marius Serbeniuc, Adja Awa Sissoko, Iordan Toujarov, Pénélope Vlandas, Diane Werhert.

Absent: Noémie Hangya-Lachmann, Tzvetomir Penev.

Excused: Jane Okafor.

Proxy: Josephine Norris to Angela Guarino from 1:05 pm, Iordan Toujarov to Pavlina Canova from 1:25 pm.

Guest: Eric Rega, the Director of the APEEE of Brussels IV and Manuela Pamio, secretariat of the APEEE of Brussels IV.

Minutes 6.06.2024

The quorum is reached. The President, Dan Nicolae, chairs the Board meeting.

Before adopting the agenda, the discussion focuses on the interpretation of the rules governing the Disciplinary Councils. It is explained that the Director of the European Schools has the power to convene the Disciplinary Councils on the basis of serious disciplinary incidents and, when this happens, parents may request the presence of a member of the APEEE to assist them.

According to Article 44 of the General Rules of the European Schools, parents and/or pupils may be assisted by a representative of the Parents' Association or by a teacher from the school. A representative of the Pupils' Committee may attend the discussions as an observer.

Ms Cosco emphasises that we can centralise knowledge of procedures and offer advice, but we cannot offer a standard representative because parents have to be free to choose who can assist them in these sensitive matters. We should spread the information that we can offer this type of support to parents and clearly state what we can and can't do at their request. Ms Alkhafaji proposes to create a Wiki page where all questions, answers, and suggestions on this topic may be posted.

1. Adoption of the Agenda.

The agenda is adopted.

2. Adoption of the Minutes of 2/05/2024.

The Board Minutes of 2/05/2024 are adopted without any remarks.

3. Recruitment status: Director and Interim Director.

Ms Cosco, the Chair of the Selection Panel, informs the Board that our parents' association has received 49 applications via LinkedIn and email for the post of the new APEEE Director. All CVs and cover letters



have been analysed and evaluated by the selection panel and a list of seven candidates will be invited for interviews as of 17th June 2024. It is agreed that the full list of selected interviewed candidates will be presented to the Board in order of preference for nomination. According to Article 10.4 of the APEEE Statutes, the Administrative Board appoints a director to whom it delegates the daily management of the association, and who is invited to its meetings where she/he will have the right to intervene and to contribute to the agenda.

The Vice-President for Administrative Affairs informs the Board that the selection panel has not reached a common agreement on the selection of an interim director who should fill the gap until the nomination of a new Director.

Some Board members share their points of view on the recruitment process. Mr Grigorescu-Negri submits to the Board a PowerPoint presentation that indicates: the timeline followed for the recruitment process, the status of applications, the principles that should be followed for the selection process of the director and the interim director and the two proposed options for the vote on how to select the director and the interim director. Ms Cosco explains that the recruitment process for the interim director needs to be launched as soon as possible to give Mr Rega appropriate time to ensure the handover of the interim Director and transmit all the files. The interim director needs to have the support of the APEEE managers and collaborate with them. The amount of the bonus paid to the interim director will depend on our proper financial analysis and will be decided by the Board.

Action: It is agreed that the Board will launch the recruitment of an interim director among the APEEE staff members. The selected candidate will be nominated for this interim position by written procedure. In the meantime, the recruitment process of the director will be active. If no candidate meets the requirements, the recruitment process for the director's position will be relaunched at a later date.

4. Somerfestio Debrief.

Angela Guarino gives a brief report on the 2024 Somerfestio edition. She informs the Board that the 2024 Somerfestio programme has been enriched with new activities in collaboration with the school: music, dance, and science, and all the nice 77 Somerfestio logo designs from P1 to S7 pupils have been posted on the APEEE website. She explains that the 2024 Somerfestio Committee is made up of the same Board members as last year: Jane Okafor, Johanna Alkhafaji, Dan Nicolae, Josephine Norris, Diane Werhert, and herself. She emphasises that Somerfestio is a big event that requires a lot of work and effort, so we should open up the possibility of having committee members from outside the Board next year. We also need more parents who bring their contribution to next year's Somerfestio and more volunteer coordinators to coordinate volunteers.

With regard to the Somerfestio budget, which was approved by the Board last December, she explains that the figures on incomes are final, but our expenses are still provisional as we are still paying some invoices for the Somerfestio. The details of expenses will be published on the WIKI platform, and the details of the amounts and the distribution of profits will be discussed by the Board in September and October 2024.

Ms Guarino identifies the main hiccups. There were some difficulties with token distribution and bracelet delivery, last minute and late requests from food stands, the list generated by the APEEE application was difficult to read, and we need to better inform all parents on the philosophy around the event.

She suggests that event representatives should be trained at the beginning of the school year about the purpose of the food stand and what the Somerfestio is, etc. Monitors should also be trained to be strict about the rules to ensure that they ask for tokens when students do not have bracelets. We should foresee extra days for ticket distribution pre-event, think about a different means of pre-sale for tokens and bracelets, and publish a clear no-refund policy. Ms Guarino informs the Board that the Somerfestio



Committee asked parents to return their unused tokens to the APEEE office. This will ensure that we can continue organizing future Somerfestos events. In addition, it will help us to cover expenses within our annual Somerfesto budget and allow us to reuse the same tokens next year. The amount spent for the unused tokens cannot be refunded but parents can choose to donate the unused tokens to the Community Fund or buy Somerfesto T-shirts.

Finally, Ms Guarino thanked all Somerfesto Committee members for their work, especially Ms Werhert who will be leaving the APEEE Board at the end of June. On behalf of the APEEE Board, the APEEE President thanked Ms Werhert for her dedication and hard work over the years.

5. Update from the Pedagogical Team.

Ms Puia Morel, the Vice-President for Pedagogical Affairs, gives a quick update on pedagogical issues and announces that the next Pedagogical meeting will be held next week. She informs the Board that the APEEE Pedagogical Team dealt with several topics: B-tests, teachers' absences, and tried to mediate individual cases. She clarifies that we can discuss individual cases in our monthly meeting with the school, but we will discuss general issues in the Education Council.

Ms Puia Morel announces there will be a School Inspection meeting from 11 to 15 November 2024 and we will be called as parents' representatives in front of the Inspection Committee to give our perspective as parents. She encourages board members to focus on a few points that are important to us and send their inputs.

Action: Board members who are unable to attend the upcoming Pedagogical meeting are cordially invited to look at the Whole-School Inspection document and provide their inputs to Dana Puia Morel and Johanna Alkhafaji for forwarding to the school.

6. Finances:

-Board vote.

The treasurer will launch the vote on Wiki platform as soon as additional information is provided by Mr Rega, Ms Awa Sissoko and Mr Pilatos.

-To be discussed:

Vote: comments and conditionality (example Kiva end of financing).

Mr Petrovski informs the Board that the school management has taken into account the APEEE Board's decision not to fund KIVA projects in the future. It is clarified that Kiva projects will be directly funded by parents next year.

-Idea: Buy materials to hold a hybrid meeting.

Postponed.

7. KIVA:

- Request:

-Info: Action: follow-up by member (wiki tool).

Postponed.

8. AOB.

- Communication for Somerfesto.

Ms Alkhafaji makes some comments on communication in general and on Somerfesto in particular. She noticed that for the same communication sent to parents, we received both comments: too little



information or too much information. She states that it is important to find a way of communicating things that the majority of people may read. For this purpose, we tried to keep our emails short with a link to the APEEE website, but some parents did not click on the link and complained about the lack of information.

For the Somerfest, there was a misunderstanding because we used the word 'reusable tokens' in our communication with parents. Ms Alkhafaji clarifies that we have never refunded Somerfest tickets or allowed parents to buy Somerfest tickets this year to keep them next year.

-Organisation and coordination:

- Board meetings' schedule for 2024-2025.

It is agreed that the next Board meeting will be held on 6th September 2024 at lunchtime.

- Board meetings' structure.

Ms Canova, the APEEE Board Secretary, thinks that we should reflect on how to structure our meetings in the future and have dedicated meetings on specific topics.

-Department and WG meetings.

The Board Secretary would like all APEEE meetings of departments and WGs to be added to the calendar on the Wiki platform with times and links. She suggests that Board members adopt this new rule.

-Call for volunteers among category II or III parents (Interparents).

Ms Brofferio informs the Board that the Interparents has asked for a category II or III parent from Laeken to attend the Working Group meeting on school fees.

Ms Alkhafaji has kindly agreed to be designated as representative until another person is appointed. The online meeting of the working group on school fees will take place at the end of June.

The Board meeting ends at 2:55 pm.