

Brussels Thursday, 5th December 2024

Online Administrative Board meeting via Teams: 12:37-14:27

Present: Johanna Alkhafaji, Marzia Brofferio, Pavlina Canova, Marianna Cosco, Alexandre Grigorescu-Negri, Angela Guarino, Dan Nicolae, Jane Okafor, Ionut-Adrian Sandu, Marius Serbeniuc, Adja Awa Sissoko, Iordan Toujarov, Pénélope Vlandas.

Absent : Rachel Aviotti, Josephine Norris.

Excused : Noémie Hangya-Lachmann, Tzvetomir Penev, Stefan Petrovski, Dana Adriana Puia Morel.

Proxy : Tzvetomir Penev to Pavlina Canova, Stefan Petrovski to Adja Awa Sissoko, Dana Adriana Puia Morel to Johanna Alkhafaji, Iordan Toujarov to Pavlina Canova at 1:18 pm.

Guest: Beatriz Soler Navarro, the Director of the APEEE of Brussels IV, Manuela Pamio, secretariat of the APEEE of Brussels IV.

Minutes 5.12.2024

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

1. Adoption of the Agenda.

Adopted.

2. Adoption of the Minutes of 7/11/2024.

Adopted without any remarks.

3. Update -IP pre-BoG meeting held in Munich.

Ms Brofferio, the IP representative from Laeken, took part in a two-day meeting with other IP representatives in Munich. The aim was to discuss and prepare the IP interventions for the next Board of Governors meeting scheduled for 2-5 December 2024. Several topics were discussed: the mobility programme for pupils from and to the European Schools, Well-being in European Schools, the school calendar for the next academic year, overcrowding in European Schools, etc.

Ms Brofferio informs the Board that new guidelines for organizing Students' Mobility from and to the European Schools have been published on the school's website. Regarding the roles, she explains that European schools will have major responsibilities and duties and we, as Parents' Associations, will support the search for host families but we are not obliged to find host families or to make any type of assessment. Parents' associations can help with translations if necessary and find better ways of communication between the two families and students. The search for host families for S5 students should already start in February for the next academic year and all EEBIV families may host a visiting pupil. Another topic discussed was the well-being in European schools. Unfortunately, in the last three years, there have been some tragic events with teenagers' suicides in different European schools. She explains that there is no real framework or common policy on how to deal with these tragic events, but the idea is to try to figure out if it is possible to have something more specific on this subject. She also reports on the IP discussions on seconded teachers held in Munich. She explains that the request of



parents is to have seconded teachers from each country who know how to support kids with special needs.

There is a derogation for countries that instead of sending seconded teachers they can give money to hire local teachers who have the skills and knowledge to be in the school premises longer. Interparents will push hard in a way that if the mission and the vision of the European School is to be inclusive, teachers have to be able to deal with different needs of pupils in the primary language in L1 and also for secondary. In parallel, Ms Brofferio reports on the decision taken at the BoG meeting regarding the BAC 2025 and the school calendar for the next academic year. One of the main discussions at the Bog is to make sure that the Belgian Government gives assurances about the prolongation of Evere and the delivery of the fifth European School.

Finally, the President of the APEEE of Brussels IV announced that the opening of the 5th European School in Brussels would be postponed from 2028 to 2030. The four APEEEs of the European Schools in Brussels do not have a common position on the future of the temporary Evere site. Interparents will abstain on this issue.

4. Finances.

- Annual accounts 2022/2023
- Annual accounts 2023/2024
- Budget 2024/2025

Ms Soler Navarro, the APEEE Director, explains the financial updates. She announces that we will receive the 2022/2023 audit report from E&Y, the audit firm, tomorrow or Monday 9th December 2024 at the latest. Regarding the 2023/2024 annual accounts, we have discovered some double payments to bus companies and some errors in coding of data from the previous year. She informs the Board that these issues have been resolved, and that we have a positive result of €88,000 for 2023/2024.

Action: The APEEE Director will contact the external financial experts to start preparing the documents to be shared with auditors as early as next Monday. We need to have the audit report for the 2023-2024 school year. She emphasized that all documents to be submitted to the GA must be approved at the next January's Board meeting and published on the APEEE website.

Finally, the APEEE Director presents the draft budget for the 2024-2025 school year. She analyses the preliminary figures for the General Affairs, Canteen, Transport and Extra-curricular services, Somerfestos and the Community Fund. She explains that, in order to have a positive result, we need to increase the transport prices. The 2024-2025 results for the canteen, transport and extracurricular activities are positive and in line with 2% of profits. She states that she is waiting for the Social Fund budget and that a final version of the 2024-2025 APEEE budget will be shared with the Board via e-mail and Wiki before the Christmas holidays.

Ms Sissoko, the Board member in charge of the canteen services, thanks Ms Soler Navarro for all the work done as well as Mr Petrovski, the APEEE treasurer. She draws the attention of the Board to the fact that the financial situation of the canteen service is improving every year after years of budgetary difficulties. Thanks to the work done in the last three years by Mr Pilatos, the canteen manager, and his team, last year we reached a balance in the Food and Beverage APEEE Department, and now we also have a surplus.

Action: At the request of the President, it is agreed that a special meeting on the budget will be held before the Christmas holidays. The meeting will be restricted to the Director, the President, the



Treasurer, the VP for Administrative affairs, the Board members in charge of each service, the service managers. The aim is to discuss all the details of the budget and come up with a final draft version of the 2024-2025 budget. This final version will be submitted to the Board for approval in early January.

Finally, the President introduces another item. He informs the Board that EY, the audit firm, has a mandate to conduct the statutory audit of the Annual Accounts of our Parents' Association until 2025. He asks the Board to give him and the APEEE Director a mandate to discuss with EY the possibility of ending the contract with them and finding other auditors. It is emphasized that EY is a very good auditing company, but they are not specialised in AISBL. If the Board decides to terminate the EY's mandate early, the usual procedure will be followed, two or three offers will be submitted to the Board before making a decision. Ms Sissoko would like to review the description of the duties of a Board member on the Wiki platform, as this information could be very useful for candidates for election to the Board.

5. Extracurricular service.

- Manager Replacement (Temporary replacement: maternity leave)

In camera.

6. Funding for Social Fund.

Ms Okafor, the Chair of the Social Fund Committee (SFC), informs the Board that the SFC has received some requests for funding especially for the mandatory school trips, but the Social Fund has no funds to cover these requests. She draws the Board's attention to the fact that if funds are not transferred to the Social Fund, funding requests will be refused. The APEEE President explains that the Social Fund is financed by the APEEE provided that our budget is positive, and the Community Fund is financed by the Somerfest profits. Ms Alkhafaji believes that we should first prioritize the Social Fund and assist parents in need. Subsequently, if we have additional funds, we could assist schools in funding school's events such as Fames.

Ms Vlandas explains that the cost of school trips for the UA pupils should not be covered by the SF but as agreed by the school, and that we could give an advance from the 2024-2025 budget to the Social Fund.

The APEEE President proposes that, as the 2023-2024 budget is positive, we could launch a vote on Wiki platform and transfer the amount of €5.000 (amount requested by the SFC) from the Somerfest account to the Social Fund account instead of the Community Fund account.

Action: Ms Canova will launch a vote on Wiki next Monday 8/12/2024.

Finally, Mr Nicolae informs the Board that there will be a special meeting focused on the APEEE budget soon followed by a Board meeting in the second week of January 2025. He announces that the first meeting of the newly elected Board will be held in person. It is important to inform candidates that Board meetings are generally held online, and once or twice a year in person. It could be useful to publish the duty of a Board member on the APEEE website, explaining that there are two meetings per month, one for the whole Board and the other for the Executive Committee.

The Board meeting ends at 2:27 pm.