

21st June 2022 Board Meeting

Date: Tuesday 21st June 2022 from 19h to 23h

Location: In situ (Teachers' Canteen) and online (Teams)

Present in situ: Eleonora APPONI BATTINI – Bengt DAVIDSSON – Catarina DUARTE GOMES – Ursula HÖNICH – Maija KNUTTI – Mario MARINIELLO – Wolfgang MÜNCH – Monika SZULYOSZKY – David ZELINGER

Present online: Alexander CORNFORD – Sebastian GUERRERO – Gaspar MOLNAR – Kevin SMITH – Ulrike STOROST

Absent: Monika BARABASZ-LOPES – Christian BONDESON-EGGERT – Pim GESQUIERE – Andrea GRGIĆ – Nicolas LACROIX – Bruno LARANJEIRA – Roberta MAGGIO – Johanna SCHULYOK – Giacomo Marco SOMMA

Others: Anja GALLE – Julien DANAN – Clémence EUGENE – Ferhan PELISTER

Agenda Points

The Board agrees to add the following point to the agenda if time allows: shelter issue on the Evere site.

1. Approval of the agenda

The Board unanimously approves the agenda.

2. Approval of the report of the 3/5/2022 Board meeting

The Board unanimously approves the report.

Discussion points and vote

1. Announcement and way ahead, debrief on strategic points

Wolfgang Münch regrets to announce he will have to step down as President of the APEEE Board by the beginning of September 2022. Therefore, the Board will need to elect a new Board President, by September 2022. The following points are considered strategic items on which the Board needs to allocate time and attention.

Future of Language Sections

Debate on the structure of the language section, which has the potential to divide the community. It is important for the Board to be united. Encourage the sections to share their opinion and reflexions on the paper.

Agreement on Security & Safety

The APEEEs have fought for a long time for a school commitment on safe spaces for the APEEE. The services need to formalise the outcome.

Action Point: W. Münch will send the document around and will give a hand in case the person taking over the matter needs input and advice on the topic.

Future of the Canteen

The school requested the canteen refectory to use as an examination hall during multiple weeks per year, and/or to refurbish the refectory as classes due to overcrowding. The Board needs to find a way, in which the APEEE can be helpful and push the school into a debate.

New Statutes

Importance to move forward with the new statutes. The statutes need to be approved during the next AGM. Need to generate some involvement in the parent community, to publish the information on multiple platforms.

Rule Book

To prevent any outburst during the future AGMs, the APEEE Board should draft a rule book (voting procedures, elections, etc). The outcome should be published and shared with the parents to prevent any accusations of transparency.

2. [APEEE Invoicing rules/ terms & conditions](#)

J. Danan and S. Guerrero explain the changes suggested to the invoicing rules and terms & conditions for the APEEE services. The invoicing rules would be available clearly on the website. The changes would be

- *We propose to have all three services invoiced to families in the same way: 1 invoice per trimester.*
- *We propose to have fixed prices per trimester and per service.*
- *Discontinue family discounts for the canteen service.*
- *For périscolaire, we propose to maintain the possibility to enrol at any time and to improve the invoicing calculation: in case of a new enrolment during any given trimester, only the % of time remaining in the trimester will be invoiced*
- *For périscolaire, we propose to simplify this by only making it possible to cancel an activity or to enrol to a new activity (no more direct modifications). In case of cancellation of an extra-curricular activity, the unused sessions (% of remaining time in the trimester) will be credited back to the family account in the form of a voucher. The voucher can be used to enrol to a new other extra-curricular activity within the school year and can be used by any child within the family. The voucher expires at the end of the school year. The individual lessons are the only exclusion: a voucher would not be created in case of a cancellation of an individual lesson and the entire trimester would be invoiced.*

If the Board agrees, the invoicing rules and terms & conditions will be mailed to all parents to allow time for them to cancel registrations in case they do not agree with the new procedures.

Decision: the Board agrees unanimously on the updated invoicing rules and terms & conditions.

3. [Electric buses 2022-2023](#)

S. Guerrero presents the electric bus situation. S. Guerrero, H.H. Nguyen and A. Galle met with two providers (currently providing buses for the APEEE). During the 2021-2022, a joint call of tender was discussed with the other APEEEs, but the prices were not good and the APEEE Bxl II removed itself from the call of tender.

S. Guerrero presents the budget plan for 2022-2023, depending on the number of electric buses the APEEE decides to move forward with. The Transport working group voted for 4 electric buses, 2 buses should enter the APEEE Bxl II fleet by September 2022 and were agreed on in 2021 by the previous Board. Therefore, the APEEE Bxl II will acquire a minimum of 2 electric buses by 2023.

The buses are not bought by the APEEE, but by the provider the APEEE works with. Therefore, the APEEE does not own the electric buses.

The Board discusses the contracts and how many buses the APEEE should move forward with. The Board votes on a maximum contract of 3 years with electric buses. **The majority of the Board agrees with a maximum of 3 yearlong contract.** Gaspar Molnar and Mario Mariniello abstain.

The Board discusses to allow a *marge de manoeuvre* of maximum 7% on the prices and hand over the matter to the Transport working group coordinator, to gather new numbers and present them to the Board in September 2022.

Action Point: S. Guerrero to look into new numbers (following the decision to only work with a maximum of 3year contract) and come back to the Board in September 2022.

4. Future of language sections.

The Office of the Secretary General of the European Schools (OSGES) issued a second draft of the option paper for the future structure of language sections in Brussels. The second draft was sent to all parents asking and highly recommending reading the draft and come back with comments and feedback.

On the options, nothing changed. Suggestions provided by the APEEE, and stakeholders were not considered.

The **first option** keeps classical European schools, i.e. schooling from M1 to S7. This option includes the fifth school in Neder-Over-Heembeek close to the Military Hospital. In 2028, not all sections would remain in the schools where they are located today. This means phasing out of sections in certain schools. For our school it most probably means that Evere will turn into a primary site and Woluwe into a large secondary site.

The **second option** remains a campus model of three stages, i.e. primary, lower secondary and upper secondary. This would mean that several schools might turn into primary schools, others in lower secondary schools and then some into upper secondary schools. From a practical point of view, this requires extensive construction works and refitting of equipment in all schools. Knowing how the Régie des Bâtiments works, it will certainly be a challenge to get all the works concluded before 2028. However, this approach would create more schooling places and educational opportunities.

Suggestion for the Board members, as section representatives, to get in touch with other section representatives of other European Schools of Brussels, and if there are grievances, to contact their Board of Governors representatives.

The Board discusses the topic and agrees to recapitulate the concerns sent to them as section representatives and send them to W. Münch prior to the 30th of June 2022 meeting.

5. Future of the canteen, update on meeting with school on canteen.

A follow up meeting to the CEES was held between the school management and some of the Board members on 9/5/2022 and on 10/6/2022, regarding the request of the canteen refectory to hold exams for multiple weeks a year. During 2022-2023 school year the school will not have the space required to hold exams and requested the refectory at first for 12 weeks. During the 10/6/2022 meeting they confirmed it would only be for 8 weeks. Multiple solutions were offered and discussed to the school (renting facilities, using the Evere site, using the sports hall, etc) but all were turned down for various reasons.

The school wishes to explore the possibility to reduce the weeks of canteen closure below 8 weeks, and to explore the possibility for the commission to pay for the closure. The MOU and the legal advice provided to the APEEE confirm the school cannot take away the refectory. Currently no decisions have been taken nor by the APEEE nor by the school.

The Board agrees it needs to inform the parents and survey how much do they value the food for their children. Need to demonstrate to the school that the parents value other items including pedagogical as school provisions.

6. OIB – APEEE Convention 2022-2023.

K. Smith presents the OIB Convention topic. Following a meeting held with the OIB representatives, the convention proposed did not allow renegotiations of prices more than once a year and contained no 'get out' clause. The OIB has given the APEEE up to the end of June to sign the Convention. The members agree to send the document including the lawyer's comments to the OIB and ask them for their feedback.

Any other business

1. Social Fund request CDE Welcome event first day of school 5th September 2022.

K. Smith sent prior to the Board meeting, the CDE and School request to provide a sandwich on the 1st day of school (5th September) to +/- 715 students and to fund the sandwiches with the Social Fund account. K. Smith informs, following a vote in the Budget Working Group, 5 were against and 3 voted in favour of using the Social Fund for the event. The Board discusses the use of another APEEE fund and unanimously agrees to support the CDE initiative. Since the cost for providing the sandwiches is 2716 euro, which is within the mandate of the APEEE Director, the decision from which APEEE fund (canteen, Social Fund, General Affaires) the sandwiches are to be provided can be taken by the APEEE Director. Board members agree to proceed this way.

2. Ukrainian students' enrolment for next year 2023-2024.

The currently admitted Ukrainian pupils will be allowed to continue their scholarship at EEB2 for the 2022-2023 school year, as long as they acquire the required knowledge in the L1 language at school (French or English).

Suggestion to write a letter to the school and underline that, as it is the practice at EEBs, any student who enters the school is given the opportunity, through learning support, to be brought up to speed in their L1. Suggestion to look into what private lessons for a group of students would cost and other programs in the city for intensive language courses.

Action Point: Write a letter to the school management to underline the learning support provided.

D. Zelinger to look into how much private support lessons, intensive courses (FR/EN) would cost.

Action Point: Look into residential programs(FR/EN) for non-native French speakers/English speakers in Brussels.

3. **Evere site Shelter**

The Evere parents inform there are no covered/sheltered waiting area on the Evere school site. Solutions were brought to Mrs Malik's attention but were turned down for various reasons.

Action Point: M. Mariniello to contact Mrs Malik and ask if permission would be granted to install a tent for shelter if funds were found amongst parents.

Next Board meeting is scheduled on Tuesday 20 September 2022.