

## Board Meeting Report

**Date:** Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> May from 19h to 22h05

**Location:** ZOOM (online)

**Present:** Vanessa Aulehla – Bengt Davidsson – Pim Gesquiere – Andrea Grgić – Anna Grömer – Giles Houghton-Clarke – Raquel Jimenez Lopez – Szilvia Kalman – Natalia Karpenko – Ona Kostinaitė-Grinkevičienė – Roberta Maggio – Minna Melleri – Christine Pyka – Johanna Schulyok – Kevin Smith – Michael Teutsch – Marjo Toivo – Anna Yavorska – David Zelinger

**Others :** Anja Galle – Ferhan Pelister – Clémence Eugene

**Absent:** Tatiana Almeida – Sebastian Guerrero – Catarina Duarte Gomes

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### I. Agenda Points

The Board votes on the agenda: **13 yes 93% - 1 no 7% - 0 Abstain 0%**

**The agenda is approved by majority.**

Few members disagree on voting on the Board minutes as they did not have time to read the Board reports as the final and amended version was sent the same day, and dispute parts of the minutes of the 4<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> March 2021. In particular they contest, that it was stated at the AGM before the election of the new members that anyone joining the Board was required to sign the Confidentiality agreement. On the date of AGM, they claim, no confidentiality agreement was obliging the Board. They also request that the final versions of minutes and the agenda for the future meetings is sent to the Board in reasonable time before the meeting. The point is made that these minutes have been circulated to the Board several weeks beforehand, have already been discussed before, some already twice, and now need to be finalized and approved. Furthermore the Chair states that the requirement to sign the confidentiality agreement was explicitly stated in the AGM and is further stated in the newsletter circulated after the Board meeting. This is confirmed by some Board members and contested by some others. The Board discusses the issue and agree to put the minutes to vote.

**The Board votes on the Board reports:**

*Approval of the Board report of 15/2/2021 : 15 yes 94% - 2 no 15% - 1 abstain 6%*

*Approval of the Board report of 04/3/2021 : 14 yes 78% - 2 no 11% - 2 abstain 11%*

*Approval of the Board report of 15/3/2021 : 14 yes 74% - 3 no 16% - 2 abstain 11%*

*Approval of the Board report of 31/3/2021 : 13 yes 68% - 4 no 21% - 2 abstain 11%*

**The four Board meeting reports have been approved by majority.**

### II. Points for vote

The top-up document prepared in the Budget Working group has been sent to all board members prior to the meeting.

**The Board votes on the top-up:**

*Does the board support the prolongation of the top up policy of our staff based on the projection up to the end of the financial year of a max. amount of 23.670,58€ and without creating a precedent for any decision to be taken for the next financial year?:*  
**15 yes 83% - 1 no 6% - 2 abstain 11%**

**The Board approves the top-up by majority, 83%.**

### III. Discussion Points

#### A. Tragic event of last week – APEEE actions going forward with respect to pupil wellbeing.

Following the passing of a student on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> May, a meeting was held last on 6<sup>th</sup> May 2021 by the HSS working group.

The meeting discussed how to support pupils and the school. Board members report many questions from parents and the desire for a reflection on whether any changes need to be made to policies on antibullying.

Following a meeting on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> May, held by the one section, a common request to ask the school to have an analysis to see if there were any gaps has arisen.

A feeling shared by a majority of that section parents present at the meeting on Friday is that the students say they do not trust the school system (psychologist, teachers, etc.) for such issues. The section has put forward the need to take concrete actions. They have stated that they will support the APEEE in asking the school to engage in a root cause analysis initiative. Several Members support this initiative. Some other Members supported the root cause analysis upon a request of the parents of the deceased student. Another section also raised the need for the school to launch a root cause analysis.

Members raise what the APEEE as an associate and partner to the school, could do. Parents are interested to know in what has been done and what concrete actions have been put in place. Suggestion to reach out to the Secretary General and reiterate the need of more wellbeing resources in school.

The Board discussed different possible actions that could be envisaged and discussed with the school It is agreed to communicate these concerns to the school and request a meeting is convened for this purpose:

- What additional support can be provided/made available to pupils?
- Re-analyze the outcomes of the wellbeing survey launched in 2020
- Increase the communication regarding the wellbeing projects and objectives?
- Involvement of stakeholders such as pupils teachers and parents in crisis response team
- Assessment and potential upgrading if needed of current policies in respect of anti-bullying, child protection, grief/loss
- Suggestion to implement KIVA in EEB2.
- Give a broader role and function to the Wellbeing Advisory Board (discuss follow up actions)

**Action Point:** B. Davidsson to gather actions and suggestions to create a useful dialogue with the school and how can the APEEE participate in the process and report back to the parents.

**Action Point:** to ask for an urgent meeting with Ms Malik, Ms Meeus, M. Schmelz, M. Cregan, M. Van De Capelle on this matter and to see what more can be done in terms of creating a crisis response approach and to ensure other pupils are safeguarded.

The Board will need to inform the parents that the APEEE has taken the issues up with the school and what they plan on speaking about.

**Action Point:** draft letter to Ms Malik to organise a meeting

**Action Point:** draft a letter for the parents to inform them what actions the APEEE has taken and that the APEEE is proactively reacting. The letter would identify the topics that will be raised with the director. D. Zelinger and N. Karpenko volunteer to help draft the letter.

#### B. [Last 2 weeks of school.](#)

The 4 Brussels schools have announced that school will be for half days only during the last two weeks and for pupils doing B-tests and exams, school will end once these are completed (S5-S7)

The APEEE has forwarded to the school management the letter prepared by the EEB1 APEEE requesting that this decision is reversed. APEEE EEB3 has also supported this position. APEEE EEB4 does not support this position. EEB1 are intending to contact the office of Commissioner Hahn to request a meeting on this topic. Question is asked of whether the APEEE at EEB2 should be present in such meetings. It is agreed that it should.

**Action Point:** G. Houghton-Clarke to confirm that he will attend the meeting.

OIB Parents have received an email on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> May on the OIB services stating the garderies would receive the children when they finish their school day. The garderies will “adapt their timetable”.

A clear majority of Members oppose the cutting short of the last two weeks of school, in particular for nursery and primary. Questions regarding whether this can be without approval through the Admin Boards or discussion with stakeholders. View is expressed that the additional time could be better used in Secondary for helping pupils catch up, as there is significant concern about pupils having fallen behind due to the difficult circumstances of teaching and learning during the pandemic with the risk that more may fail the year. It is stated that for primary and nursery, the arguments presented by the school for significant additional time needed for class councils are not convincing. The APEEE is also concerned that no precedent should be set such that the supposed 180 days of schooling that is to be provided is further compromised. Some Members support the cutting short of the last two weeks of

school. They mention that teachers should not be put in a position to participate in class councils until late in the night. Since the School and the OIB will organize child care in the afternoon for nursery and primary children, parents will not have problems to balance their professional and private lives.

The plan for this period is discussed. The school will arrange activities for Primary and Nursery pupils during periods 7 & 8. No arrangements will be made for Secondary pupils. Parents may collect their children directly from the school as of lunchtime (12:50). The APEEE will run normal bus service at 15:30 with bus monitors. It will endeavor to add a service at 13:00 but as it cannot provide bus monitors on this service, so only Secondary pupils will be allowed to use it.

A service to the OIB Garderie will also be arranged.

C. Secondary assessment and failure rates.

*Points to be raised for the CEES meeting (18th May)*

- Ask for information on what is going to happen and in case of evidence of learning difficulties and results being lower, what could be done to remedy.
- Address the situation, the support and the issue of promotion (will they be lenient – strict – flexible approach to see that everybody is promoted this year).
- The CEES representatives will ask the school to be lenient and not have a higher failure rate.
- Ask to organize the educational support for the students that are at risk this year and organize it upstream.

A letter with the questions has been sent to M. Schmelz prior to the meeting on the 18<sup>th</sup> May.

*Meeting postponed to Wednesday 19th May.*

**Following the approval (80%) during the last Board meeting on the time limit for the Board meetings. The items that have not been dealt within the time limit, will be automatically postponed to the next Board meeting which will take place on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> May.**

- D. New school policy of preventing contact between APEEE and CDE.
- E. Zero emissions buses.
- F. SAC debrief.
- G. Confidentiality agreement.
- H. EGM.
- I. COI.
- J. Working groups:
  - a. Digital citizenship WG.
- K. AGM date.
- IV. Any other business
- V. End of session (22:05)