

Board Meeting Report

Date: Wednesday 19th May from 19h to 22h20

Location: ZOOM (online)

Present: Vanessa Aulehla – Bengt Davidsson – Catarina Duarte Gomes – Pim Gesquiere – Sebastian Guerrero – Andrea Grgić – Giles Houghton-Clarke – Raquel Jimenez Lopez – Szilvia Kálmán – Natalia Karpenko – Ona Kostinaitė-Grinkevičienė – Roberta Maggio – Minna Melleri – Johanna Schulyok – Kevin Smith – Michael Teutsch – Marjo Toivo – David Zelinger

Others: Anja Galle – Clémence Eugene

Absent: Tatiana Almeida – Anna Grömer – Christine Pyka – Anna Yavorska

I – Agenda points

The Board votes on the agenda: **16 Yes 100% - 0 No 0% - 0 abstain 0%.**

The agenda is approved by majority.

Members raise topics they wish to discuss under “AOB – Any Other Business” during the meeting. The added topics are:

- Corona concern due to the spacing during the breaks
- Highlights of CHS meeting
- Highlights from CEES meeting
- Info on Evere Security
- Indication of votes in the minutes

II – Discussion points

A. New school policy of preventing contact between APEEE and CDE

Information is given concerning the new school policy on contact between APEEE and CDE. It is discussed how the APEEE will respond and find a solution. Members discuss different approaches to find a solution to work with the CDE and the school. The APEEE needs to work with the CDE and consider the CDE Committee as a partner.

Board agrees (13 Board members in favor 1 Board member said no, 4 Board members abstain) to follow a course of action, which is to:

- Inform CoSup,
- Inform Interparent,
- Write to Mr. Beckman to ask for a meeting between APEEE Board members, Ms Malik and Mr. Beckman to discuss.

B. Zero emissions buses

The transport working group coordinator had a meeting with other APEEE transport coordinators from the other European schools and discussed the following:

- Speak as one voice regarding the communication and contacts with the bus companies, and that the greening of the buses is a common ambition.
- The cost linked to the zero emissions ambition: the APEEEs Transport Coordinators discussed to find a solution at a strategic level within the Commission, and to engage with the parents to promote the ambition.

Members discuss further solutions and suggest mentioning in the upcoming newsletter to mobilize the parents working for the institutions to create a political momentum for carbon neutrality and zero emissions in the EEBs.

Action Point: to investigate additional alternatives (CNG, ...)

C. [SAC debrief](#)

The SAC meeting was held on 30th April, the following topics were discussed:

Evere: 30% of the construction was destroyed in the fire. A contingency plan has been previously established by a working group comprising Mr. Pála , Ms Malik and Mr. Houghton-Clarke. Ms Malik has identified and secured the agreement for a temporary site with the local commune, in the event that the Evere school is not ready in time. A security review at the Evere site will be organized by the RdB, the Commission and OIB were invited to participate. With regards to the terrorism trials and any associated security risk, details of how this will be managed are still awaited from the Federal Ministry of Justice.

Action Point: G. Houghton-Clarke to enquire of the Secretary General if any information has been provided on the security arrangements

Bus facilities of Evere: the APEEE has asked for 40 bus spaces but will only receive 30. This will prevent the service covering all areas of Brussels, hence more parents will need to drive their children to the school. This is not anticipated to be a problem in the first year as the number of pupils will be low. Furthermore, the RdB has finally replied to the business requirements submitted by the APEEE in November for the Bus parking area. It has not agreed to most of these. The school and APEEE will discuss how to address this issue as the lack of certain key facilities will hinder the APEEE ability to run the service

SAC meetings: K. Malik has proposed to reorganize the SAC and to have more regular meetings, introducing *petit SACs*, which meets more frequently. K. Malik stated she would send a proposal but has not sent her draft yet.

School assessment: the School has to publish a report which details how they organize assessments, which is the follow up of the assessment done in 2018. The APEEE Board representatives have provided comments on the draft report. The teachers' representatives stated they were lacking support to improve how assessments are done. D. Cregan is looking into how they can assess with digital tools. The School has commented they will add a chapter on educational support for special needs.

Safety and security: K. Malik has asked for prevention and protection committees which are legally required in every structure with more than 50 staff members. Different levels of groups have been created, a high-level group composed of 3 members (herself and administrative representatives), a second level group with stakeholders, third level group related to fire drill and infrastructure issues. Information on formalities have been requested by the APEEE Board on the implementation of these Committees.

Overheating of primary building: A ventilation system will be installed in Quarter 4 of this year. This will be a complete solution to manage air circulation and temperatures. The APEEE has asked what will be done for this year – at present there is no solution. .

Quick covid testing for students (in Belgium and EEB): the rapid testing is being done for teachers, but the Belgian schools confirm they do not have the resources to test the students on a mass basis. The APEEE has suggested to K. Malik to test when clusters occur, and not to test the entire school population. It is understood that EEB1 are exploring such a policy. K. Malik will inquire with EEB1.

Teacher outcome internal research on mental wellbeing: results show a high level of stress amongst teachers. The APEEE Board is awaiting a copy to share with the entire Board and confirmation about sharing the document with parent community.

Pedagogical impact in secondary: discussion on failure rates in S5 and B tests in S4, proving to be highly stressful for pupils. During the SAC, question regarding what was going to be done in terms of learning support and in terms of mitigation. J. Schmelz has confirmed he has not ruled out providing more learning support or taking into account the pandemic when decisions are made about who will pass or fail the year

Last two weeks of school: The school management wish to end school early for years S5 and S6 and to have half days in both the Nursery/Primary and Secondary schools for the last 2 weeks. The reason given is the need to hold more lengthy class councils than usual given the impact of the pandemic on learning outcomes.

The APEEE has expressed concern at the shortening of the school year and pointed to the regulations requiring 180 days schooling and for class councils to be held outside teaching hours. The APEEE would be in favour of using the extra time provided by the cancellation of the BAC orals to help pupils in Secondary catch up with the schooling that has suffered during this period or for other constructive purposes. It is not explained why Nursery and Primary need extra time for Class Councils as they have experienced almost full in situ teaching so no different to a normal year. Ending school early will be very difficult for Primary and Nursery parents who are working and cannot take time off for childcare in the afternoons.

The Board discusses the risk of mixing bubbles and the bus service for the pupils for the last two weeks of school. Letters from EEB1 APEEE and parents have been circulated to the School management and OSGES. Suggestion to send a communication about the services in due time.

Action Point: send an email to the school management bringing up the mixing bubbles concern and suggesting making the presence during the last two weeks of school voluntary.

The Board votes *“do you support forwarding EEB1 letter to the same recipients with our support?”* : 12 yes 67% - 4 no 22% - 2 abstain 11%.

The Board approves forwarding the letter by majority.

Action Point: President to forward EEB1 letter to the same recipients with the Boards' support.

D. [Confidentiality agreement](#)

The APEEE lawyer has stated during the AGM that the signing and drafting of the confidentiality agreement is a decision that is taken by the Board not by the General Assembly. The Board discusses the matter and agrees to consult the DPO for a second opinion.

Action Point: contact the DPO for a second opinion.

Next Board meeting on Tuesday 1 June 2021.