

30 March 2022 Extraordinary Board Meeting

Date: Wednesday 30th March 2022 from 19h to 20h30

Location: ZOOM (online)

Present: Eleonora APPONI BATTINI – Monika BARABASZ-LOPES – Alexander CORNFORD – Bengt DAVIDSSON – Catarina DUARTE GOMES – Pim GESQUIERE – Maija KNUTTI – Nicolas LACROIX – Bruno LARANJEIRA – Roberta MAGGIO – Mario MARINIELLO – Gaspar MOLNAR – Wolfgang MÜNCH – Gisela SANTOS – Kevin SMITH – Ulrike STOROST – Monika SZULYOSZKY – David ZELINGER

Absent: Andrea GRGIĆ – Sebastian GUERRERO – Ursula HÖNICH – Christian BONDESON-EGGERT – Johanna SCHULYOK – Giacomo Marco SOMMA

Others: Anja GALLE – Clémence EUGENE

Meeting is convened to discuss the initiatives in support of the Ukrainian children attending our school and APEEE contribution. The document concerning the calculation of the costs of the services was sent to the Board members prior to the meeting.

It was raised that the Woluwe Nursery-Primary Deputy Director mentioned the high amount of lost items in Eurêka at the school and asked if something could be done to improve the processing process, such as for example create a picture portfolio of the lost items for the parents. E. Apponi-Battini, Board member and parent volunteer for Eurêka confirmed she would take the matter to the Eurêka parent volunteers of primary & maternelle Woluwe.

Agenda Points

1. Approval of the agenda .

Discussion Points and vote

1. APEEE Support for pupils from Ukraine.

The meeting is convened to discuss the offer of APEEE services to Ukrainian pupils, which have been granted admission at EEB2 up until the end of the school year (54 days). A. Galle is given the floor to present the calculations in offering APEEE services to the pupils.

Short term help

Welcoming the Ukrainian pupils will have **no financial impact on the bus services or on the extra-curricular activities**: the APEEE will be able to absorb the Ukrainian pupils on the places available on the existing buses and the places available on the current extra-curricular activities.

The issues was raised that PMO reimburses pro rata, whereby the pupils covered by the PMO are a percentage of the total pupil population. If the total pupil population increases, this will have an influence on the pro rata payment. Response was given that since the PMO will not be invoiced for the transport cost of the welcomed pupils, this will have no effect on the rate to be reimbursed by the PMO and that therefore the matter does not need to be raised with the PMO.

The **only additional costs would be regarding the canteen**, 1.95€ per day/per student in Woluwe and 6.30€ per day/per student in Evere.

The Board discusses the situation of only hosting pupils up until the end of the year with no security for the pupils of staying at EEB2 the following school year and agree to bring up the matter at the Interparent meeting scheduled on Thursday 31st March 2022.

Suggestion to contact Compass and ask for a commercial gesture in offering the meals at the Evere school site. Suggestion was also made to look into the 7% mark up for APEEE which Compass includes in its meal costs for the parents. Part of this mark up could also be directed to support for the meal costs for the pupils welcomed in the school.

Action Point: K. Smith and A. Galle to ask Compass for an economical gesture in the Evere canteen invoicing for the Ukrainian children.

Discussion to provide practical help via tips on who to turn to, how we can help in case of psychological help requested.

E. Apponi-Battini volunteers to be the contact person for the hosts family. Need to involve the community (ask for UKR speaking parents, for help – books/school material – etc)

Long term help

The board discussed help beyond the current school year. Regarding the Transport payment on the long term (in case an additional bus and/or supervision) and the PMO negotiations, it is mentioned to ask the PMO not to take into account the Ukrainian pupils in the overall calculations.

Future steps for long term solutions, will be to evaluate what the APEEE can absorb, what needs to be funded, where help can be requested, etc.

Action Point: D. Zelinger, APEEE Interparents delegate, to bring up the security of schooling and grading of Ukrainian pupils in Interparents and the PMO transport calculations for long term admissions.

Action Point: B. Davidsson, APEEE Interparents delegate, to bring up the importance to not discriminate the Ukrainian children arriving in the school as refugees and give them the chance and stability we can provide for future decisions on permanent EEB schooling.

Communication

Discussion is held to prepare for possible questions regarding why the EU (APEEE) is providing help to Ukrainian refugees and not other countries in war. It is mentioned the arrival of Ukrainian refugees is legally framed by EU and national hosting countries.

Proposal is made to communicate and prepare a message to explain what the APEEE will organise to help the Ukrainian children, that it will cover the service costs up until the end of the school year (54 days), those will be covered by the running costs of our operations. And encourage parents to help by pointing out that they are the center of the practical help.

Action Point: Communication WG to prepare a draft message on the APEEE work for the parents.

M. Barabasz-Lopes raises the Social Fund framework and that additional support can be made through Board decisions. The Board discusses also the operational details to provide pupils and hosts with books (Second-hand Book Sale, Eurêka, Second-hand lab coats and sports t-shirts).

E. Apponi-Battini volunteers to be the contact person and raise awareness of the Ukrainian situation and need amongst the school community.

Decision: The Board unanimously approves the coverage of the APEEE services for the Ukrainian pupils at school up until the end of the school year (1st July).

The chair encourages the Board to take action and contribute to the community.

AOB

Good Cause Waffle

N. Lacroix presents the Good Cause Waffle feedback and what the organiser of the fundraiser has suggested as a reward for the best-selling class. The Board is of the opinion that rewarding the volunteers with money is not a constructive and educational way to sensitise pupils to important causes.

Decision: The Board unanimously approves the donation of 1000€ to the Good Cause Waffle to donate to the Belgian Red Cross and comments the wish of not rewarding money to the pupils.

Consultation via email

Suggestion to use a voting/suggestion tool after email consultation, to limit the number of messages sent within the Board. APEEE administration is asked to register the preferences registered via the tool, in order to have a trace of the decisions taken via the voting tool after the email consultation. A board member reminded that according to the statutes, such a tool cannot replace the board meetings as the forum for taking decisions.

Action Point: to use a *Slido/Doodle* tool when future preferences need to be registered after email consultation.

COP Days (Connecting Our Pupils)

Members raise the concerns from parents regarding the COP days. The APEEE raised first comments during the CEES meeting on Monday 28th March.

The school sent an email Wednesday 30th March in the morning, regarding the COP days, which are mandatory and informed parents that they should bring/drop off their children at the mentioned train station for those going to Pairi Daiza.

Some parents, who confirm knowing the station in Schaerbeek, worry as they inform no parking spaces are available and the drop off of so many pupils at the same time, may create a stressful situation.

In addition, the Board discusses the positive reactions from parent regarding the name change and the program sent earlier in the day, which were discussed during the CEES meeting.

Action Point: Board members volunteer to check parking facilities around the Schaerbeek station and provide feedback on the surroundings (bike parking, car parking, public transports).

Action Point: Possibility, prior to the COP days to send a newsletter with information on how to access the train station, etc.

Next Board meeting is scheduled on Tuesday 3/5/2022.