

APEEE BXL II – WOLUWE  
BOARD REPORT

- Date : 22 September 2020 from 19:00 to 22:45
- Location : ZOOM conference call
- Present (19) : Vanessa AULEHLA - Bengt DAVIDSSON - Sanjee GOONETILAKE – Giles HOUGHTON-CLARKE (Chair) – Raquel JIMENEZ LOPEZ - Szilvia KALMAN - Natalia KARPENKO - Roberta MAGGIO - Minna MELLERI - Elita PETRAITIENĖ – Renate REPPLINGER-HACH – Sara RODA - Andreas ROGAL – Suzana ROSEIRO - Bettina SCHMIDBAUER-MOGENSEN – Michael TEUTSCH – Marjo TOIVO - Francesca TUDINI - Anna YAVORSKA
- Absent (3) : Tatiana ALMEIDA (excused), Anthony BISCH, Anja GALLE, Director of the APEEE (excused)
- Others : Ferhan Pelister, APEEE Administration

I Agenda points:

1. Approval of agenda: the agenda is approved by 13 votes (number of members present at that time).
2. Approval of the Board Report 25/6/2020: the Board Report had been approved prior to the Board meeting by Written Procedure (13 votes for, 4 votes against), as suggested by the Chair in an e-mail to the Board on 16/9/2020. Some Board members declared that they had not been aware of this and a discussion ensued. The topic of the 'functioning of the Board' arising from the action point of the 25/6 Board meeting for S. Goonetilake to prepare a document on this subject, is postponed to the next meeting as the document had not been circulated to the Board in advance therefore Board members had not had time to read and consider it.  
Sanjee Goonetilake wished to make a statement. As this statement was on the topic of the functioning of the Board, which is postponed to the next meeting and other Board members opposed or demanded the right to make counter statements, the chair requested the topic be dealt with at the next meeting in the scheduled agenda item.

II Discussion points:

1. Update on Evere/NATO site:

Chair reporting: At the most recent meeting of the Groupe de Suivi (GdS) on 12/10/2020 the Secretary General (SG) of the European Schools informed the GdS about the state of play. Immediately, the draft minutes of the last GdS meeting as presented by the SG became the subject of debate:

They stated that, as of next school year and upon the opening of the temporary site in Evere, there would be restricted admissions in the Secondary cycle of our school, except in the "unique" sections (FI, LT, SV, PT). This had never been mentioned before. When questioned by G. Houghton-Clarke, the SG explained that this must be a mistake.

They also stated that the LV language section would move to our school. At the actual GdS meeting, however, it was stipulated that the LV section would remain at EEB 1/Berkendael, and the Secondary cycle would eventually be located at EEB 1's main site. When questioned on this, again the SG explained that it was not, in fact, planned to open a LV section at EEB 2, the pupils would remain SWALS. The reason was that LV ONL teachers were at Woluwe.

Finally, the minutes withdrew the promise made by the SG to present a medium term plan for the student population evolution for all Brussels schools as a guideline for how best to use the new site.

The enrolment policies for the Evere site have still not been decided upon.

The Board took note and discussed many aspects of the Evere site with regard to our school.

**Action Point:** All Board Members to pass on relevant points, in particular regarding their language sections to the Vice-President for Pedagogical Affairs, T. Almeida

**Action Point:** Chair and VP pedagogical to coordinate the preparation of a written communication about the state of play for Evere to all parents, and to encourage school management to hold a "town hall" meeting on the issue for parents.

## 2. Report on SAC of 22/9/2020

B.B. Davidsson reporting. A number of new members took part in the SAC, not least the new Deputy Director for Primary and Maternelle, Mr Cregan.

The Director presented her draft annual and multi-annual pedagogical school plans. The APEEE President requested more time to study the documents as they had only been sent out the previous day. The Director apologised for this and granted the request. Commenting on the plans, the Director pointed out that she had only very recently changed her priorities for the annual plan, adapting them to the ongoing crisis situation. Her two top priorities now lie with the health and safety of the school community and to guarantee the teaching of the curriculum at least to the required minimum standard. The pursuit of other priorities could be delayed, she added. On the issue of the temporary site in Evere, the Director informed the SAC about her forthcoming meeting with the Regie des Batiments (RdB) and expressed her expectation that the site would be ready and usable for the next school year, in August 2021.

Regarding school infrastructure, the Director informed the SAC about her efforts to move towards a cash-less school, the erection, by the end of the year, of a permanent tent structure for pupils eating sandwiches and extracurricular usages. She also informed the SAC about the construction of two additional changing rooms in the sports hall and the addition of a pre-fab building to house the new and enlarged nurses' surgery, also to be finished within this year.

C.Davidsson presented on behalf of the Board a request to urgently create a Prevention and Protection Committee as it is a health & safety requirement under Belgian law.

### 3.Report on CEES (21.9.2020)

D.V.Auhlela and M Teutsch reporting. The Deputy Director for Secondary told the CEES that distant learning for the quarantined S7 cohort was going well, as was the distant teaching of classes in situ by quarantined teachers, even if there were further improvements needed. There had been a delay in the procurement of some hardware due to general high demand. Not all classrooms are fitted out yet but work is progressing.

At the same time, the Deputy Director stressed that he is not prepared to offer anything more to absent pupils than they would receive in normal cases of a justified absence. APEEE representatives pointed to the Secretary General's of the European Schools communication to parents at the beginning of the school year which promised more, and suggested the continued and systematic use of the Teams platform. Teachers' representatives and Deputy Director remained unconvinced, pointing to their heavy workload both pedagogically as well as administratively. The issue of vulnerable families emerged as highly problematic one. School management seems unwilling to accept vulnerability beyond that of the actual student. Vulnerable family members could not be taken into account other than on a case-by-case basis, the CEES was informed.

It was reported that the Deputy Director's suggestions about a form of hybrid teaching system where certain cycles/levels stay at home at receive distance teaching while others are taught in situ. As the DD admitted himself, these deliberations were in their early stages and needed more reflexion.

The president shared his impression that more work needed to be done to fully prepare for the challenges of this school year in terms of distance learning. He also informed the Board about recent contacts with various Belgian authorities as to what the information flow and the decision making process with regard to Covid measures are precisely. As there seems to be no full clarity, the four APEEE presidents of the Brussels schools have decided to contact the OSG and ask for guidance and possibly a framework for the EEBs, not least as the APEEEs themselves are also faced with information flow and decision making issues through their services.

Summing up the extensive discussion in the Board, the president suggested that there was consensus that the school needs a streaming facility for all, including students with vulnerable family members.

**Action point:** the CEES WG to take up and further discuss the various issues arising from distance teaching, hybrid models and vulnerability.

### 4.Class rep elections process

School management has informed the APEEE that its envisaged way of electing this year's reps by adding half an hour to the teacher-parents-info meeting on Teams as it would be done in situ, was not possible. An e-mail was sent to all Nursery & Primary class reps to organise the elections accordingly differently, either by e-mail or by organising a separate Teams or Zoom meeting.

**Action point:** to communicate similarly to the Secondary class reps, with section reps to follow-up and clarify in case of need.

### 5.Replacement CEP/M coordinator

A. Bisch, the CEPM coordinator has been absent from the Board for an extended period. A. Rogal volunteered to take over the role. The board approved by acclamation.

6. Request for the APEEE to help fund legal action taken by German parents from across the ES system to challenge the unfair national conversion table for the BAC results.

R. Repplinger-Hach introducing. Political level attempts have failed. Now legal option is being pursued. The case of the German parents has recently been highlighted and supported by the Commissioner in charge of the ES, Mr Hahn.

Legal case is pursued on a pro-bono basis by parents who are lawyers qualified for the German system and based on Article 5 of the ES Convention which prohibits discrimination of ES graduates in national tertiary education systems. It is not only affecting German students but all ES graduates who wish to study in Germany. The parents pursuing the case are asking for a contribution of € 1000,-. The actions of the German parents have raised awareness at the OSG of the need to intervene and quality assure all national equivalence tables, hence this is a project which is benefiting all sections. Several board members believed that the APEEE should not get involved. However, the voting showed a majority to support the case and contribute the requested sum (11 yes, 2 no, 3 abstentions).

Rentree reports

7. Transport: M. Melleri reporting briefly on newly introduced COVID measures which shall be published on the APEEE website shortly, and referring to her document on the issue sent to the board several days before the Board meeting. She invited board members to study the document and contribute comments.

8. Canteen: B. Schmidbauer-Mogensen reporting. Canteens WG discussed correct approach to confirmed infection in canteen team, and possible alternatives of providing meals in case of a canteen closure. It was decided that parents should be consulted. Perhaps this could be integrated in the survey that the Comms WG is planning? Budget calculations have begun for various scenarios of closure, but because certain budget figures are not known yet it was decided that this has to be finalised in collaboration with the Budget WG. The question was raised as to how much of the canteen fees should be reimbursed to parents in case of closure, or students in quarantine (e.g. S7 cohort at the beginning of the school year).

**Action point:** Canteen WG to present the board with a proposal for different reimbursement scenarios (with expected budget impact) for vote by written procedure.

Points 9 to 12 postponed

13 BYOD - a board member is needed to coordinate. S. Roda did express interest and was encouraged to pursue it, which she accepted with the proviso that other Board members remain active on the issue as well.

**Action point:** Deputy Director Secondary to be asked to share with the Board the school's document on BYOD in electronic form.

Points 14 to 17 postponed.

Meeting closed.

