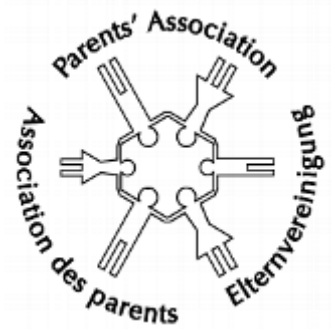


Parents' Association of the European School Munich



Minutes of the Board Meeting of 20.01.2015

The meeting was held in the premises of the EPO, Bayerstr. 34, Room 3468, from 18:35 – 21:25

Minute writer: Manolis Papastefanou

Board Members present (15): Georg Weber, Rupert Plenk, Jean-Luc Dupuis, Conor O'Sullivan, Rafael Baltanás, Maria Laiou, Gerry Van Woensel, Flavio Carsughi, Stefano Zanaboni, Kerstin Arenz, Günther Körbler, Anna Cattani-Scholz, Edoardo Pastore, Enrico Ulivieri and Manolis Papastefanou.

Board Members absent: François Girardin, Dimitrios Varelas, Maria Pia Ayala – Periello, Elena Rojo Romeo

Observing members of the Educational Council: Irene Rosin (IT-GS)

1. The chairman opened the meeting at 18.35.
2. The agenda and minutes of the previous meeting were approved.
3. The chairman reported on the issue of the school calendar for the year 2015/2016 (see also point 4 of the minutes of the meeting of 17.12.2014). Summarizing, when the imposed from Brussels starting (02.09.2015) and ending (01.07.2016) days are taken into account, there is a lot of creativity needed in order to fit the necessary 181 school days between these two days. The situation is worsened by a decision by Brussels to declare the 09.05.2016 (day of Europe) a school holiday for the European schools. A proposal to extend the school year in Munich for a week (i.e. end on 08.07.2016) was agreed by the school management, the teachers and the parents' representatives. The concept to deviate from the common ending day of the school year was also initially agreed by the Secretary General. Now it seems that it is not accepted by Brussels anymore. The other two alternative proposals are unacceptable to the parents' representatives: one foresees no full week of holidays in May while the other foresees a full week of holidays in the beginning of May (to include a pedagogical day planned for the school staff) but it also calls for lessons on 23.12.2015. The issue will be discussed at the coming Administration Board meeting of the school, set for 23.01.2015. The parents' representatives' will insist in having the extra week in July. An additional issue

is also the planning of the winter holidays in February 2016. It has been agreed with the school that the February holidays will coincide with the Bavarian school holidays every other year. And so it has been planned in the recent years. For 2015, the ESM holidays coincide with the Bavarian school holidays. In the calendar proposal of the school they coincide also in 2016. This has to be changed.

4. Ms Höfs and Ms Karow, both professors at the ESM, came to the meeting to present the European Schools Science Symposium (see also point 6 in minutes of the meetings of 14.10.2014 and 17.12.2014). Details can be found at the website: <http://esss2015.esmunich.de/>. The school organises this symposium in 2015; it will take place in March (15.03. – 18.03.). Financial support by the Association had been requested but the Board was lacking information in order to take a decision. The two professors gave a detailed presentation and answered all the questions of the Board members, something that has been much appreciated.

It was unanimously agreed:

- To assist in finding members for the jury that will evaluate the projects. Apart from the EPO, the Board members will contact other institutions/companies, for eg. ESO, Leibnitz Zentrum, BMW etc.
- A sum of 3500 Euro (as a maximum) will be offered for the provision of prizes, certificates, medals etc. as well as T-Shirts to be distributed to the participants (ca. 150 pupils from all the European schools). It was also specified that any T-Shirts bought with the support of the Association should also bear the Association's logo on them.

Stefano Zanaboni declared that he would offer the coffee during the Symposium.

5. It was agreed that the Association would offer again the "Faschingskrampfen" for the Kindergarten and the Primary. Estimated cost of ca. 800 Euro.
6. The chairman informed also that as of 22.01.2015 the Association will start using its own emailing system, independent of the one of the EPO. An information bulletin will be sent to all members.
7. Jean-Luc Dupuis reported that the "Hausaufgabeakademie" had started to operate with 2 groups and a third one was expected to start in February. The Association was working with the director of the Primary in order to develop a common concept for the after-school activities (Nebenschulaktivitäten) for the next school year.
8. Office matters

Not for publication

9. Edoardo Pastore and Anna Cattani-Scholz reported on the discussions about the reform of the secondary (see also point 7 of the minutes of the meeting of 17.12.2014). The reports by the experts carrying out the assessment of the situation/level of sciences at the European schools are very positive. Nevertheless, a comment about the level of mathematics taught being unnecessarily too high may reopen the discussion of

changing the structure of the course from the actual 4/6 hours per week to the 4+2 hours per week as it was presented in the now withdrawn reform proposal. Our position is against such a change, should it ever be proposed. Another issue that may arise – based only on organisational and no pedagogical grounds – is the proposal of the creation of channels (directions) in the last two years of the secondary. The idea, which was also part of the (now withdrawn) reform proposal, was to bundle subjects together and create directions, eg. a science direction, an economy direction etc. Pupils would have to select a direction and they would then be obliged to select the subjects bundled together in that direction. This would limit the number of subjects a school would have to organise because the choice of the pupils will be limited. This idea seems to originate from the complicated situation in the schools in Brussels, where despite the large numbers of pupils, there are relatively few pupils per section (but many sections). This creates organisational problems because the school may have to offer subjects in a language for relatively few pupils. In our school this problem does not exist since, with the domination of the German section, it is certain that most of the subjects are offered at least in German. Pupils from smaller sections have always the possibility to select a subject in German if it is not offered in their section's language. The issue is not yet under discussion, but it may come up sooner or later. The assessment showed also that more than 75% of the families in the school community appreciate the freedom in the selection of subjects, so there may be a more general reaction, should any reform limiting this freedom be discussed.

10. The issue of smoking at the school premises was discussed at the last meeting of the educational council (see also point 9 of the minutes of the meeting of 17.12.2014). It appears that, according to the school regulation, smoking is also forbidden around the buildings of the school. The impression remains that the school management is reluctant to enforce the regulation. The issue will be brought at the meeting of the Administrative board of the school by the parents' representatives.
11. Regarding the organisation of charity activities at the school (see point 3 of the minutes of the meeting of 17.12.2014), the chairman reported that the Association had provided the school management with a draft for a legal framework, as it had been agreed. Now it is the school management that will proceed with the organisation of the desired structure. The Association will nominate 2 members for the supervising board that will be created.
12. Flavio Carsughi reported that the director of the Primary had agreed that the school will take ownership of any material purchased for the project "Archaeology for children". Since this point has been clarified, the agreed sum of 1500 Euro will be freed in order to support this project (see point 8, third bullet of the minutes of the meeting of 17.12.2014).
13. Next meeting will take place on 24.02.2015.

The meeting ended at 21.25.