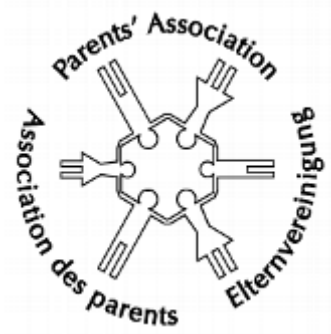


Parents' Association of the European School Munich



Minutes of the Board Meeting of 21.02.2018

The meeting was held in the premises of the EPO, Bayerstr. 34, Room 3468, from 18:10-21:10.

Minute writer: Manolis Papastefanou

Board Members present (12): Jean-Luc Dupuis, Julien Jacoby, Carolyn Casall-Bain, Rafael Baltanás, George Lazaridis, Marina Conte, Antje Stoller, Günther Körbler, Anna Cattani-Scholz, Irene Rosin, Flavio Carsughi, Manolis Papastefanou.

Board Members absent: Koen Leuridan, Rupert Plenk, Sebastian Petit, Gerry Van Woensel, Dimitrios Varelas, Stefano Zanaboni, Kerstin Arenz.

Observers: Maciej Madalinski (EC-KiGa), Charlotte Albayrak, Wayne Smith

1. The chairman opened the meeting at 18.10.
2. The minutes of the previous meeting and the agenda were unanimously approved.
3. The treasurer (J. Jacoby) reported that the financial situation of the Association was in good order. There were some members, who, for various reasons, had not paid their membership fee yet and they were going to be contacted to be reminded of their financial obligations. The possibility of changing the time frame for invoicing for the bus transport was also being contemplated. The invoices by the City of Munich arrived always more than a year after the actual service had taken place. The treasurer reported that the issue would be discussed in a regular meeting with the accountant.
4. At the treasurer's proposal, there was created a working group to look at the website of the Association and come up with proposals for its update/modernisation. Flavio Carsughi, Carolyn Casall-Bain and Wayne Smith joined Julien Jakoby in the working group.

5. Anna Cattani-Scholz reported from the last meeting of Interparents and JTC (Joint Teaching Committee), which took place between the 5th - 9th of February 2018. Various issues were discussed and are still under discussion, like the new marking system, Brexit, the funding system of the European Schools, the language policy, the multi-annual IT plan, the Implementation of the Educational Support policy, practise of MOCK oral examinations, Pre-Bac reform, Ethics in L1, etc.
- Regarding Brexit, there is a working group created in Brussels. The issue of the European schools has been added in the transitional agreement, which is being discussed between the EU and the UK. It is still under discussion if the UK will be able to support the European School System up to 2021, most probably without seconded teachers. It would rather mean that they will not force the existing seconded teachers to return to the UK before that date. Not yet clear, discussions are ongoing.
 - Regarding the whole school inspection, the official report will be soon available. The reports identify many strong points, but also some challenges. The main recommendations of the inspectors regard the lack of transparency in the assessment, the practise of moderate support, weak differentiation in teaching in secondary, the pedagogical consequences of the splitting of the school in two different locations. The Administrative Board of the school is supposed to report regularly on post-inspection activities.
 - Regarding the marking system, its implementation has been decided and is going to be carried out as planned. Since the way and philosophy marks are awarded is going to change, Universities across Europe have to be informed on how the future marks of the Bac are to be assessed. The intention is to carry out a central action in 2019 and contact/inform the Universities about the new marking system. The first Bac with the new marks is planned for 2021.
 - Regarding the funding of the European schools, there will be another meeting with Commissioner Oettinger and all the relevant stakeholders, probably before the end of the current school year (see also point 3 of minutes of previous meeting).
 - There will be an annual report by Interparents published soon and will be published at the Association's website. Next meeting of Interparents is planned for the 12th of April 2018.
6. Triggered by the news about Brexit a brief discussion took place. The EN representative (Carolyn Casall-Bain) reported that there were at least two seconded teachers from the EN section leaving at the end of the school year and there was no apparent replacement for the moment. It was reminded that during the previous school year the issue of Brexit and its consequences on the availability of English-speaking teachers was repeatedly discussed during the Board meetings. The EN representatives had collected information about possible sources for finding English-speaking teachers and forwarded it to the school, with no apparent result yet. It was decided that the EN representatives would contact the school management and inquire about how they intended to solve the problem.

7. A short discussion took place regarding the collaboration with Il Cielo, especially in view of the new school site. The question of whether there should be a tender was discussed. The chairman explained that there was no legal obligation for the Association to carry out a tender procedure. There was never going to be a 100% satisfaction rate among pupils and parents about the catering, but the experience had showed that there was an overall positive opinion about Il Cielo in the school community. A tender procedure would involve a significant amount of time, effort and money and at this moment there were more serious problems regarding the financing of the school that had to be tackled. The intention was to start with Il Cielo at the new site and carry out a tender procedure later.
8. The chairman reported about the school budget. In 2017 there was an unexpected increase in the teacher's salaries, calculated by Brussels. This created costs which were not foreseen in the budget of the school for that year and had also repercussions in the budget for the year 2018. Although it seemed that the problems regarding 2017 and 2018 were finding a solution, a more serious problem became evident in the discussion for the budget of 2019 which took place in the January meeting of the Administrative Board of the school. The EPO representative did not approve the budget and it was stated that the EPO would not cover the increase in the budget of the school planned for 2019. This obliged the school to apply savings' measures which were to be understood as cuts in various aspects like security, educational support and SWALS. It was clarified that the Association had no part in the decision of which cuts were going to be decided but it was ready to support the school in implementing any decisions taken. A discussion was taking place between the school and EPO at the moment in order to arrive at an agreement. The school community (teachers, pupils, parents) was worried about the cuts and the consequences they may have on the level of education offered by the school. There was a meeting planned with the school in two weeks. The issue is being closely monitored.
10. A brief discussion took place regarding the regulations about the retirement of locally recruited teachers. The Board members acknowledged that no one was familiar with these regulations and the chairman said that he would investigate the matter to find the answer.
11. Next meeting of the Board will take place on the 20th of March 2018, at 18:00.

The chairman closed the meeting at 21:10.