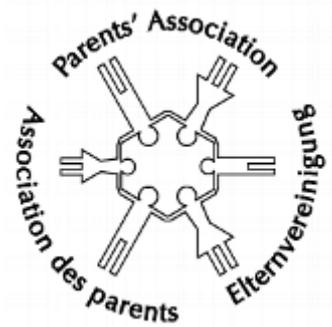


# Parents' Association of the European School Munich



## Minutes of the Board Meeting of 5<sup>th</sup> December 2018

The meeting was held in the premises of the EPO, Bayerstr. 34, Room 3468 from 18:45pm until 10:00pm

Minute writer: Adriana Vera-Merz

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### Attendees:

**PA Board members:** Jean-Luc Dupuis, Carolyn Casali-Bain, Antje Stoller, Katia Sittler, Anna Cattani-Scholz, Irene Rosin, Flavio Carsughi, Germana Baldisseri, Roberto Trimanchi, Mohan Chennupati, Julien Jacoby, Stéphane Fraissé, Giorgios Lazaridis, Esteban Hernández Castelló, Sofia Macieira, Adriana Vera-Merz

**Newly elected representative of the English section:** Wayne Smith

**Observing members of the Educational Council:** Valentina Fazio (IT-HS), Mark Robinson (EN-HS)

**Absent PA Board Members:** Gerry van Woensel, Caroline Müller, Martin Ratcliffe, Rupert Plenk, Marina Conte

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### 1. Approval of the agenda

The chairman opened the meeting at 18.45. The agenda was approved

### 2. Approval of the minutes of the last board meeting

The minutes of the board meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> October 2018 were approved

### 3. Approval of the minutes of the General Assembly held on 7th Nov 2018

The minutes of the General Assembly held on 7th Nov 2018, after the names of the SWALS primary and secondary school deputy representative in the educational council were added.

### 4. New web portal: content and distribution of tasks

Flavio Carsughi explained the structure of the new web portal of the Parents' Association. Its content is to be provided by members of the board and educational council. The Board agreed that the language for the website will be English. If necessary, punctual information can be translated into German. The possibility of adding other languages to the website as a whole will remain open as it is included in the proposal of the provider. Two layout alternatives for the website will be put to discussion in the future.

The exact go-live date is not decided yet, but the target is before the end of the current school year.

## **5. Report of the Interparents representative & Conversion of the new ES marking system into the German system**

Anna Cattani-Scholz clarified that Interparents has no decision power within the system. It has two representatives in the meetings of the board of governors, the joint teaching committee and the budgetary committee of the European Schools.

The creation process of the new marking system was five years long. Interparents followed it closely and achieved that a numerical marking system was put in place additionally to letter grades.

Anna informs that the EPO did not approve the 4<sup>th</sup> amendment to the 2018/2019.

Interparents is collecting feedback from all schools regarding the new marking system and its conversion to the German national system. Thereafter, they will contact the inspector who is in charge of the management of the implementation of the new system.

By now, there is negative feedback mainly in the following aspects:

- S1-S3 regarding the use of letters to mark the pupils' performance.
- S4-S5 the marks are rated down in comparison to the old system.
- Weak communication to pupils and parents regarding the new marking system.

Interparents is trying to open a dialog regarding the new conversion table of the grades to the national system with the German Delegation. The conversion to the national system was premature, because it is not officially defined yet how the new marking system will be applied in the BAC. The German sections of all the European Schools will jointly write a letter to the German Delegation. Its answer will be distributed to the ESM community.

In the BoG meeting the EPO expressed its disagreement with the conversion table to the German marking system.

Anna appeals for abstaining of making negative comments about the new marking system to external parties. It will remain in place, there is no way back, and our children would be negatively affected from a bad reputation.

A conference on the implementation of the new marking system might take place. The chairman and the board members are against of organising it in Munich. It is not feasible due to the required resources.

## **6. Update on Brexit**

Carolyn Casali-Bain attended a meeting in Brussels, in which the Brexit topic was discussed. The group in charge will have more information next week. There are concerns about issues such as the continuity of teachers and inspectors in the European School system. The extent of the consequences depends on if there will be a hard Brexit or not. A raise in the nearly-native speakers and locally recruited teachers has been experienced, and the trend is to remain.

The UK will still recognise the European Baccalaureate after the Brexit. It is the Universities who decide on this, and not the State. The rating system for European universities which have programmes taught in English might change with the Brexit, bringing negative effects for the students.

## **7. SWALS issues update**

Sofia Macieira points out that the SWALS emailing list from the Parents' Association seems to be incomplete. The chairman notes that the parents are responsible for their own data in the system.

The educational council SWALS representatives and Sofia are collecting feedback from parents and teachers regarding their concerns about the changes put in place last school year, apparently due to budgetary restrictions:

- The pupils of S1-S2 and S3-S4 are grouped together for L1 (if they are less than 7 pupils total)
- From S5 to S7 L1 was reduced by one hour in the week

The SWALS representative would like to know the real financial impact of these measures. The Chairman pointed out, that the PA does not have access to the detailed financial information of the school.

After they gather the information from parents and teachers, the SWALS representatives will write an open letter to the school and EPO demanding to go back to the conditions that were in place two years ago.

### **8. Recruiting further staff members (2) for transport issues (not for publication)**

### **9. Report of the AG office (not for publication)**

### **10. Report about the insurance contracts - consequences for the Garderie**

The insurance contracts were renegotiated. The insured amounts for the liability and accident insurances were increased, and the number of insured persons was updated, without incurring in additional costs per insured person. The number of insured persons was updated. The chairman thanks Antje Stoller for achieving a very good result in the negotiation.

The participants in any activity booked through the PA are insured through the "Unfallversicherung". The extra-curricular activities and the Garderie representatives will coordinate with RUF whether the holiday care can be booked via the PA in order to extend the accident insurance to times the children are under the supervision of RUF during their school holidays.

Until now the PA did not help families from other European schools to find host families in Munich as there were fears, that doing so could cause liabilities for the PA. The insurance company explained, that any liability arising from choosing a family was covered by the liability insurance (Haftpflichtversicherung) the PA has. Therefore, we will add in our website a page to facilitate contacting host families in Munich. Additionally, the PA would ask for an official certificate of good conduct from the local families in question.

### **11. Frame contract with the school**

Due to the extension of the school to the new site in Fasangarten, a new frame contract between the PA and the ESM must be signed. The chairman presented a draft. The board members will send him their agreement/comments via email. Should the majority of the board members agree to the contract, the chairman will sign it.

The canteen and the extra-curricular activities are not included in this frame contract. An extra contract will be signed for these.

### **12. Report Canteen - Contract with Il Cielo**

Il Cielo is willing to pay the costs of public services of the canteen. This is welcome by the EPO. Some of the board members are concerned that these costs will be forwarded to the parents inevitably resulting in higher meal prices.

Il Cielo will operate the canteen in the new site to start with. The school wants a new tender to choose a new provider, since there are often complaints about the food.

### **13. Preliminary discussion on running Information campaigns for children on staying safe (online and in person)**

The chairman will arrange a meeting with the school and Mohan Chennupati in January to discuss if/how the PA can support the existing programs at the school.

### **14. Financial issues (not for publication)**

## **15. Any other business**

### a. English representative:

Carolyn Casali-Bain announces that she and her family will leave Munich. The board thanks her for her good work and commitment to the PA in the last years.

Wayne Smith was elected as new representative by the parents of the English section. Since his election took place after the general assembly, he accepts it in this board meeting.

### b. Admission Policy:

The PA wants the admission criteria for category III to be included in the agenda of the next meeting of the administrative board. The deputy chairmann together with Gerry van Woensel will ask to put this point on the agenda of the administrative board. The position of the PA in this issue was defined in the last AG: we seek the return to the criteria which apply to all European Schools.

The chairman refuses to support this position in the administrative board. Therefore, the deputy chairman will represent him in the next Administrative Board meeting in January and in all official meetings in which the admission criteria are a subject of discussion.

### c. Events in January:

The chairman informs that there will be a dinner with the PA staff members in January to which the office working group will attend.

The PA will organise a dinner with the direction of the ESM in January, to which four members of the board will attend.

## **16. Next board meeting**

The next board meeting is scheduled for 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2018

The meeting ended at 10:00pm

Minute writer:

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Adriana Vera-Merz