

## Minutes of The Board Meeting of 21<sup>st</sup> January 2025

The meeting was held on site at the ESM in Neuperlach from 18:30 pm until 21:05 pm.

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### Attendees:

**Parents' Association (PA) Board Members:** Sevil Tomur (Secretary and Minutes Writer), Katia Sittler (Chair), Karsten Röski, Michael Boelter, Vannessa Doublier Pritchard, Flavio Carsughi, Maciej Madaliński, Mihai Luca Bogdan, Antje Stoller, Magda Vecchi, Désirée Kandolo, Volker M. Berger, Inês Lampreia, Susanne Herrnberger (left at 20:07 pm), Evert Küppers

**Absent PA Board Members:** Narjess Kraiem, Esteban Hernández Castello, Fabrizio Marrone, Themis Toumpoulidis, Panagiota Lazarou, Paula Galiana, Maria Mangeli

**Guests:** Oliver Tonet (left at 20:15 pm), Ascensión Barajas

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- The Chair opened the meeting at 18:38 pm.

### 1. Approval of The Agenda

The Agenda was approved.

### 2. Approval of The Minutes of The Board Meeting of 11<sup>th</sup> December 2024

The Minutes of the Board meeting held on December 11<sup>th</sup> were approved.

### 3. Report of The Chair:

Katia reported about the "Landschulheim", which was negotiated with the Administrative Board:

Flemming, Simona, Anton and Katia joined a spontaneous meeting in December 2024. There has been an increase in the school trips' prices to 520 Euros due to the travel agency and insurance costs, which was too expensive for many parents. There is also the problem of some P.4 children going to a location too far away.

Mr Hrovath mentioned that they are going to change the concept. Younger students will go to trips to more close destinations while the others will go far away, such as P.4 in Bavaria and P.5 more into mountains. This will be discussed with the EC (Educational Council) and put into place from the school year 2025-2026.

For this year school year, 2024-2025, the organisation of the trips stays as it is and cannot be changed.

Susanne would like to state the following:

She did not approach the school by herself, she did so together with the class representatives of the Italian, French and Spanish section in order to discuss the destination of the "Landschulheim" for the P.4. students. It was agreed that the destination is too far away and the price too high (at least for the Spanish and the French sections). The school did however not take this opinion into account.

Vannessa reminded that the EC agrees on the location and the program, and on the price. She will send the rules about it later if needed.

In the following years, the decision will be with the EC, not with the Parents' Association, and in the last "Jour-Fixe" meeting, it is proposed that the details of the trips should be communicated with the parents much earlier.

#### **4. The "Jour-Fixe" Meeting:**

Karsten reported about the last "Jour-Fixe" meeting on the 10<sup>th</sup> of January, 2025:

- The new admission policy has been implemented. The school aims to further increase the number of Category III pupils by changing the maximum number of pupils per class from 24 to 26 or 27. This change still needs approval from the EPO (European Patent Office). There are some very small sections, such as the Italian and Greek sections. Regarding the Spanish section, the opening of the higher school section can be considered in two years' time. The EPO seems to oppose the opening of this section, whereas the inspectors are in favour of it. Parents have varying opinions on this matter.

A Working Group (WG) on the topic of sections is set to commence shortly, with the inclusion of parents in the discussions.

- The Mobility Program Guidelines have been published. Accordingly, three individuals are requested to oversee the tasks of the program, with one parent representative (Sevil has agreed to this). Among the European Schools, the ESM uniquely offers an exchange program for S.4 and S.5 students.
- The Outreach Program has developed a proposal to enhance sustainability by eliminating the annual use of 15,000 paper coffee cups. To achieve this, the Recup system has been proposed. The school will purchase reusable cups, which students can buy for a deposit of 1€. In this context, the school has requested that the cleaning of these cups be included in the contract with the new caterer. This service is to be part of the caterer's responsibilities.

- Starting next school year, transportation cards will be replaced with chip cards. Parents will be required to apply for these cards online. The details regarding the delivery of the new cards are still being finalized with the City of Munich.
- The school has expressed interest in ensuring that children in the afternoon care program are not placed in the same groups as they are during regular school hours, but rather in mixed groups. It was noted in the Board meeting that RUF (All Around The Family) does not receive information about class groupings, resulting in automatic mixing. Additionally, it was mentioned that some groups in the afternoon care program are more open to visits between groups than others.

## **5. The School Advisory Committee (14<sup>th</sup> January 2025) and The Admin Board (17<sup>th</sup> January 2025) Meetings:**

Mihai reported about the last SAC (School Advisory Committee) and Admin Board meetings:

- It has been decided that the Dutch section would be wound down and become SWALS from September 2025.
- The most important issue in the SAC and Admin Board meetings was the budget finalized together with the EPO. Mr Hrovath said that they cannot afford any reductions in the operating budget. The actual increase to the school budget is mostly due to an increase in the salaries, due to the calculation method at EU level. The operating costs on the other side are foreseen with an increase of 2% which does not even cover for inflation.
- The new admission policy was another important topic. More Cat.II and Cat.III children will be accepted at the ESM. 120 new students are planned to be accepted in P.1, 200 students are in S.7 and 2070 students are planned to be in total.
- The theme of the 2025 Europe Day is "Living European values".

The planning of the 2027 Europe Day (8<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> of May), where we will celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> year of the ESM, should start from now as it is going to be a very large event with some concerts and a charity run.

- In school trips, the goal to increase the "Sustainability" (e.g. driving with the train). There is a new provider – Alpetours –, which includes facilities such as a cancellation insurance, an emergency call number, etc., and it highlights the pedagogical background. During the meeting, Katia raised the issue that the pedagogical background does not come to the parents.
- Katia said that we have a lot of SWALS children in the secondary school and inquired when the Spanish section could be opened.
- Katia also raised the issue that if there are any changes to be considered to the Greek or Spanish sections, the Parents' Representatives should be involved in the WGs.

- Mihai finally said that the ESM should avoid closing any further sections as the school would lose a bit of the European spirit.

There have been several comments from the Board Members:

Inês questioned the quality of the education especially in the English section with the newly arriving children in terms of the language proficiency.

Vannessa referred to the school admission policy which requires that if it is not a Cat.I student, then the child is tested before the admission.

Sevil added that apart from the school reports and/or the certificates of the children, there are also interviews to assess their language proficiency and suitability before the decision of approval is made.

Vannessa gave information on the ongoing conversations in the European Schools. There are different pupil costs in each school depending on the pedagogical structures such as the locally recruited teachers, materials used, etc. To make the school more diverse, they decided to open it to all categories, but the school fees of the Cat.II students are twice the fees of the Cat.III students. There is also a difference among the Cat.II students' fees because some companies pay the whole amount whereas some pay nothing at all. This topic has many aspects which should be dealt with very carefully.

Flavio pointed out that calculating the average cost per pupil by dividing the total cost by the number of pupils gives an average that is very far from reality. While Cat.II students are entitled to admission (regardless of the number of students in the class, and if there are 30 students in the class, the school is obliged to divide the class, with a considerable increase in costs), Cat.III students are not entitled to admission (they are only admitted if the number of students in the class is a maximum of 24). Enrico Fedrigo has carried out a simulation, on the basis of real data (students' choice of topics over the last 5 years), of the relationship between the marginal costs produced (in the case of activation of optional courses) and the annual fees paid by Cat.III students, and has shown that the marginal costs produced are lower than the fees paid to the school. This was also stated in the famous van Dijk report (2006) on the evaluation of the Culham, Mol, Bergen and Karlsruhe schools. The Parents' Association should therefore question the average cost per pupil approach and not passively accept it.

Vannessa responded that the report on the European schools' individual budgets and the fees do not rely on simulation but on real numbers.

It is mentioned that there should be something done about the Cat.I admission deadlines because when they are so late, then they affect the other categories' admission processes.

Susanne said that along with the language support lessons, there should also be programs for the talented kids.

It is mentioned that there are several support programs for the talented kids such as the challenge program, which are sometimes opened a bit late in the school year; but still, especially for the younger students there should be more options.

The antibullying and drug addiction presentation for the S.4 and S.5 students needs to be revised.

## **6. Services:**

### **Data Protection Policy:**

Antje announced that the data protection policy on our school website will be revised by the lawyers. All teachers are going to sign their documents soon. The responsible board members are reminded to start with the organisations paperwork.

A P.2 parent from Mihai's child's class offered to help Antje. A helper is needed to take over the duties of Antje when she steps down. It is mentioned that we need such a helper for the transportation service, too.

### **Extracurricular Activities:**

Antje explained that according to our General Rules and conditions in autumn there will be two sorts of courses. Those we manage and those we only mediate. For mediated courses the contracts with the parents will not be made by the PA, but by the teachers. The teachers will manage payment with the parents on their own and must therefore have their own rules and conditions.

There is also the insurance issue. In the case of an accident, it must be cleared up, whether it should be considered as a school accident or an after-school accident. If no board member takes over the responsibility for this issue we must hire lawyers. Please find a volunteer next board meeting.

The commission fee for courses with 4 or less children will be higher in 2025-2026 to cover the costs.

### **After-School Care:**

Désirée explained the latest events related to the after-school care facilities at the ESM. There was an open-day for the Kindergarten on the 14<sup>th</sup> of January, 2025 where a lot of parents attended. Many Cat.III parents were especially interested in the afternoon care. Also, from the 24<sup>th</sup> to the 28<sup>th</sup> February, 2025, the winter holiday care program is planned, and a newsletter to inform this to the parents is requested.

### **Transportation:**

Maciej told that school taxis and school buses are running fine, and shuttles are also running for now. However, there are some bad experiences with shuttles at departure times, and parents/children are not really cooperating. Additionally, the PA ESM and RUF have no staff for finding eventually the solution. We will no longer offer the shuttle after the carnival holidays, from 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2025. A newsletter will be sent to the parents to announce this. There are about 15 parents, and the cost is too much to continue this service. Parents can order taxis, and this can be cheaper, and they can bill directly. Taxis can come to the parking slots and wait there until 4 pm. It should be clarified with the security of the school. The obligation is that the waiting place should be at the front gate. Because Maciek's position will be free, it is important that someone slowly gets involved in transport organization in the near future.

### **Canteen:**

On behalf of Fabrizio, Katia talked about the canteen service. She said that the Piri Piri is meeting the school management in February. The EPO, the school and the students are all informed about this. The prices are expected to be lower.

## **IT:**

Flavio reported the following on the IT service:

- The checking of the progresses on extracurricular activities and transport of the 4<sup>th</sup> contract are ongoing by Antje and Maciej.
- With the change of the Dutch section, i.e. the P.1 will be SWALS, a change in the management of the languages and classes is mandatory. The company will be approached for an offer.
- On the 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> January 2025, from 09:00 am to 11:00 am, a WordPress course for the PA Office staff will take place next week. Anyone interested is welcome to attend it.

## **7. Interparents:**

Vannessa reported the following about the Interparents discussions:

- The JTC (Joint Teaching Committee) meetings are coming soon.
- A lot of syllabuses will be changed.
- Class splits are discussed before the JTC meetings.
- The practice of the 180 school days is accepted.
- The school days during the BAC exams are practiced differently in each school. For instance, in some schools, there is no school for the whole 10 days.
- There are new decisions for the language policy in terms of sections. If there is not a SWALS group corresponding to the dominant language of a Cat.III student, they will not have SWALS support, but if the SWALS group exists there is no problem for the Cat.III pupils to join.
- Children can get their pre-BAC and BAC papers if they want to after the publication of the exam results, and this information will be announced to them.

## **8. The Next Board Meeting:**

The next Board meeting will take place on the 19<sup>th</sup> of February, 2025 at 18:30 pm (face-to-face, Neuperlach).

- The meeting ended at 21:10 pm.

**Minutes Writer:** Sevil Tomur