

Minutes of the Board Meeting of 20th February 2024

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

Attendees

Parents' association (PA) board members: Michael Bölter, Elise Chapoy, Vanessa Doublier Pritchard, Marcela Frank, Esteban Hernández Castello, Narjess Kraiem, Evert Küppers, Inés Lampreia, Maciej Madaliński, Fabrizio Marrone, Mike Marqués, Daniel Pinilla Ariza, Konstantin Poullos, Karsten Röske, Katia Sittler (chair), Antje Stoller, Xenia Tene, Magda Vecchi

Absent PA Board Members: Flavio Carsughi, Susanne Herrnberger, Désirée Kandolo, Muriel Lepage

Members of the Education Council (EC) (guests): Kerstin Arenz, Maria Gkeli, Irene Rosin

1. Approval of the agenda

The chairwoman opened the meeting at 18:45 p.m. The agenda was approved.

Mike Marqués mentioned that he would like an update on the new admission policy for Cat. III families. Daniel Pinilla Ariza and Katia Sittler said that the new policy was already in place and that ESM received applications from Greek, Italian and Dutch families. The website of the school has also been updated. Karsten Röske stressed that ESM didn't have any French applications and that the director gave no information about Spanish or SWALS families applications.

2. Approval of the minutes of the Board Meeting of 24th January 2024

The minutes of the board meeting held on 24th January were approved with one amendment for point 7 (removal of "unanimously").

Evert Küppers clarified that the composition of the working group on the Dutch language section has changed since the January meeting and would include one parents' representative.

3. Chairwoman's report

PA Board organisation: Karsten Röske and Katia Sittler said that they suggested in January adding two positions for Educational Council parents' representatives to the PA board to allow them to participate in votes and to integrate them into certain meetings related to pedagogical topics (inspections or Administrative Boards, for example). Katia Sittler also said that always having the same participants could help structure board meetings and facilitate communication between the two institutions. Kerstin Arenz answered that the EC parents' representatives would like to suggest another organisation to preserve the independence of the EC representatives, who represent all families and not just those members of the PA, and to step up the collaboration between the EC and the PA. Kerstin Arenz proposed on behalf of the EC representatives that two EC parent representatives for the primary and two EC representatives for the secondary participate in the PA board meetings in the future without an official position in the status of the board and thus without participation in the votes.

Karsten Röske and Katia Sittler said the proposal was good.

They also said that even if the EC chooses two representatives for primary and two for secondary, only one main representative for the primary and one main rep for the secondary should attend the monthly PA board meeting. Kerstin Arenz said that one representative at primary and one representative at secondary would be chosen as main representatives and two others as deputy representatives. Antje Stoller added that the main EC parents' representatives would receive

invitations and email communications from the PA. Participants also clarified that other EC representatives may be invited when a topic related to their position is on the agenda.

Katia Sittler asked the PA members to vote on the proposal, but Inês Lampreia suggested first having a written version and then organising the vote in March.

Proposal (to be voted): EC parents' representatives would choose every year one main parent representative for kindergarten/primary school and one main representative for secondary school who would attend the monthly PA board meetings, act as a liaison between the two institutions, have a voice in the PA meetings, but have no right to vote. Each main EC parents' representative at the PA Board would also have a deputy.

Office team organisation (not for publication) ... *omissis* ...

Pedagogical projects: Katia Sittler said that she had a meeting with the school management together with Karsten Röske on that issue. M. Hrovath explained that the school would finance all pedagogical projects for the 2023-2024 school year but may require support from the PA for projects such as school trips, transport fees or the sunshades at primary. Xenia Tene said that she didn't agree because the PA would only support projects in the three main languages. Participants answered that ESM would support the language section projects and already financed the Greek and Italian projects at primary. Katia Sittler also mentioned that this solution was unique for this year, as the school decided to finance all pedagogical projects for the first time. Marcela Frank mentioned that the PA could buy books for the school libraries or board games.

SAC/Administrative Boards: Vanessa Doublier Pritchard said that enlarged agendas and minutes of the SAC or administrative board meetings should be shared with the PA Board members and with the EC parents' representatives.

4. Report on Joint Teaching Committee (JTC)

Vanessa Doublier Pritchard reported on the February 2024 JTC. The following topics have been addressed:

- The Complaints Board of the European Schools is the competent authority to handle complaints about BAC or repeating a year. National courts cannot be addressed.
- Syllabuses would incrementally be reviewed and would focus on competence rather than assessment.
- A working group on summative assessment for S5 and S6 communicated its results and proposed a partial replacement of semester tests by B tests. The final decision would be taken by the Board of Governors in April. It appeared that even if deputy directors, teachers and pupils were against the proposal, the working group worked regularly, and the representatives of directors, teachers or pupils who were members of the working group did not express their disagreement. The parents' representatives in Munich voted against the proposal but were a minority among Interparents. Vanessa Doublier Pritchard suggested lobbying against the proposal and contacting EPO.
- Whole school inspection (WSI) of European schools: the results of an external audit of the WSI procedure have been communicated. Auditors said that the structure was good but with a lack of feedback from teachers, pupils and parents.
- Accredited European Schools would get an observer position on the Board of Governors.

Vanessa Doublier Pritchard said that Munich would host the Interparents meeting in December 2024.

5. Missions of the different parents' representatives

Participants clarified the roles of the different parents' representatives at ESM.

- A parent representative at the class level acts as a mediator for internal class issues. In the event of a problem beyond the scope of the class, he can contact the language section representative.

- An Educational Council (EC) parent representative for a language section works with the other EC representatives on educational topics (learning environment, teachers, behavioural issues, etc.) and acts as a liaison with the school management.
- A PA board member who represents a language section oversees the funding of pedagogical projects. Antje Stoller added that the PA board has grown over the years in the number of their members and advised that the language section representatives should take over additionally functional positions like treasurer, secretary, vice-president or responsibility of a service.

Vanessa Doublier Pritchard and Marcela Frank said that EC or PA parents' representatives are not involved in the teacher recruitment process but have already been able to contact the language section inspector on this subject.

6. Services update

Canteen: The school management brought together for the first time the committee on the canteen on February 1, 2024. The committee included teachers, pupils and parents' representatives (primary and secondary), and Organic Garden (OG). The first task of the group would be an update of the 2016 food policy. Fabrizio Marrone added that a smaller working group would work on a proposal that would be discussed and voted on at a future committee meeting. OG would also hire a nutrition expert for drafting the new food policy. Xenia Tene stressed that the expert should rather be hired by the school or the PA. Fabrizio Marrone mentioned that OG offered to move from only organic products to seasonal and regional products. Vanessa Doublier Pritchard and Marcela Frank said that OG should provide a list of its suppliers.

Vending machines at HS: Fabrizio Marrone said that the proposal would be to completely avoid sugar. Pupils have currently the option of purchasing "Schorle" drinks. Another problem to deal with would be that the machines work with change and not with the student cards.

Inês Lampreia and other participants said that the prices of the meals have increased but the quality of the food and the variety of the meals have recently decreased. Fabrizio Marrone answered that he also observed a decrease in the variety and already sent official complaints to OG. He stressed that the situation was not disastrous.

Some participants raised the question of a possible change of supplier for the canteen. Fabrizio Marrone answered that he already started an unofficial benchmark study. He specified that the contract with OG could be interrupted at the end of a year with 6 months' notice.

7. Next board meeting

The next board meeting will take place on March 19th at 18:30 pm (face-to-face, ESM Neuperlach).

The meeting ended at 21:05 pm.

Minute writer:

Elise Chapoy