

## Minutes of the Board Meeting of 19<sup>th</sup> May 2020

The meeting was held as online conference via Skype software from 6:35 pm until 8:50 pm

Minute writer: Adriana Vera-Merz

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### Attendees:

**PA Board members:** Antje Stoller, Marina Conte, Germana Baldisseri, Roberto Trimarchi, Martin Ratcliffe, Rafael Baltanás Jorge, Esteban Hernández Castelló, Kerstin Arenz, Katia Sittler, Flavio Carsughi, Irene Rosin, Julien Jacoby, Sofia Macieira, Giorgios Lazaridis, Adriana Vera-Merz

**Observing participant:** Maciej Madaliński

**Absent PA Board Members:** Gerry van Woensel, Stéphane Fraissé, Rupert Plenk, Caroline Müller, Anna Cattani-Scholz

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### 1. Approval of the agenda

The chairman opened the meeting at 6:35 pm. The agenda was approved.

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

The minutes of the board meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> April 2020 were approved.

### 3. Chairman's report

- News from SAC and EC

Prior to this meeting, Roberto Trimarchi sent the board members a written report of the Educational Council meeting of 13<sup>th</sup> May 2020. In this meeting Mr. Riser informed that in average the marks of the semester tests of the S5 dropped between 0.2 and 0,3 points in comparison with the marks with the old marking system. The process of marking harmonization among the teachers is ongoing.

The S7 will receive the final marks on 22<sup>nd</sup> June. The school is planning a graduation ceremony on 26<sup>th</sup> June without the attendance of parents or guests. The ceremony would be streamed for the parents.

A student survey was run in the secondary school (S1-S7). The results of the survey will be communicated soon. Additionally, the school plans to run a survey among the parents.

The chairman informs that the survey that was planned within the EPO will not take place.

- Update school reopening

The P1 and P5 pupils started to go to school on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May. It is planned that KG, M2 start on 25<sup>th</sup> May (perhaps M1 too). In the KG the groups will be for 10 pupils each. It is planned that P2, P3 and P4 start lessons at school on 15<sup>th</sup> of June. It could be earlier, depending on how P1-p5 are working.

By the beginning of the school year 20-21 it will be decided if the secondary school continues exclusively with virtual lessons, or if there will be in person lessons. In the latter case, some subjects might be left out of the timetables. This can be decided by the inspectors only.

Regarding the re-opening the school and the hygiene measures, the ESM can have stricter rules in relation to Bavaria, but not laxer. Due to the multiple subjects and subject choices in the ESM, the organization of the lessons in person is much more complex than in other type of schools.

The ES in Karlsruhe is operating a shift system for the on-site lessons in the secondary. The ESM can observe and learn from this experience. It seems that pupils lose a lot of courses.

The offer to take care of the children at school while they receive virtual lessons has not been widely used. At the moment only 12 pupils from the whole secondary school are making use of it. After this experience, this might not be the main model for the beginning of school year 2020-2021.

In Bavaria children are entitled to a "Notbetreuung" in the COVID-19 time, when their parents fulfil some requirements (e.g. have a system relevant profession, single parent). The ESM is not offering this service. Some Category III parents that were counting on this, have approached Giorgios Lazaridis asking why our school is not acting in line to the Bavarian regulations. The PA is prepared to organize the "Notbetreuung" with RUF. Unfortunately, the school does not provide the rooms. Apparently Mr. Hrovath got the instructions from Brussels not to offer this service. Giorgios requests a communication from the PA or from the school giving the reasons for not offering this service.

- Other topics

- a. It is not clear if Martin Duggen will continue to have the position as director of the secondary next school year.  
Anderas Dauscher, the school administrator, will leave on 10<sup>th</sup> July. Apparently, no handover can take place when his replacement begins in September.
- b. Two of the PA employees would like to work from the office twice a week. If they keep the required distance while in the room, there is no need for them to use a mask. The board agrees that they work from the office.  
Some of the PA employees still have unsolved problems with the remote access to the system.
- c. Marcel Wolf is willing to help us in the development of the new site and to take over the office's IT support. The school will agree that he has a side job to his main job at the ESM.

#### **4. Garderie, Canteen Transport and NSA**

The transport for the P1 and P5 pupils who started lessons on-site this week, is working fine. Should the other primary children start too, the transportation service can be provided to all. The nursery children will be allowed to use the bus, if they have siblings attending the lessons at the school, or if they get in the bus at the EPO premises.

Il Cielo sent a communication to the parents asking for a financial help of € 6,50 per month, per child as long as the canteen remains closed. This with the intention to cover their monthly fixed costs (approx. € 12K). If the parents do not agree with this payment, they have to actively communicate it to Il Cielo. The chairman has received complaints about the communication from our service provider. He would like to see the financial figures and confirm the amount of costs to be covered.

Some parents have complained because RUF will collect the fees for April, May and half a month for March,

although no services (with exception of some video-activities) have been rendered. They will not charge for June. They are not willing to negotiate in this point. RUF intends to pay its employees 100% of the salary until August. They fear that otherwise they will quit. Apparently RUF does not receive any subsidy from the city of Munich or the ministry.

The applications for next year are over and the contracts are signed. Usually RUF charges the September fees in August, but this year they will wait until September. It is unclear, how and to which extent the services of the afterschool care may be offered in the beginning of the next school year.

The chairman would like to see the financial figures of RUF to understand more their business model, which in the current exceptional situation, is a burden for the parents.

Pauker will charge half of the fees for March through June.

The PA could suggest RUF and Pauker to treat the fees paid for not rendered services by category III parents as donations (tax deductible).

Fourteen of the NSA courses are being offered online. The PA will reimburse the money for all that didn't take place. For next school year the courses were planned in line with the hygiene measures due to COVID-19. The groups will be smaller and therefore, the courses will be more expensive than usual. If the school does not reopen in September, some courses will be cancelled, and some courses will be switched to online courses. This will be made clear in the course descriptions. The parents will only pay for the service they get.

## **5. Cat.III: fees and admission policy**

Some category III parents have requested a reduction in fees and a payment delay because of a change of their financial circumstances due to COVID-19 and/or because the ESM has not provided full teaching since 9th March.

Martin Ratcliffe informs that Interparents requested the Office of Secretary-General in early May, to urgently consider the following:

- "Full postponement of the payment of the 25% deposit for the next school year 2020/2021, until 31 December 2020. In the event this is not viable option for the individual school, as an alternative; split the payment in two tranches in August and December.
- Up to 30% reduction of the tuition fees for CAT III families who apply for this and are in a difficult financial situation, proven by any document showing change in financial circumstances caused by Covid-19.

There has not been a response to these requests so far.

Flavio Carsughi comments that he asked the ESM finance office for an annual tax certificates for fees paid. The answer from the school was that this year such certificates will not be provided. Brussels adopted the policy of not issuing such certificates.

Regarding the admissions policy for category III pupils, now that the second ESM site (Fasangarten) is operational for the KS and the GS, overcrowding is no longer a problem, and the restrictive admissions policy is therefore no longer required. At the January 2020 ESM Admin Board Meeting, Mr. Marcheggiano confirmed that he had the mandate of the BoG to ensure that all European Schools follow the same rules, which included Admissions Policies. The restrictive ESM Admissions Policy for Cat III students should end, as this restriction appears to be no longer valid.

Based on the above information and on the results of the category III simulation programmed by Enrico Fedrigo, the PA (with Mr. Hrovath's support) intends to push this topic in the next meetings of the Joint Teaching and the Budgetary Committees. The intention is to bring this point on the agenda of the next meeting of the Board of Governors (December 2020). In this way the admission policy will be clearly changed for the 2021-2022 school year.

## **6. Positions of board members about to expire (2 years mandate)**

The chairman informs that candidates are needed to take over the following positions next school year: minute writer, canteen, Interparents, security, category III, English, German and Italian language sections. There are already candidates for the after school child care and transport positions.

## **7. Financial issues**

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## **8. Any other business**

- Flavio sent the final version of the master document for the new PA system to the programming company.
- The question if the PA wants to go paperless was risen. If there are no legal issues, and if our partners (e.g. MVG, Il Cielo, RUF) are good with it, the board members would agree. Flavio will ask for a legal opinion and come back to us.

## **9. Next board meeting**

The next board meeting will be on June 17<sup>th</sup> 2020. Depending on the development of the COVID-19 pandemic, the meeting will take place in person or virtually.

The meeting ended at 8:50 pm

Minute writer:

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Adriana Vera-Merz