

Minutes of the Board Meeting of 8th October 2020

The meeting was held as online conference via MS Teams from 6:35 pm until 8:30 pm

Minute writer: Adriana Vera-Merz

Attendees:

PA Board members: Antje Stoller, Germana Baldisseri, Roberto Trimarchi, Rafael Baltanás y Jorge, Esteban Hernández Castelló, Katia Sittler, Flavio Carsughi, Irene Rosin, Julien Jacoby, Sofia Macieira, Giorgios Lazaridis, Anna Cattani-Scholz, Kerstin Arenz, Stéphane Fraissé, Adriana Vera-Merz

Observing participant: Maciej Madaliński, Mihail Tzekov, Daniel Pinilla (candidates for positions in the PA Board for the school year 2020/2021)

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

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 22nd September 2020 were approved.

3. Report, feedback from Admin board meeting

Rafael Baltanás y Jorge attended the last Administrative Board meeting of the ESM and reported:

The Secretary General of the European Schools, Mr. Marcheggiano, attended the meeting and reported about the financial implications of the measures taken due to COVID-19.

There has been a risk assessment for the school. The lack of native English-speaking teachers due to Brexit, and COVID-19 are currently the biggest risks for the ESM. Subjects taught in English other than L1, philosophy or courses in the primary school, might be taught by non-native speakers in the future. Contacts regarding the possibility to delegate English teachers from Ireland and Malta have been made. However, no decisions will be finally made before the outcome of the Brexit is known. The UK seconded teachers have already received confirmation from their ministry of education about their contracts ending this school year. According to Mr. Hrovath, most of the current English seconded teachers would accept a local contract to stay at the ESM.

There is a need to recruit local staff because not enough seconded teachers have joined the school. A member of the German delegation attended the meeting and was asked why there are 10 German seconded teachers missing. There was no immediate answer to this. One of the reasons might be that Munich is an expensive city and the national teachers don't receive an expatriate allowance, making the position financially unattractive. Mr. Marcheggiano mentions there is now a possibility to dedicate some funds to counteract this, but the effects of this measure are still uncertain.

To the question of the EPO regarding the number of teaching hours lost during the distance learning from March through July, the school direction will answer after preparing a report.

Houses 1-4 are being used at the Fasangarten site. The German government has not allocated house 5 to the ESM. The BIMA has done a number of works in the school facilities such as renovation of the façade and works in the elevated passage in Perlach, and renovations for the Nursery. These represent no expenditures neither for the school nor for the EPO.

The German authorities will decide about the usage of the nursery building at Neuperlach once the EPO confirms its needs.

There are 50 pupils less than last year in the primary school. Currently there are 700 hundred enrolled children. The building has capacity for up to 1300-1400 pupils.

To the question of how to address the decreasing number of pupils, the EPO will promote the school within the Office and the ESM has contacted some consulates in Munich (cat II). Mr. Hrovath opened the discussions of admissions of cat III pupils. The EPO representative informed that a statistical report of the effects on the ESM pupil population due to new recruiting and benefits policies in the EPO will be prepared and distributed amongst the ESM stakeholders. The report will also include the effects of the "new normal" - post pandemic developments. The document should be ready to be discussed in the next Administrative Board meeting. Mr. Marcheggiano claimed that a change in the admission policy at the ESM depends on the arguments the EPO will bring up.

The representative of the European Commission asks about the plans of extending the Spanish language section to the secondary school, since there was a discussion on this matter on the previous meeting of the administrative board. This, together with the overall structure of the language sections, will be discussed in the future, once the forecast of the number of pupils is updated by the EPO.

The school announced that a new website for the ESM will be launched in December 2020 or January 2021.

The school calendar 21/22 was discussed. To have enough teaching days, the holidays in May 2022 will be shorter than a week (Wednesday-Friday). The agenda did not include a decision on the calendar. It is unclear if the calendar is final. It has not been published yet.

The school directors gave a report about the digital learning achievements at the ESM. iPads were distributed in P4-P5. The school has been awarded a third star by the Bavarian authorities for its sustainable development policies. The "Bring your own Device" programme has started in the S5.

The school direction is very proud of the class of 2020. The BAC results were considerable higher than average, apparently, not because of the special conditions due to the pandemic, but because the class was particularly good. This had already been observed in the past, when the marks of previous years were analysed while assessing the impact of the new marking system.

To protect the risk population in the school, the direction has decided to keep the obligation to wear masks during the lessons, even if the government of Bavaria doesn't demand it in the future.

The MUNOM will take place remotely. It is being organized.

This year there were no refusals for registration of pupils on grounds of their educational support needs.

The EPO representative suggests that next year the SWALS with few pupils per class in S5-S7 are regrouped in consecutive courses. She hinted at pedagogical arguments for this suggestion. According to Mr. Hrovath, the Board of Governors decided not to reduce L1 hours in S6 & S7 in view of the BAC requirements. Mr. Marcheggiano mentioned the long list of exceptions for the SWALS courses in the primary and demanded that these are reduced, as he has asked for this several times in the past.

Due to the lack of clarity in the liability issues, for the school is problematic that the PA offers activities on site. It is unclear who is accountable for what. Mr. Marcheggiano regards this as a problem too, as well as the auditors who have mentioned this in their reports already several times.

Chairman's report: Roberto Trimarchi received the WSI-update (Whole School Inspection update) from the school, in order to give the parents' feedback. He circulated the questionnaire among the PA board members. Only Sofia Macieira gave her comments. The questionnaire was then sent back to the school with the recommendation to forward it to the educational council, since the most topics are pedagogical issues. Mr. Hrovath will send the questionnaire to the Educational Council, asking for feedback.

When the purple container and all the others are finally gone, the outdoor area in the Neuperlach site is to be redesigned. Mr. Duggen invited the PA to brainstorm about this topic. The football field will be enlarged to its original size.

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The chairman and some members of the PA have been discussing about making some changes in the PA structure to gain efficiency and clear the accountability issues between the school and the PA. The services that they suggest to shift to the school are the canteen and the afternoon care. For these we are acting currently as intermediaries only, facilitating the registration while other companies are providing the services. They suggest keeping the NSA within the PA.

Regarding the personnel, the chairman presented a concept to increase the efficiency of the office based on the following changes:

- a. Reduction of the current 7 mini jobs.
- b. New structure with a couple of managers who would be accountable for the PA activities.
- c. Since it is uncertain what the EPO plans with the office the PA currently uses at its premises, the PA employees would be located at the Fasangarten site, if the school agrees.

These potential changes are to be discussed with the EPO, ESM and with the PA board members. The question about who would pay the salaries (ESM, EPO, parents) must be clarified.

If the PA finishes some of the work contracts, it is possible that the affected employees take legal action against the PA. If the EPO contributes financially to the organization of the NSA activities, the board should make sure that non-Cat I pupils continue to be entitled to join all NSA courses.

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4. Services: update

The services of the PA are running well. RUF will open two groups on Wednesday and one on Friday for the 5th grade children starting on 16th October. The opening date is the one RUF had committed to.

Maciej Madaliński informs that the city of Munich has not reacted timely to our requests in the last weeks. It was necessary to make pressure to get our requests solved.

The NSA and the canteen are running normally.

5. AGM: agenda update; Voting test with adoodle.org.

According to our information, none of the parents that have applied to the open positions by now, has a contractual work relationship with the school. This condition must be fulfilled in order to become a PA board member. Board members cannot have a work relationship with the Parents Association either (Article 7(d) of the statutes, last sentence).

The preliminary agenda of the General Assembly will be corrected to include the ratification of the representatives of the Spanish and Greek language sections in the board and the representative of the German language section (primary school) in the Educational Council.

The board agrees that Anna Cattani-Scholz supports the upcoming board member for Interparents. This is a position that requires good understanding of the governance of the European Schools, and the board is thankful that Anna offers to guide and support the board member to be elected.

The assembly on 3rd November will take place virtually with the PA-licenced MS Teams. Marcel Wolf is configuring it for this purpose. The software that will probably be used for voting is adoodle.org. This software was tested successfully during this meeting. It allows only one vote per email address, the vote is secret, and it is easy to use. The parents who confirm their attendance to the assembly will be asked in advance for the email address that will be used for the voting during the meeting.

6. Any other business;

- PA new system: Flavio Carsughi asks the board members to give feedback about the new modules that the programmers that have been released to be tested. The members of the Educational Council will be invited to test these and further modules.
- EC in next meetings: The Educational Council members will be invited to next the board meetings.
- The Chairman expressly thanked all the board members who will end their mandate as from the next AGM, for their work in the past years: Germana Baldisseri, Adriana Vera-Merz, Caroline Müller, Martin Ratcliffe, Gerry van Woensel, Rupert Plenck, Anna Cattani-Scholz, Mohan Chennupati and Kerstin Arenz.
Special thanks go to Irene Rosin for the enormous amount of work and dedication as transport organizer in many mandates at the PA.

7. Next board meeting

The next board meeting will be scheduled once the new board members are elected/ratified on the general assembly of 3rd November.

The meeting ended at 8:30 pm

Minute writer:

Adriana Vera-Merz