

Minutes of the Board Meeting of 14th December 2021

The meeting was held as an online conference via MS Teams from 19:00 pm until 21.25 pm.

Attendees

PA Board members: Antje Stoller, Roberto Trimarchi, Katia Sittler (chair), Julien Jacoby, Sofia Macieira, Maciej Madaliński, Daniel Pinilla Ariza, Magda Vecchi, Désirée Kandolo, Sten Harck, Xenia Tene, Elise Chapoy, Anne Ridings, Esteban Hernández Castello, Vanessa Doublier Pritchard, Catherine Jenewein, Flavio Carsughi

Absent PA Board members: Fabrizio Marrone, Mihail Tzekov, Stefan Unterstrasser

1. Approval of the agenda

The chairwoman opened the meeting at 19:00 pm. Two points were added to the agenda, one concerning Interparent (see 7.), the other concerning transport difficulties reported by parents (see 5.). The agenda was approved.

2. Approval of the minutes of the Board Meeting of 30th November 2021

The minutes of the Board Meeting held on 30th November were approved.

4. Chairwoman's report

The chairwoman Katia Sittler explained that there were only a few cases of covid at ESM. The school should continue to test pupils 3 times a week and has not yet planned to go to 5 times a week. The kindergarten seemed to be short on test at the end of the year. A new regulation concerning Kindergarten testing should come into effect in January 2022 but ESM still does not have access to "Lolli tests". The ESM would provide parents with test kits and asked them to pass on the test results to the teachers 3 times a week. They would continue to count on the honesty of parents.

Antje Stoller said that it was too early to give any information on NSA after 12/01 as Bavarian authorities have yet to release their new Covid plan. The PA has to be prepared for any development. Kiga pupils won't be allowed to take part in NSA after 12/01 as they should continue to stay in their section. RUF won't offer replacing after-school care on Monday, Wednesday and Friday in Kindergarten but Il Cielo would manage the extra-lunches.

Some Board members asked why the ESM didn't choose to close the school earlier in December or to offer online schooling as it was the case in other European schools. Sten Harck explained that primary schools in Brussels have been closed due to the high incidence in the country. The decision of the ESM not to close the school was taken in accordance with Bavarian rules. Katia Sittler said that the PA couldn't assure the director that all the parents were in favour of closing the school or of going online. Antje Stoller added that there is a compulsory schooling in Bavaria.

Anne Ridings related that a Spanish teacher might not always wear a mask. Sofia Macieira said that language teachers would need to show their face and that they should be allowed to wear face shields in classes as it is important for language teaching. Katia Sittler said that she would check whether the school made exceptions to the wearing of mask on educational grounds.

5. Services update

Transport: Maciej Madaliński confirmed that taxi drivers have no obligation to wear masks even though most do. However, when a child is seated next to the driver, he has to wear a mask.

Vanessa Doublier-Pritchard explained that according to RUF and Pauker some taxis are repeatedly late at 4pm. She added that some taxi drivers do not display their number on a sign. Maciek said that he was surprised because he didn't get any complaints from the school or RUF regarding the late arriving of taxis after 4 and that he would advise RUF staff to transmit the number of taxis that are late. He added that he already sent a note to companies for the clear display of taxi numbers.

RUF: Désirée Kandolo said that Pauker's phone communication problems have been solved and that there won't be any afterschool care on 22/12/2021.

NSA: Antle Stoller said that NSA courses won't take place on 22/12/2021 as the ESM would close at 12.05.

Canteen: Katia Sittler shared the observations made by Fabrizio Marrone at the high school canteen. He chose the last pupil in the queue and calculated a waiting time of 8 min. He concluded that the wait times of 10 to 15 minutes assessed by the school were reliable.

Fabrizio and Katia also said that the Kiosk wasn't short on healthy or hot food the day they were present.

Fabrizio Marrone had a meeting with Alexia Giannakopoulou regarding the GS canteen. They would create a committee with pupils, EV members, ESM and canteen staff to find solutions to improve service and reduce food waste.

6. IT update

Flavio Carsughi said that due to the new booking system the PA had to review its workflow for NSA management. He added that he prepared a list of tasks for people involved in opened tickets with Com21. He concluded that the system was already working better as the old one even if it would take a while to achieve all the goals.

He mentioned that the PA prepared a contribution for Christmas for 3 employees of Com21 (3 x 30 euros to buy presents).

7. Interparents

Sten Hack reported on the last Interparents meeting which took place in preparation of a Board of governors meeting.

- The first important item on a long agenda was that Interparent would participate in a working group on the well-being at European schools with teachers and pupils.
- The second point was related to the attractiveness of teachers positions at European Schools. Some ES, particularly in Luxembourg, have difficulty attracting teachers. Some schools hire teachers from ES and offer better salaries. The situation is comparable in Munich with the International school in Starnberg. The competition also exists between European Schools because Cat II ES offer better salaries.
Anne Ridings asked if they mentioned the issue of recruiting English teachers. Sten answered that it wasn't really discussed but that qualified non-native speaker should be accepted as well in the future.
- The third important topic was the management of canteens at ES. Three options of management were reviewed: a. the PA manages the canteen and outsources it; b. the PA manages and runs the canteen; c. the school manages and outsources the canteen. The Board of directors of ES is in favour of options A and B.
- Sten Harck mentioned that he was compiling the fees paid by Cat. 3 families across European schools and that they should all pay the same amount.
- Sofia Macieira informed the PA members of the SWALS topics raised during the Interparents meeting. It emerged that there is no homogeneity in the SWALS management among ES.

The lack of harmonisation of levels of L2 teaching does not only concern SWALS but all language sections. An Interparents working group would draft a proposal in view of a harmonisation of SWALS L1 teaching.

The concern about the effects of reducing and vertical grouping of L1 teaching hours in both primary and secondary is shared by all schools. Particularly affected by the measures are Varese, Frankfurt and Munich. Among the Interparents SWALS working group, the representatives of these three schools are writing a joint paper on this matter supporting the demand for the withdrawal of the L1 teaching hours cutting measures. Sofia Macieira is in charge of Munich's written contribution.

8. Sponsoring pedagogical project

- A working group has been set up to draft a guideline for the financing of educational projects. Xenia Tene and Julien Jacoby would be members of the group. Roberto Trimarchi said that he could also be part of the group. Katia Sittler specified that an annual amount of 2000 euros per language section (from Kindergarten to High school) exists to finance pedagogical projects. She also said that the initiator of the project must be a teacher. The group would work on the form created by Flavio Carsughi. The guideline would also be intended for teaching staff and ESM management.

Xenia Tene suggested making a table of completed projects for the record.

- Greek section project: Xenia Tene spoke with the teachers and the director of the primary school and got a positive response, including possible funding from the library.
- Italian section project: Magda Vecchi presented the projects of the Italian section for the school year, including the "Opera semplice" already unanimously selected by the association, 2 conferences and the "Olympic games" sponsored by the Italian government. Roberto Trimarchi said that the maximal amount of 2000 euros was already agreed and that Magda could organise the distribution of funding.

Flavio Carsughi said that the funding budget from the school is limited and that language sections have to ask early in the school year. Roberto Trimarchi added that the PA should ask the school how and when they provide budgets for the different projects and if there are guidelines.

- Spanish section project: Esteban Hernández Castello presented the project of the Spanish section which involves all Spanish primary school classes. The theatre workshops are financed up to 1000 euros by the school and the rest by the parents. The PA unanimously approved the project and allocated an envelope of 2000 euros.

9. Any other business

Julien Jacoby recalled that as clearly stated in the AGB, member families must inform the PA no later than July 31 of their withdrawal if they do not want to pay membership fees in December of the same year.

10. Next board meeting

The next board meeting will take place on 18th January 2022 at 19:00 pm via MS Teams and will be joined by educational council representatives.

The meeting ended at 21.24 pm.

Minute writer:

Elise Chapoy