

Minutes of the Board Meeting of 22th March 2022

The meeting was held as an online conference via MS Teams from 19:00 pm until 21:30 pm.

Attendees

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

Absent PA Board Members: Stefan Unterstrasser, Catherine Jenewein, Sten Harck

1. Approval of the agenda

The chairwoman opened the meeting at 19:07 pm. The agenda was approved with one addition and one amendment. Maciej Madaliński said he wanted to add an update on the costs of canteen and transport for Ukrainian pupils at ESM (see 4. Services update). Magda Vecchi specified that the project she would present was not a pedagogical project but a sponsorship (see 7. Any other business).

2. Approval of the minutes of the Board Meeting of 17th February 2022

The minutes of the Board Meeting held on 17th February were approved.

3. Chairwoman's report

Corona situation: Katia Sittler informed that ESM reported in March the highest number of Corona cases since the start of the pandemic. As a result, the school management was struggling to find replacement teachers. She also said that due to the high number of positive cases and the mixed classes, the ESM should continue to test 5 times a week until the eastern holidays at least. She added that primary school children were not allowed to remove masks when they were seated, because ESM didn't test the pupils with pool tests.

Katia Sittler replied to Anne Ridings that teachers are required to provide pupils in quarantine with online courses and the rule should also applied to L2 classes.

Mihail Tzekov said that pupils who were ill but not in quarantine should also be allowed to attend online classes. Vanessa Doublier Pritchard mentioned that the question was already raised during an Educational Council meeting. The school management and teachers agreed to limit online classes to pupils in official quarantine, even if there have already been exceptions, such as for example for a pupil with a broken leg.

"Landschulheime"/School trips: Roberto Trimarchi said there have been complaints about the cancellation of school trips for P4 and P5 pupils. Bavaria has allowed school trips again, but ESM did not make reservations far enough in advance because they wanted to avoid the risk of cancellations fees, which caused a lot of trouble in 2020. M. Stie tried to find last-minute solutions for the one-week trips, but popular suitable places and dates were booked out. However, the school might organise short class-trips of 1 or 2 nights for P4 pupils, and possibly also for the P5 pupils. Vanessa Doublier-Pritchard said that the questions of the school-trips for P5 would be raised at the next Educational Council meeting. Daniel Pinilla Ariza added that the ESM should have emailed the parents with more detailed explanations.

“Beratungsteam” at ESM: Daniel and Katia mentioned that they had a meeting on 01/03/2022 about the “kiva” team, mobbing, and psychological support at ESM. ESM presented a very good and well-developed plan. Katia Sittler said that ESM should now focus more on the primary level. The school management specially pointed out that they were understaffed in this area and that there were new needs due to the corona crisis and the current situation in Ukraine. Katia Sittler said she insisted twice on the needs of the primary pupils that are insufficiently addressed.

Antje Stoller asked if sexuality education was still on the P5 curriculum because she had the feeling that it hadn't been taught since the start of the pandemic. The question remained open.

4. Services update

RUF: Désirée Kandolo said that RUF would amend its concept in view of the 2022-2023 school-year. They decided on a suitable price scale and would offer more flexible time slots. Parents should for example be able to choose between 3 time slots on Monday, Wednesday and Friday (12.05-14.00, 12.05-16.00 or 12.05-18.00). Lunch time slots would always be covered by RUF teams.

Désirée Kandolo added that they also amended their offer for day-care during holidays (Autumn, Winter, Easter and sometimes Ascension holidays) and the pedagogical day: all families would now have the opportunity to book those weeks. Summer holidays are not included in the new concept.

Antje Stoller asked if the PA set a minimum number of bookings to open a RUF group and ensure parents that they have the possibility to book NSA. Katia Sittler said the question wasn't addressed yet and added that there would be no difficulty in opening groups from 12.05 to 14.00.

Katia Sittler recalled that the PA organised in February a survey about after school care. It came out that more flexibility was requested and that families were not happy with the fees charged during lockdowns. Parents being at RUF sent positive comments about RUF but seemed not satisfied with die Pauker (however, only 2 families sent comments about die Pauker).

NSA: Antje Stoller mentioned that the office team had great difficulty in organising and maintaining NSA courses since February because many teachers were in quarantine.

She also said that M. Salvat asked if the PA could offer a kind of day care for S1 and S2 pupils during the last 2 weeks of the school year. Antje Stoller answered that the ESM and not the PA should organise activities for pupils during school time.

She concluded that RUF would take over the “Mittagsbetreuung” next school year and that it would be a positive development for the NSA team.

Transport: Maciej Madaliński confirmed that there were a lot of positive cases in buses, but the service was running according to the plan. He mentioned that he started working on the program for the next school year. The ESM would be building a place to store the seats for pupils driving with taxis. The PA would buy new seats for kindergarten pupils and at least for P1-P3 pupils. Fabrizio Marrone suggested the PA should ask parents if they could give their old ones. Katia Sittler replied that for safety and insurance reasons the PA should rather buy new seats.

Maciej Madaliński announced that all Ukrainian children who would join the ESM have the right to use transport for free. He added that most of the buses were full at the moment and that ESM expressed concern about the fact that some children were fighting in buses. They suggested the PA organise a supervision with adults in buses. Maciej mentioned that the PA in Karlsruhe organise and pay for a supervision in buses and that it also raised a question of insurance. Katia Sittler said that it wasn't a good idea to have adults or parents in buses. She concluded that the PA should first speak with the school to learn more precisely how many children would join, which classes and where do they live, and then take the next steps. Ukrainian pupils would have the same rights as the others and won't pay for services.

Canteen: Fabrizio Marrone mentioned that the first session of the Gremium with teachers and pupils took place in March. The director M.Hrovath was happy about the meeting and pupils had the opportunity to directly give their feedback. They analysed the main problems of the 2 canteens and decided on organising a survey among end-users (and not parents). The Gremium would first meet 2 groups of children (S1-S3, S4-S7) to hear their opinions and also define the survey questions.

5. IT update

Flavio Carsughi said he already got feedback and specifications from most team members. He concluded that he would finalise the following contract with Com21 in the next weeks.

6 Pedagogical projects

Katia Sittler explained that the amount allocated to pedagogical projects would be defined each year after the closure of the annual accounts and the General Assembly. Given the developments of the budget the last past years and the fact that more sections would participate in, an amount of 1000 euros per section and per year would be first defined. This amount might be reviewed after the GA in October.

Xenia Tene presented the guideline and the request form created by the working group on financing of educational projects. She mentioned that board members have the possibility to access the file on Teams and that they could send their comments or additions to the group members. The guideline would provide teachers and language section representatives with definitions and practical information on the procedure and budget allocated to a potential project sponsored by the PA. Xenia Tene replied to Antje Stoller that the new procedure should only apply to language sections projects and that other projects, like activities not related to a language section or sport events, were not within the scope of the working group.

Greek section project: Xenia Tene said that the Greek section would organise a literature day in May that would include presentations and seminars. She added she already sent the request form to the board members. The project was unanimously approved by the PA board members.

English section project: Anne Ridings said that the KG and GS English section teachers would like to hold an interactive performance by Opera Semplice and seminars for the pupils. She also presented the request form sent to the Board members. The school would cover 500 Euros of the 1100 requested for the project. The project was unanimously approved by the PA board members.

7. Any other business

Donation for Ukrainian partner school: Julien Jacoby recalled that 41 000 euros have been transferred from the "Förderkreis" to the Don Bosco Association for Ukraine.

Project "Still I rise": Magda Vecchi presented an initiative from the association "Still I rise" whose aim is to promote children's access to school in places where the schooling is mainly disregarded. "Still I rise" would like to organise a photo exposition in the ESM premises to raise money. Roberto Trimarchi thanked Magda Vecchi for her engagement and said she should present the project to the ESM. Julien Jacoby pointed out that the "ESM Förderkreis", a charity dedicated to that kind of projects, and not the PA should support the initiative. Julien added that he would put Magda Vecchi in touch with the people in charge.

German section: Mihail Tzekov said that the German section representatives would meet the director of the ESM at the beginning of April to discuss different topics and in particular the difficulty in recruiting German teachers.

8. Next board meeting

The next board meeting will take place on 26th April at 6.30 pm (face-to-face if possible).

The meeting ended at 21:30 pm.

Minute writer:

Elise Chapoy