

Minutes of the Board Meeting of 24th April 2023

The meeting was held as an online conference via MS Teams from 19:03 pm until 21:24 pm.

Attendees

PA Board members: Roberto Trimarchi, Katia Sittler (chair), Julien Jacoby, Maciej Madaliński, Daniel Pinilla Ariza, Magda Vecchi, Vannessa Doublier Pritchard, Konstantin Poullos, Flavio Carsughi, Anne Ridings, Elise Chapoy, Karsten Röski, Désirée Kandolo, Antje Stoller, Mike Marqués, Fabrizio Marrone, Muriel Lepage, Catherine Jenewein, Esteban Hernández Castello, Xenia Tene

Absent PA Board members: Sofia Macieira

1. Approval of the agenda

The chairwoman opened the meeting at 19:00 pm. The agenda was approved.

2. Approval of the minutes of the Board Meeting of 28th March 2023

The minutes of the Board Meeting held on 28th March were approved. Magda Vecchi mentioned that the PA should produce statistics on NSA teachers' absences. Antje Stoller replied that the NSA team already had a good view on teacher absences and hired them according to their reliability. Daniel Pinilla Ariza added that teacher absences were no longer an issue for parents since an NSA must be booked together with RUF.

3. Chairwoman's report

Katia Sittler reported she had had no contact with the school management since the last board meeting. ESM validated the start date of NSA courses in September, 2 weeks after the school start. She added that she would update the list of PA Board members who would take part in the next Jourfix.

4. HS End of the year missing school week

Katia Sittler said that the school management sent information to parents about the end of the school year at HS on 30.06.2023. Katia Sittler added that S1-S4 pupils missed almost two weeks of school last year (June 2022) because of BAC orals for an exceptional number of S7 pupils. The school managed to limit it to one week this year.

Roberto Trimarchi mentioned that missing school days at the end of the year was a recurrent issue and that, unless the PA suggests a plan, ESM won't be able to change anything.

Vannessa Doublier-Pritchard clarified that all European schools (ES) have the same problem and that InterParents already had a working group on that topic. The school year for pupils must consist of 180 days in European schools, but the last school days are no longer mandatory in HS. She added that she didn't understand why European Schools always communicate that the last day of school must be July 7, even when that is never the case at HS.

Katia Sittler said that the problem was the lack of availability of teachers and pedagogical staff at the end of the year due to BAC exams and other activities (class conferences, etc.). Anne Ridings expressed the wish that the school communicates better and explains the reasons for these missing days.

Fabrizio Marrone said that BAC should be organized outside of school time in July and Magda Vecchi that BAC should be organized earlier in the year like in Bavaria. Daniel Pinilla Ariza added that pupils need their BAC results early to be able to apply to different universities in Europe. Changing the dates of the BAC is a subject at the Brussels level that only InterParents can carry out.

Some members suggested that parents or the PA might organise activities at the end of the school year in place of teachers.

Katia Sittler concluded that she would say to ESM that parents need an explanation about the missing school days and that they should communicate earlier. She added that PA would not take charge of the organisation of the last days of class instead of the school.

Vanessa Doublier-Pritchard said that she was organising the BAC support team for the end of the year. Interparents need 2 types of people who are ready to help: 1) people that could sort out the problems reported by pupils and families during the BAC exams in Munich and enter them in the IP ticketing system; 2) experts who know the BAC syllabus and the discipline to give feedback on BAC subjects at the ES level. Katia Sittler said that the PA would send a newsletter to reach all families.

5. Student Exchange

Roberto Trimarchi said that ESM was having difficulties organising the student exchanges and that the main problem was the lack of centralisation at the ES level. The mission of the PA consists of communicating with parents and helping with the search for guest families.

Antje Stoller said that ES need to synchronize, and that Munich was quite quick in accepting students in comparison with other European schools.

Flavio Carsughi added that it would be better for pupils in exchange not to be hosted by a family while the child of the same age would be absent. Student exchanges would be more effective if the pupils of the 2 families stayed together for 2 semesters. Roberto Trimarchi said that it was the case in the past, but ES cancelled this because of the organisational chaos and the difficulty giving grades.

Katia Sittler said that the new exchange length would cover January to consider a full exchange semester in the reports. She concluded that a first step would be the centralisation of the exchange topic at the ES level.

6. IT update

Flavio Carsughi mentioned that Com21 was working hard on the delivery of the 4th contract but that he still didn't have an end-of-work date. He added that he was checking the items already delivered and working with Antje Stoller on a new specification document.

Flavio Carsughi suggested that the PA decide now on the penalty that would apply to Com21 because they would deliver after the date mentioned in the contract. He proposed that the PA asks them to develop something on top of the 4th contract. Antje Stoller agreed. Katia Sittler said that the PA could also use the pressure to get a better offer for the maintenance.

7. Services updates

NSA: Antje Stoller said that the evening for NSA teachers would be organised on the 24th of May. She added that the start of registration for NSA would probably take place around mid-June, but she would send a newsletter with all the details beforehand. The start of the booking would be at noon on a Tuesday instead of 9 am to allow parents to connect more easily. NSA courses at HS would be available for booking in September, once timetables have been published.

She confirmed that NSA courses would mostly begin 2 weeks after school starts in September.

She also reminded that PA encountered difficulties at the start of the registration process last year

due to a server problem. Flavio Carsughi said that he would check up on this with Com21 to prevent a reoccurrence.

RUF: Désirée Kandolo said that registrations for the 2023/24 after-school care would open in May. Katia Sittler mentioned that she asked ESM management when RUF could start, and they answered on September 8. RUF may nevertheless set a date according to their possibilities. Antje Stoller would like to know how RUF would deal with late bookings because parents were waiting for an NSA answer beforehand. Katia Sittler said that we should keep RUF informed on the state of NSA bookings. Désirée said that RUF people were aware of the process.

Canteen: Fabrizio Marrone said that PA had a meeting with the CEOs of Organic Garden (OG) and that they have expressed their interest in using the ESM kitchen to cook for other schools. Fabrizio said that ESM had already answered negatively, but he would ask the question again. He also specified that June 12 would be the start date for registrations for next year. As it appeared that ESM didn't fix the water fountains during the Easter break, Katia Sittler said that she would ask Andreas Wallrodt the question. Antje Stoller asked if the IT systems of the PA and the canteen were now synchronized and if the correct daily limits were considered at the Kiosk. OG claimed to have fixed the problem and Fabrizio Marrone didn't get any new complaints since then. He added that he would nevertheless check up on this. Fabrizio Marrone noticed a significant price increase at the Kiosk and concluded that he would ask OG for a list of prices at Kiosk. Kiosk prices may not be covered by the contract.

Transport: Maciej Madaliński said that families would have the possibility to register for transport from the beginning of May and that he would first publish exhaustive information about transport (school bus and MVV card) on the PA website: <https://www.ev-esm.org/services/transport/>.

Maciej clarified that the City of Munich is providing free school transport for all children up to 15 years of age living in Munich, and that families (even with 3 children or more) living outside of Munich need to share 20% of the costs of school transport. He mentioned that P5 pupils no longer have automatic access to school buses but could apply to MVV cards and that P1-P4 pupils are entitled to MVV cards if they didn't choose the bus option (detailed information on <https://www.ev-esm.org/services/transport/school-bus/>).

He also said that S1-S5 pupils living more than 3 km from ESM Neuperlach are entitled to apply for a MVV card through the PA booking system. S6-S7 pupils could apply for a reduced tariff card or the 365-Euro-Ticket MVV directly by www.mvg.de.

Julien Jacoby wanted to know if the 1978 contract between the Free State of Bavaria represented by the Bayer. State Ministry of Education and Cultural Affairs, and the City of Munich would be renegotiated. Maciej Madaliński replied that it was not on the agenda now.

8. Next board meeting

The next board meeting will take place on 31.05.2023 with the Educational Committee Parents Representatives (face-to-face, ESM Neuperlach site, 18:30 pm).

Katia Sittler said that she would create an online poll and send it to board members and office employees in preparation of the June Board Meeting.

The meeting ended at 21:24 pm.

Minute writer

Elise Chapoy