

Minutes of the Board Meeting of 31st May 2023

The meeting was held on site at the ESM Fasangarten from 18:30 pm until 22:00 pm.

Attendees

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

Absent PA Board members: Muriel Lepage, Flavio Carsughi, Anne Ridings, Mike Marqués

Members of the Education council (guests): Kerstin Arenz, Ascension Barajas, Lise Farrel, Marcela Frank, Dimitrios Katsoulas, Irene Rosin

1. Approval of the agenda

The chairwoman opened the meeting at 18:50 pm. The agenda was approved.

2. Approval of the minutes of the Board Meeting of 24th April 2023

The minutes of the Board Meeting held on 24th April were approved.

3. Chairwoman's report

Katia Sittler made a report on the last Jour Fix. Désirée Kandolo, Maciej Madaliński, Daniel Pinilla Ariza and Karsten Röski participated in the meeting under ESM direction.

Ukrainian pupils: 26 pupils are involved at HS, 8 at GS. EPO has paid school fees so far. Katia Sittler added that she had no information on fee payments for next year. Julien Jacoby said that PA board members must decide on PA membership fees for next year and that, until now, Ukrainian families were exempt. Board members unanimously decided not to charge fees for the next school year except for families under Cat III.

European Week: Karsten Röski said that parents, especially at GS, have been invited to too many events in a short period of time. ESM replied that they would limit the festivities next time.

Cat. III / Admission Policy: The school said that the working group on the future of ESM with EPO, Bundesministerium für Bildung und Forschung (BMBF) and the Office of the Secretary-General of the European Schools has been launched. Daniel Pinilla Ariza mentioned that the first results would probably be communicated to the Administrative Council members in September or January. Karsten Röski said that communication of results would take a lot of time and at least one year.

The number of students decreases by 30 or 40 each year, and ESM concluded new Cat. II contracts to reverse the trend. New companies may be Allianz, MunichRe and BMW for a small part of their employees.

Katia Sittler said that teachers contacted her to help because they were also worried about the potential decrease in the number of locally recruited teachers.

End of school year at HS: ESM explained that teachers and staff are busy with BAC exams and class conferences during the last week of the school year. ESM organised in the past activities for S1-S4 pupils, but very few attended. The directors added that they would nevertheless propose something to parents this year.

Vannessa Doublier Pritchard said missing school days were still an InterParents (IP) topic. She mentioned that the proposal to postpone the orals for one week was not relevant because the BAC results would be too late for some universities and the teachers would have to be paid for one more week.

Some participants pointed out that days from July 3 to 6 are no longer mandatory at HS but wanted to know if July 7 was. Karsten Röske and Katia Sittler said that they would ask the school.

Pedagogical projects: ESM informed the PA that they would coordinate the pedagogical projects and that teachers are allowed to contact the PA once the school has approved and funded their projects. Katia Sittler pointed out that ESM could dedicate an important budget to projects and that PA would finance projects that are beyond the school's possibilities. Board members would decide the amount allocated to each language section after the general assembly. Katia Sittler added that she didn't know the school's schedule or internal procedure.

Katia Sittler also said that ESM won't allow Organic Garden (OG) to use the Neuperlach kitchen to cook for other schools.

She mentioned that a group of parents from a Grundschule in Neuperlach asked ESM if they might use the former ESM Kindergarten during the closure of their school for works. ESM said that it wasn't an option on their side and that they are not the owners of the buildings or in a position to decide.

4. InterParents (IP)

Whole School Inspection: Vanessa Doublier-Pritchard and Irene Rosin said that the inspectors in charge of the Whole School Inspections (WSI) were organising meetings with the different stakeholders (pupils, parents, teachers, and administrative staff) to evaluate the current procedures and elaborate a potential new WSI process for the next round. Irene Rosin mentioned that she had a meeting with the inspectors in Munich on May 30, 2023, and that they listened carefully to the suggestions made by the Educational Council (EC) parents' representatives. EC members suggested first treating primary and secondary education separately. They also mentioned that 4-year intervals among WSIs were too long because stakeholders couldn't remain from one WSI to another in most of the cases. Irene Rosin specified that inspectors may consider sending a questionnaire to parents as part of a WSI. The timetable for updating the WSI process was not communicated at the meeting.

School trips: Vanessa Doublier-Pritchard presented a letter that IP intends to send to the Office of the Secretary-General to request that the current rule for the organisation of school trips through a single travel agency may not be used in the future due to failures to comply with the contract. She specified that the first experiences with the travel agency had been disastrous. The EC parents' representatives unanimously gave their agreement in principle to the sending of the letter by IP. PA Board members unanimously supported the EC decision.

BAC Support: Vanessa Doublier-Pritchard said that IP was still looking for experts who could deal with the substantive problems raised by families. IP would receive the BAC subject the day following an exam. She added that Irene Rosin and herself would coordinate the ticketing platform for Munich. Marcela Frank pointed out that parents or pupils who noticed exam errors or potential translation problems should raise immediately the issue so that parents' representatives or the BAC support team might take action.

Vannessa Doublier Pritchard asked to check if ESM has communicated its annual and multiannual plans because it is an obligation. Katia Sittler and Daniel Pinilla Ariza said that they would come back to Vannessa.

5. Student Exchange

Roberto Trimarchi said that PA would help ESM find host families for students in Munich. The PA would soon send a newsletter to all families (GS and HS). PA suggested ESM ask for more coordination among European Schools (ES), but it seemed that ES did not consider it necessary. Antje Stoller said that class exchanges for 1 or 2 weeks would be more relevant than the current student exchanges and would allow more pupils to practice foreign languages in real life.

6. Budget topics

Office employees (not for publication):

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BAC Party: PA board members decided to allocate a budget of 500 euros for the organisation of the BAC party by the S7 students.

7. Services updates

IT: Katia Sittler said that Flavio Carsughi couldn't attend the meeting and sent an email to keep the members informed. Karsten Röski added that a bug in the registration form for RUF has been fixed. Antje Stoller said that translation problems have also been solved.

NSA: Antje Stoller mentioned that NSA courses will start on September 18 at GS and that activities at HS would be available for booking in September, after the timetables have been published. She also said that 10 teachers came to the NSA party organised by the PA on the evening of May 24.

RUF: Désirée Kandolo said that both parties signed the contract between RUF and PA and that it should bring more stability and transparency. RUF would take responsibility for the management of NSA activities from the pupils, and garderie prices have been fixed for 3 years. She mentioned that RUF management has been partially renewed and that it should help improve the service. She also said that the holiday offer during the "Pfingstferien" has been a success and that many pupils attended.

The last day of after-school care will be on July 6, 2023, and RUF will resume on September 9, 2023.

Canteen: Fabrizio Marrone gave an update on the Mensa situation at HS after a water damage destroyed the first floor of the canteen on May 26.

He explained that experts would come to evaluate the state of the kitchen and its appliances, and that OG might have the possibility to use the kitchen in 2 weeks if experts give the go-ahead.

The Mensa – due to the complete destruction of its floor - would probably stay closed until the end of 2023, and the school must identify places where the pupils could have their lunch. The "Kaltesser" Mensa on the first floor and the teachers Mensa would be used in the meantime. Fabrizio Marrone added that the solution was provisional and not necessarily validated for next September.

Families would have the possibility of booking lunchboxes online and in advance. Fabrizio said that the solution would probably apply until the start of the summer break.

Roberto Trimarchi asked if the insurance company would cover the costs. Fabrizio Marrone replied that the insurance should, in principle, cover the costs.

Antje Stoller clarified that, in the absence of a canteen at HS, OG IT system must integrate the daily Kiosk limit as set by parents in the PA booking system. Fabrizio said that he informed OG many times about this problem and that they forwarded it to their technical team. He also said that he would now give priority to the interim solution for the canteen "Abo-Essers".

Fabrizio Marrone concluded that registrations for canteen services next year would start on June 12, 2023, and that OG should provide new AGB ("Allgemeine Geschäftsbedingungen") in the meantime.

Transport: Maciej Madaliński said that the online booking for transport next year was running according to plan and that 410 applications have already been registered. He specified that many P5

pupils applied for a MVG card, and 75 also requested a bus seat, but only 24 had a sibling in P1-P4. Maciek recalled that the fact that P5 and Kindergarten pupils could take the school bus was an exception to the rule in Bavaria and that the city of Munich wishes to limit access to P1-P4 (and Kindergarten pupils for now).

Board members voted in favour of the access of P5 pupils to school buses in case of availability (7 votes in favour, 1 abstention, and 6 votes against). They also unanimously approved the fact that P5 pupils living outside of Munich would have to pay 20% of the bus cost for the time they are allowed to take the bus (same fees as for P1-P4 pupils).

7. Pedagogical Projects (IT, SWALS)

Board members unanimously approved the pedagogical projects of the Italian section and SWALS and allocate the amount requested by the section representatives (up to 1500 Euros per section and per year).

8. Any other business

Sofia Macieira suggested that ESM communicate earlier in the future the number of guests per pupil at the BAC proclamation ceremony.

9. Next board meeting

The next board meeting will take place on June 15, 2023, 18:30 pm at the Limani Restaurant München and will be held together with the Office team.

The meeting ended at 22:00 pm.

Minute writer

Elise Chapoy