

Minutes of the Board Meeting of 25th October 2023

The meeting was held on site at the ESM in Neuperlach from 19:10 pm until 22:05 pm.

Attendees

Parents' association (PA) board members: Michael Bölter, Flavio Carsughi, Elise Chapoy, Vannessa Doublier Pritchard, Marcela Frank, Esteban Hernández Castello, Susanne Herrnberger, Narjess Kraiem, Evert Küppers, Inés Lampreia, Muriel Lepage, Maciej Madaliński, Daniel Pinilla Ariza, Konstantin Poulos, Karsten Röski, Katia Sittler (chair), Antje Stoller, Xenia Tene, Magda Vecchi

Absent PA Board Members: Désirée Kandolo, Mike Marqués, Fabrizio Marrone

Members of the Education Council (guests): Kerstin Arenz, Ascension Barajas, Irene Rosin

1. Approval of the agenda

The chairwoman opened the meeting at 19:15 p.m. The agenda was approved with 2 additions for AOB section: approval of a pedagogical project of the Greek section, question relating to the ESM invoice of 16.10.2023 (photocopies and school diary fees).

2. Approval of the minutes of the Board Meeting of 13th September 2023

The minutes of the Board Meeting held on 13th September were approved.

3. New board members

The chairwoman informed the members of the vote of the Dutch language section on 23/10/2023. The parents elected Evert Küppers as PA board member for the Dutch language section. Katia Sittler welcomed the 4 new PA board members – Narjess Kraiem (treasurer), Michael Bölter (English language section), Susanne Herrnberger (German language section) Evert Küppers (Dutch language section). Each member briefly introduced themselves.

4. Administrative board

Daniel Pinilla Ariza gave a report on the Administrative Board of October 2023. He said that the three main topics were the new admission policy for cat.III pupils, the closing of the Dutch language section, the potential expansion of the Spanish language section. The three topics were dealt with by the working group on the future of ESM which didn't include parents. Inès Lampreia stressed that the working group on the future of ESM didn't lead to a strategic plan with pedagogical concepts. Evert Küppers mentioned that parents of the Dutch language section are organising themselves to make their disagreement known to stakeholders.

The restrictive admission policy at ESM could be abandoned, and ESM could fall within the general framework of European Schools after a decision of the Board of Governors in December 2023. Classes could include cat.III pupils up to a maximum size of 24 pupils per class or grouped class for the Greek section. In response to a question on the need to increase school enrolment, Daniel Pinilla said that low numbers pose a risk for the future of some language sections, the retention of the two sites - Fasangarten and Neuperlach - and for financing in general.

Inès Lampreia added that the new cat.III admission policy may have a positive effect on the French, Italian or Spanish sections but may unbalance others and affect the SWALS groups in the German language section.

Flavio Carsughi suggested assisting a family whose admission to category III was refused by the ESM and possibly contacting the Complaints Board. Daniel Pinilla and others rejected the proposal and

added that it wasn't the right time for such an action.

Xenia Tene mentioned that the exception rule for cat.III pupils that may apply to the Greek section would be discriminative.

Some participants pointed out that the rules that apply for the selection of a language section – native language, predominant language at home, nationality – are not clear. Karsten Röski and Katia Sittler said that they would address the topic at the next Jour fix.

5 Office employees' salaries

(Not for publication)

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6. Services update

Transport: Maciej Madaliński said that about 100 transport cards were still missing and that the City of Munich was responsible for generating and sending MVV cards. All the cards will hopefully be available after the autumn break.

Xenia Tene raised the issue of access to school buses for P5 pupils and the wish of parents in the Greek section to get involved in finding solutions. Board members stressed that the cost of self-organised school buses would be prohibitive and time-consuming. Maciej recalled that ESM was the only private school in Munich under the free school transportation rule and that negotiating conditions with the city may result in reducing the bus offer for ESM. Maciek Madaliński mentioned that he would organise the usual meeting with the City of Munich to prepare for the next school year and suggested inviting the Greek parents' representatives to participate.

NSA: Antje Stoller said that NSA courses were running according to plan. Some families cancelled their bookings late, and the PA will not ask for the full fees in this case due to the financial situation of the PA.

Antje Stoller said that the English academy (HAA) was not offered this year because the last year this was offered there were not enough bookings, and the ESM teachers who are English native speakers were not interested in the proposal.

She mentioned that the prices for NSA music courses were like private lessons adapted to the scholar year of the ESM (local music school would follow the Bavarian schedule) and many families were interested despite the prices.

Xenia Tene suggested hiring the school nurse during NSA time. Antje Stoller said that costs would be out of proportion and that it would not be necessary. She recalled that NSA teachers must present a first aid certificate every 2 years and that PA pays for first aid courses every year.

Canteen: Katia Sittler said that Fabrizio Marrone had satisfactory meetings with Organic Garden, and that he would report at the next BM.

7. IT update

Flavio Carsughi made an update on the status of the booking system. He said that the software was running according to plan and that questions from users were usually not related to the software but more due to misunderstandings. Flavio mentioned that the booking system might not be fully user-friendly and that it could be improved with further developments.

Board members unanimously approved an additional budget of 3000 euros to improve or develop new functionalities.

Flavio Carsughi mentioned that Karsten Röski would take over the IT support missions after Julien Jacoby's departure. He also said that language section representatives should contact him to update the language sections webpages or email accounts.

8. Whole school project

As mentioned during the general assembly on 18/10/2023, the PA would like to dedicate a budget of about 25 k€ to pedagogical projects for the whole school community. Katia Sittler said that the PA would set up a working group and work together with the school management.

Irene Rosin and other participants stressed that the extra money comes from members families of the PA and that the amount could be used to reduce member fees or transport costs for the next year.

The discussion was postponed to the next board meeting.

9. Any other business

Greek language section: Xenia Tene presented a pedagogical project of the Greek section at primary. They would organise a literature day and invite an author, Mr. Papatheodoulou, and an illustrator, Ms. Samartzi. Teachers already had the approval of the GS management, but Xenia didn't know which amount would be available. Katia Sittler recalled that pedagogical projects have first to be approved and financed by ESM and then might be fund by the PA. Board members unanimously approved the project of the Greek section and allocated 500€ to the project in case of an approval from the school.

Donation: Board members unanimously decided to donate two old mini macs to the Förderkreis in view of a charity sale.

Photocopies and journal fees: Magda Vecchi said that she was surprised by the cost of photocopies and school diary as reported in the ESM invoice of 16.10.2023. Participants said that photocopies costs are shared across all families (average cost) because uses vary greatly from one teacher or language section to another. The same rule applies to the school diary.

10. Next board meeting

The next board meeting will take place on 14th November at 18:30 pm (face-to-face, ESM Neuperlach).

The meeting ended at 22:05 pm.

Minute writer:

Elise Chapoy