

## Minutes of the Board Meeting of 19<sup>th</sup> December 2023

The meeting was held on site at the ESM in Neuperlach from 18:30 pm until 21.45 pm.

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### Attendees

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

**Absent PA Board Members:** Mike Marqués, Katia Sittler

**PA Office Team** (guests): Zuzana Krafft, Delia Vincze

**Members of the Education Council (EC)** (guests): Ascension Barajas, Amal Benzina, Irene Rosin

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### 1. Approval of the agenda

The deputy chairman opened the meeting at 18:35 p.m. The agenda was approved with one addition for the AOB section (Interparents report). Two points have been postponed to the January meeting: one regarding the office team (point 6), the other regarding the missions of the language section representatives (point 7), and the role of the Parents Association in the closing or opening of a language section.

Susanne Herrnberger suggested that the PA organise two workshops, one dedicated to the strategy of the association and the future of ESM, and the other on the subject of school mobbing.

### 2. Approval of the minutes of the Board Meeting of 14th November 2023

The minutes of the board meeting held on 14th November were approved.

### 3. December Jour Fix

Karsten Röski reported on the December Jour Fix. The following topics have been discussed:

- Working group on the future of ESM: The admission policy for Cat. III families would soon be adapted, and classes would include Cat. III pupils up to a maximum size of 24 pupils per class or grouped class for the Greek or Dutch language section. Due to the large number of pupils in the section, German classes shouldn't be affected by the new policy. Participants mentioned that, once the new policy admission has been confirmed, ESM should better communicate with Cat.III families and optimize the application process. Amal Benzina suggested that an ESM staff oversees Cat. III topics.
- Dutch language section: The decision regarding the potential closing of the language section was postponed for one year. Parents representatives would have to be part of a working group and involved in the decision. Evert Küppers mentioned that maintaining linguistic diversity should be an important general objective.
- An administrative board would take place in January 2024 and be dedicated to the 2024-2025 budget plan. ESM would like to maintain the support budget.

- **Canteen:** Fabrizio Marrone said that the main canteen at HS would reopen in March 2024 and that ESM would set up a working group on food policy. Fabrizio Marrone and Esteban Hernández Castello are going to represent the PA, and Amal Benzina said that she could also join the working group.
- **Pedagogical projects:** The school management would like to have an exact overview of the projects and keep control. They will contact the PA if a project requires extra financial support. ESM would, for example, require the financial help of the PA to finance the shades at primary.
- **Mobbing:** Karsten Röske said that ESM would implement a new program or a journey in S4 to prevent social conflicts. Some participants stressed that the school needs to improve the communication with parents and be more transparent. Irene Rosin and other members pointed out that ESM must comply with privacy regulations and inform parents and representatives who are directly affected by a case. Irene Rosin also said that a committee involving EC parents' representatives has been set up on that topic and would publish a list of pedagogical and disciplinary measures. Inés Lampreia and other members suggested that the PA propose to finance a program by external professional stakeholders. Xenia Tene mentioned that the P1-P5 Greek classes already had the opportunity to participate in an external workshop on mobbing with positive feedback.
- Karsten Röske said that ESM would review its iPad policy. The state of Germany donated iPads, but a new digital strategy, particularly at primary, must be defined. Irene Rosin added that the digital strategy was an important pedagogical issue and that a meeting involving parents' representatives at primary and secondary would be organised.

#### 4. Services update

**RUF:** Désirée Kandolo said that she had meetings with the RUF managers, including Anne Franke. They would work on improving the start of activities in September. Désirée mentioned that they organised a parent evening on November 8 with a presentation of the RUF concepts and holiday programs. Parents were quite satisfied with the programs.

**Canteen:** Fabrizio Marrone said that Organic Garden (OG) announced by email to parents an increase in canteen prices without having discussed it with the PA. Fabrizio contacted OG immediately and organised a meeting with the CEO and Nikita Stromberg, OG Director of Operations, on December 17, 2023. He reminded them that they could not increase the prices of the canteen without the agreement of the PA. They apologized and explained the need due to the change in VAT policy in Germany on January 1, 2024. They mentioned that they could offer a better price by renouncing all organic products and mixing local and organic products. They also suggested reducing the proportion of animal protein in meals. Fabrizio Marrone mentioned that he was waiting for their new price offer. Inés Lampreia and Amal Benzina stressed that vegetarian meals in the canteen often consist of side dishes and are not balanced. Amal Benzina also suggested having two prices for the canteen: one for the organic meal and one for the mixed meal. Participants concluded by saying that the working group on food policy would deal with those topics.

**NSA:** Antje Stoller said that she would prepare the 2024-2025 budget plan for NSA and would aim to reduce its profit. She suggested that the budget dedicated to language section pedagogical projects might be used to finance specific courses for a language section (for example, ancient Greek for the Greek section).

**Transport:** Maciej Madaliński said that parents who live outside Munich and had a bus seat for a child in the year 2022-2023, would get an additional invoice. As announced on the booking system, the advanced payment made by families during the school year must be reevaluated (credit or additional payment) once the City of Munich sends the final invoice. In fact, the 20% of the full cost owed by the PA would total 109 523.13 € for the school year 2022-2023 and represents a significant increase compared to the previous year (85 398.06 € for 2021-2022). Maciej added that the PA would calculate the exact cost for families and contact them. Flavio Carsughi suggested better communicating on the PA booking system about the invoicing process.

Maciej Madaliński mentioned that the City of Munich gave no information regarding bus seats for P5 pupils next school year. He also said that he had contact with a private company providing transportation

management for other private schools but rather recommended not going any further. He said that the costs would be much higher for families and that the City of Munich would only finance up to 365€ per pupil.

## **5 SWALS update**

PA Board members unanimously declared that they disagreed with the grouping of SWALS classes in primary school.

Inès Lampreia recalled that, with regard to the European schools' rules, the grouping of SWALS classes at primary was possible but not mandatory. She added that ESM has not harmonized class timetables, and SWALS pupils are at a disadvantage because they may have to wait at the back of a classroom. She regretted the lack of transparency from stakeholders on the SWALS issue.

Daniel Pinilla Ariza and Inès Lampreia stressed that the next important step would be the January Administrative Board and the budget plan for 2024-2025. The PA would make a statement against the grouping and request a written response on the need to group SWALS classes. Irene Rosin and Vanessa Doublier Pritchard suggested sending a letter to Secretary-General Andreas Beckman as a second step.

## **6. Whole school project**

Marcela Frank mentioned that she is a member of the working group in charge of the organisation of the European Week, and the group might request the support of the PA for financing projects at HS. Karsten Röski added that the PA may support the school by financing the shades at primary.

## **7. Any other business**

**ES exchange program:** Karsten Röski said that ESM would like to find a parent volunteer to help coordinate accommodation for exchange pupils in Munich. Amal Benzina said that she was ready to help on that matter.

**Interparents:** Vanessa Doublier Pritchard reported on the December Board of Governors. She said that the following topics have been discussed: the 2023 Bac results and the possible end of the ticketing system from Interparents, the recruitment of a data analyst for Bac data, the revision of the language policy. Amal Benzina and Marcela Frank said that 2024 should be the year of revision of the marking system and its equivalence with the German system. They added parents should push for this update to take place.

## **8. Next board meeting**

The next board meeting will take place on 24th January at 18:30 pm (face-to-face, ESM Neuperlach).

The meeting ended at 21.46 pm.

Minute writer:

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Elise Chapoy