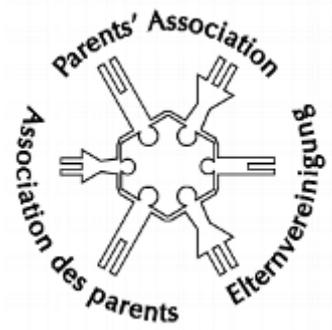


Parents' Association of the European School Munich



Minutes of the Board Meeting of 17.12.2014

The meeting was held in the premises of the EPO, Bayerstr. 34, Room 3468, from 18.35 – 20.45.

Minute writer: Manolis Papastefanou

Board Members present (16): Georg Weber, Rupert Plenk, Jean-Luc Dupuis, Conor O'Sullivan, Rafael Baltanás, François Girardin, Gerry Van Woensel, Flavio Carsughi, Dimitrios Varelas, Maria Pia Ayala – Periello, Günther Körbler, Elena Rojo Romeo, Anna Cattani-Scholz, Edoardo Pastore, Enrico Ulivieri, Manolis Papastefanou.

Board Members absent: Maria Laiou, Stefano Zanaboni, Kerstin Arenz

Observing members of the Educational Council: Irene Rosin (IT-GS), David Smith (EN-GS-Deputy)

1. The chairman opened the meeting at 18.40.
2. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved for publication. The agenda was approved with some additional points.
3. The chairman reported on a meeting with the school management regarding charity activities organised at – or on behalf of – the ESM. The school wishes to establish an Association to foster and promote charity activities (Forderverein). This Association will have the responsibility to evaluate proposals (and suggest approval or rejection to the school management) for charity events as well as to oversee their organisation and carrying out. It will be subject to external auditing. It will include representatives of the school community: pupils, teachers and parents (2 representatives from each group). The aim is to have this Association set up by the end of February 2015. The Board will contribute in setting up the legal framework and will nominate the two parent representatives. It was decided that these representatives do not have to be members of the Board. The issue will be taken up in good time before the end of February 2015.

4. A second meeting with the school took place, this time regarding the calendar for the school year 2015- 2016. Brussels wants to impose on all European Schools a common starting day (02.09.2015) and a common ending day (01.07.2016) for the school year. Between these two days there have to be 181 days of lessons. As always, ESM has the problem of the increased public holidays in Bavaria with respect to other locations of European schools – 2 days of lessons are “missing”. Some initial proposals that were made included lessons until 23.12.2015 and no full week of holidays in May 2016. It was agreed with the school to try to have a proposal approved by Brussels according to which a week of school will be added in the end of the school year (i.e. the school year would end on 08.07.2015). This would provide the necessary days to cover all the needs for lesson days and holidays and leave some room for manoeuvring. If this is not accepted by Brussels, then it will be proposed to have the Bac 2016 proclamation and the Europe day on Saturdays, so that the May 2016 holidays will be a full week and the 23.12.2015 will be free.
5. The chairman also reported good news concerning the new site of the school. The German government freed the necessary funds (5M Euro) that were missing from the budget so that the project can now go on. Interventions with the German federal government by the secretary general of the European schools as well as the EPO's Vice President 5 (R. Lutz) were quite helpful. Transfer to the new site is expected in September 2018 officially, but September 2019 looks more realistic. It was also specified that the original project would be followed, i.e. there will be a new site of the existing school where the primary will move. The school wishes to set up a building committee early in the project in which parents' representatives are invited to participate. Again, nominees for this committee will be selected in good time.
6. Regarding a request to support the organisation of a scientific symposium by the ESM (see also minutes of meeting of 14.10.2014, point 6) there is still no clear information. The school reiterated its request for support but no details were provided. For example, it appears that from the estimated 200 participants only a small amount of them (20 – 30) are ESM pupils. The chairman pointed out that the statute of the Association dictated what type of activities the Association is allowed to support. It was agreed to postpone the decision until more information is available.
7. Edoardo Pastore and Anna Cattani-Scholz reported on the meeting of Interparents. The new site of the ESM was also discussed there. An issue that is considered important is the increase of non-native speakers as language teachers, especially for English. This has not affected the ESM yet, but it appears that it becomes more widespread in the system. The chairman pointed out that the term “near-native” speaker used by the school is not defined, i.e. when someone is considered to be a near-native speaker. It was mentioned that many countries, especially smaller ones, contribute to the budget by sending teachers instead of money and this was one of the reasons of the increase of the phenomenon. Regarding the reform of the classes S4 – S7 that was discussed in the recent past and abandoned, it was reported that Brussels had commissioned a study, carried out by a UK university, to assess the level of sciences and languages throughout the system. The results were very positive. So, it seems that no educational ground can support a reform. However, there may be political or organisational grounds – like the complicated situation in the four schools in Brussels – that may cause a

reopening of the discussion. There is also an ongoing study for a reform of the marking in the secondary, but this issue is still in very early stage. It was also reported that there are two openings for the Joint Teaching committee, a body that studies and discusses educational/pedagogical issues and advises the Board of Governors. Its members meet two times a year for a week in Brussels and it could be an opportunity to nominate someone from the ESM community.

8. Requests for financial support

- Trip of the orchestra to Poland (see minutes of meeting of 14.10.14, point 6). An invoice of 2700 Euro for the bus was submitted. It was agreed to pay for it, since it was within the maximum limit the association had already decided to spend on this matter.
- A request to support financially a trip of a career adviser to come and present the UK university system at the ESM was discussed. It was unanimously agreed to support it with a maximum of 1500 Euro. It was, however, specified that the association would not support private (individual) interviews/advising for those who wished to meet the adviser outside the general meetings foreseen. Other initiatives regarding other countries should be organised (see minutes of meeting of 18.11.14, point 4).
- It was also unanimously agreed to reorganise a “smiley action” at the canteen. The estimated cost is 1500 Euro, but the material will remain the association and will be used again in the future.
- Starting from a request by Flavio Carsughi to support some projects organised by the Italian section, a brief discussion ensued. As a general principle, the association should support projects that touch more than one section. Section-specific projects should be supported by the sections’ budgets. The need for the association to know who is organising a project that requests support was stressed (whether it was the school or teacher(s) organising). Other questions such as: does the school know about it or approve it; who will own any material that may be purchased; is any other support obtained by any other source etc. are also important to be clarified before any decision is taken by the Board. On a proposal of F. Carsughi, it was agreed that he would draft a form that would be used for the submission of requests for financial support. The idea is that by filling in this form all the necessary information will be provided with the request so that the Board would be in a position to decide immediately.
- Regarding the specific requests, it was unanimously agreed to support a reading week to be organised in the week of 17 – 21. 02.2015 with a maximum amount of 1050 Euros, as requested. Regarding the project “Archaeology for children (GS)” and the requested support with 1500 Euro, the ownership of the material to be purchased would have to be clarified before any decision is taken by the Board. Concerning the project “Rome and its European dimension (HS)” it was agreed that, since it related to the European identity project, which has been running at the school for some time, it should be clarified whether it was in connection with that project and whether the organiser of the European identity project was aware

of it. It was, however, noted that the Board would be ready to provide the requested support for these two projects once the above mentioned issues were clarified. Regarding the other two projects, "Italian language Olympics (HS)" and "Legality (HS)", it was noted that these projects regarded only the Italian section.

- It was also noted that in many of the presented projects purchasing of books was included. The chairman pointed out that the Association had supported purchases of books for the school and class libraries repeatedly in the last years. Before any additional book is purchased, it would be useful to consult those who are responsible for the library(ies) and get their approval in order to avoid issues like lack of space. Again, it was specified that, should those responsible for the libraries agree, the Association would be ready to provide the 900 Euro requested.

9. The members of the educational council present raised the issue of smoking in and around the school. They pointed to the not so nice situation of young students smoking just outside the school building, some times in the company of adults. The chairman pointed out that this was an issue for the Educational Council (see also AGM minutes, point 16). It was reported that the issue had indeed been discussed during the last meeting of the Educational council, but that there was an impression that the school was reluctant to take any action. It was agreed that the Educational council members will prepare "a case", send it to the chairman, who will put it in the agenda of the next meeting of the Administrative Board of the school (planned for January 2015) should there be no action by the school on this matter.

10. The next meeting will take place on 21.01.2015.

11. The chairman ended the meeting at 20.45.