

June 2023 Board Meeting

Date: Thursday 22nd June 2023 from 19h to 22h45

Location: Teachers' Canteen Woluwe & Online (ZOOM)

Present in situ: Eleonora APPONI-BATTINI – Andrew Janis FOLKMANIS – Pim GESQUIERE – Maija KNUTTI – Nicolas LACROIX – Wolfgang MÜNCH – Elita PETRAITIENĖ – Albert RÄDLER – Johanna SCHULYOK – Ulrike STOROST – Monika SZULYOSZKY

ZOOM: Célia ALVES RODRIGUES – Vincent CATOT – Catarina DUARTE GOMES – Peter EDLIND – Andrea GRGIĆ – Alberto TOSO – Francesca TUDINI – Christian VISANI – David ZELINGER

Absent: Monika BARABASZ LOPES – Alexander CORNFORD – Ursula HÖNICH – Bettina SCHMIDBAUER MOGENSEN

Others: Anja GALLE – Erwin VAN DIJCK – Julien DANAN – Clémence EUGENE

All related documents were sent to the Board members before the meeting.

Agenda Point

1. Approval of the agenda

Additional agenda point on the investment of excess cash, and removal of the SAC and BAC support points under Any Other Business.

Decision: the Board unanimously approves the agenda.

2. Approval of the May Board meeting report

The Board agrees to postpone the voting of the May board meeting report until the next Board meeting following the decision to remove names.

Discussion points and votes

1. First reading of the draft budget 2023-2024 & Evere Canteen Price

A. Rädler, as Treasurer, takes the floor to present the first reading of the draft Budget for 2023-2024. The plan is to have a breakeven point for the services. The overall approach is conservative in the presence of uncertainties. The challenges the 2023-2024 budget faces are the move to Evere (mainly for the transport and the canteen) and the indexation of the bus companies.

Affaires Générales: small surplus is foreseen of 731,74 €.

A question is raised on what the Board will be voting on this evening, as the Budget is usually voted on in October. The APEEE Director takes the floor, explaining that due to the accounts getting closed in August and the new budget being voted in October, the APEEE needs, for business continuity to have a first approval on the draft budget. The members discuss and agree to rename the agenda point to the first reading of the draft budget.

Fonds Social: at AGM it was voted that 6€ from every 52€ contribution fee needs to go to the Social Fund.

Périscolaire: the total income will be lower than last year's budget, due to the possibility for parents to cancel a class at any time (except for the individual music classes).

The budgeted cost which comes up to -48.943,96€ would need to increase the activities' prices by 3.83% to break even. The draft budget is based on the data we have in June 2023, and can still change since we will have more activities in Evere, and more pupils including extra costs, therefore the numbers may modify the operating results.

Cantine: the APEEE would need to increase the price by 5.33% for maternelle, primary and secondary. The canteen will lose revenues due to the temporary move of P1 and P2 pupils, as the fixed costs remain the same.

The school will be informed about the losses of around 100 000€ but will not be asked for financial compensation.

Evere Cantine: Members bring up the meal price for Evere and the contribution fee to the APEEE receives from Compass. The APEEE Director takes the floor and explains that under the indexation mechanism in the contract between the APEEE and Compass, the price would be increased from 6.90€/meal to 7.48€/meal. However, the APEEE was able to negotiate with Compass a raise from 6.90€ to 6.95€ only due to an effort done by both sides, meaning lowering the contribution fee due to APEEE by Compass. Parents at Evere, as well as the P1/P2 parents of Woluwe during the temporary move, will therefore only pay 6.95€ per meal instead of 7.48€/meal.

The Board decides, before moving forward with the rest of the budget, to proceed to a first vote on the reduction of the royalties.

The Board votes on the reduction of the royalties per meal which will then result in the canteen meal price for Evere for 2023-2024 of 6.95€ (rise of 0.05€).

18 votes for yes (Johanna Schulyok, Nicolas Lacroix, Catarina Duarte Gomes, Alberto Toso, Peter Edlind, David Zelinger, Francesca Tudini, Andrew Janis Folkmanis, Eleonora Apponi Battini, Monika Szulyovszky, Maija Knutti, Pim Gesquiere, Wolfgang Münch, Celia Alves Rodrigues, Christian Visani, Albert Rädler, Ulrike Storost, Andrea Grgić) = 90% and 2 votes for abstain (Vincent Catot, Elita Petraitienė) = 10%

Decision: The Board approves with a 100% majority the reduced royalties for the APEEE and the Evere meal price rise to 6.95€.

Transport: To break even, the APEEE would need to raise the transport fee from 1.901,32€ to 2.160,22€ (+ 13.7%) for 2023-2024. This is due to the indexation for the bus companies and to the additional buses needed to be used during the temporary move of P1/P2 pupils.

IT / Reserves: information is given that the IT costs are spread over the 3 services, and a percentage is calculated based on the turnover of each of the services.

Explanation is given that the reserves will amount to 1.813.023,12 €, however, this is still below the amount of 2.230.270,39€ which the APEEE needs to have in the reserves in order to pay for all contracts and obligations in case the APEEE would cease its activities. At the AGM a resolution was voted concerning the reserves. This allows the APEEE to operate as a "*personne prudente et raisonnable*". Members discuss the price raise to rebuild the reserves and whether it can be done over multiple years or not.

The Board agrees to mandate the Canteen group to discuss possible future business models of Woluwe canteen.

The Board votes on the first reading of the draft budget 2023-2024.

18 votes for yes (Francesca Tudini, Nicolas Lacroix, Catarina Duarte Gomes, Wolfgang Münch, Ulrike Storost, Christian Visani, Peter Edlind, David Zelinger, Maija Knutti, Elita Petraitienė, Albert Rädler, Pim Gesquiere, Eleonora Apponi-Battini, Vincent Catot, Johanna Schulyok, Célia Alves Rodrigues, Monika Szulyovszky, Andrew Janis Folkmanis) = 95% and 1 vote for no (Andrea Grgić) = 5%.

Decision: The Board approves with a 95% majority the first reading of the draft budget.

Célia Alves Rodrigues makes a statement for the record *"I approve this first draft with the caveat that I want to rediscuss the budget in more detail in September / October when we have the number of enrolments and more detailed information in particular regarding the Woluwe canteen. I approve the first reading with the disclaimer that I want to come back to this when we have numbers on enrolment."*

The Board discusses drafting a communication to the parents on the expected price increase for APEEE services and agrees to indicate a range in line with the draft budget.

The Board votes on the percentage range to be communicated to parents:

- Cantine: between 5% and 7%
- Transport: between 13% and 16%
- Périscolaire: between 3% and 6%

14 votes for yes (Nicolas Lacroix, Andrew Janis Folkmanis, Francesca Tudini, Albert Rädler, Johanna Schulyok, Wolfgang Münch, David Zelinger, Ulrike Storost, Pim Gesquiere, Vincent Catot, Christian Visani, Eleonora Apponi Battini, Peter Edlind, Catarina Duarte Gomes) = 78% 1 vote for no (Andrea Grgić) = 5% and 3 votes for abstain (Elita Petraitienė, Monika Szulyovszky, Célia Alves Rodrigues) = 17%.

Decision: The Board agrees with a 95% majority to inform parents of the percentage range.

Action Point: prepare communication of the pricing range forecast for the APEEE service and send it to parents.

2. Excessive Cash Investment

A. Rädler, as Treasurer, takes the floor and explains that the excess liquidity of APEEE should be invested in a secure savings account, keeping however the amount of the average monthly liquidity requirement (currently 900.000€) in a *compte à vue*. Based on the Treasurer's proposal, 500.000€ should be placed in a *compte à terme* for 6 months, 500.000€ for 3 months, and 500.000€ for one month, on a revolving basis.

The APEEE services currently have liquidity of approximately 2.7 million € and all such resources are currently held in accounts bearing no interest. However, it would be possible to negotiate with banks an interest rate in the range of 2,7 % for fixed-term deposits for 6 months. This would allow APEEE to receive interest of approximately 37.500€ per year. This interest income could be used for financing APEEE activities with a reduced contribution from parents.

The Board votes on the principle of investing excess liquidity for three months with the house banks and agrees on a further discussion in the Budget working group.

19 votes for yes (Johanna Schulyok, Albert Rädler, Nicolas Lacroix, Catarina Duarte Gomes, Christian Visani, Ulrike Storost, Francesca Tudini, Wolfgang Münch, Vincent Catot, Eleonora Apponi Battini, Andrew Janis Folkmanis, David Zelinger, Monika Szulyovszky, Alberto Toso, Maija Knutti, Andrea Grgić, Elita Petraitienė, Célia Alves Rodrigues, Pim Gesquiere) = 100%

Decision: the Board unanimously approves the investment of the excess liquidity in a *compte à terme* in the current house banks for a 3-month period and for the Budget working group to discuss further.

3. Teachers' Appreciation Day

J. Schulyok, as Coordinator of the Communication, Welcoming Activities & Community Building working group, takes the floor to ask a budget of 800€ for Teachers' Appreciation Day and to invite members to volunteer.

The Board votes on the 800€ Teachers' Appreciation Day budget.

18 votes for yes (Christian Visani, Nicolas Lacroix, Pim Gesquiere, Peter Edlind, Francesca Tudini, Catarina Duarte Gomes, Andrea Grgić, Ulrike Storost, Andrew Janis Folkmanis, Albert Rädler, Wolfgang Münch, Alberto Toso, Maija Knutti, Monika Szulyovszky, Vincent Catot, Eleonora Apponi Battini, Célia Alves Rodrigues, Johanna Schulyok) = 100%

Decision: the Board unanimously approves the 800€ budget.

Volunteer Board members: Nicolas Lacroix steps up for the Evere site, and Eleonora Apponi Battini, Johanna Schulyok and Célia Alves Rodrigues for the Woluwe site.

4. Name change APEEE

P. Gesquiere, as coordinator of the Statutes WG, takes the floor to provide context. The APEEE is legally existing under the name « Association des Parents d'Elèves de l'Ecole Européenne de Bruxelles II – Woluwe », but this does not correspond to the current reality of one school with two sites. The document drafted by the Statutes WG and sent to the Board provides for several options to the Board for its reflection, discussion, and decision on one of the proposed options. The decision by the Board will be then reflected in the draft amended statutes, specifically in art.1, to be submitted to the approval of the General Assembly. The Board discusses and votes on the inclusion of « Evere » in the name of the association, that would then become « Association des Parents d'Elèves de l'Ecole Européenne de Bruxelles II Evere – Woluwe ».

The Board votes on « Association des Parents d'Elèves de l'Ecole Européenne de Bruxelles II Evere – Woluwe ».

14 votes for yes (Andrea Grgić, Ulrike Storost, Alberto Toso, Elita Petraitienė, Célia Alves Rodrigues, Peter Edlind, Maija Knutti, Vincent Catot, Andrew Janis Folkmanis, Wolfgang Münch, Pim Gesquiere, Johanna Schulyok, Nicolas Lacroix, Monika Szulyovszky) = 74% and 5 votes for no (Catarina Duarte Gomes, Eleonora Apponi Battini, Francesca Tudini, Albert Rädler, Christian Visani) = 26%.

Decision : The Board approves with a majority of 74% the « Association des Parents d'Elèves de l'Ecole Européenne de Bruxelles II Evere – Woluwe » name.

However, a portion of the Board does not agree on the voting process, suggesting the Board also to vote on the Woluwe – Evere proposal. The President invites Board members who wish to have a new vote regarding the name of the APEEE to send their request in writing. If sufficient requests are made, the Board will evaluate and organise a new vote in the next Board meeting.

5. Retro planning

F. Tudini takes the floor to present the retro planning and explain the Statutes Working group is behind schedule, and the Board will need an extraordinary Board meeting to discuss the proposals for the EGM. Suggestion to communicate the 7th December 2023 Extraordinary General Meeting date to the parent community.

Action Point: to mention a save the date in the next newsletter to inform the parent community.

6. Fix a date for a town hall meeting, inter alia on overcrowding

A. J. Folkmanis, as Coordinator of the Taskforce overcrowding, takes the floor to request the Board sets a date for a town hall meeting on overcrowding. The group is currently drafting a document recapping information that is to be shared with the parent community.

The Board agrees for the coordinator to set 2 dates (avoiding the Strasbourg week) and come back to the Board. Suggestion to also invite a panel of speakers.

The Board touches upon the Friday afternoons and the concerns raised by parents regarding the organisation and important information of the temporary move to Evere of the P1 and P2. The Board agrees that the Communication working group drafts a message explaining the Friday afternoons.

The APEEE director informs the Board that the APEEE is currently drafting an FAQ for the temporary move for P1 and P2 and is also preparing a document for the Friday afternoons for parents.

AOB

1. Update on new policies and recent meetings. President proposes that the concerned Working group coordinators prepare an info message and send it to the Board about the points mentioned below:
 - a. CEES, policies on substance abuse, self-harm, and sexually transgressive behaviour.
 - b. CEP&M.
 - c. HSS.
 - d. Cross section meeting Maternelle & Primary for Woluwe.
 - e. Homework policy.
 - f. School trips.
 - g. Secondary assessment.

Meeting ended at 22h45.

Next Board meeting is scheduled on Monday 18th September 2023.