

Information Session: Questions & Answers

Participants: Andrew Janis FOLKMANIS (APEEE President), Vincent CATOT (Overcrowding Taskforce Coordinator), Monika SZULYOVSKY (Transport WG Coordinator), IT Expert, members of the Board and the service managers (Transport, Canteen, Extracurricular Activities, Finances, IT & Communications) of the APEEE and its Director.

Date: Thursday 21st December 2023 from 12h30 to 14h

In preparation for the Annual General Meeting, the APEEE organised an online information session for parents on Thursday 21st December 2023 from 12h30 to 14h. the APEEE presented the **Annual Report 2022-2023**, the **IT Project**, and the **position of the APEEE regarding the Evere Zoning plan**.

This document provides an overview of the topics discussed including the questions and answers provided during the session.

Annual Report 2022-2023

Andrew Janis FOLKMANIS, APEEE President, took the floor to introduce the information session and invited Monika SZULYOVSKY to take the floor to present the Annual Report 2022-2023.

The [Annual Report 2022-2023](#) is available on the APEEE website.

No questions on Annual Report 2022-2023 were asked during the session.

Evere Zoning Plan

The President took the floor to introduce the Evere Zoning Plan situation and invited Vincent CATOT to take the floor to present the Evere Zoning state of play, the problems, the APEEE position and actions taken.

To provide context, the Brussels Government issued a public enquiry including the Evere site. The Overcrowding Task Force investigated how to react and what actions to take to defend the Evere site. The school director, (Ms Malik) has also made a submittal to the public enquiry.

The APEEE's reaction does not pertain to the "La Defense" zoning plan, which focuses on green initiatives but arises from uncertainties within that zoning plan regarding the status of the Evere site, indicated as temporary. Unfortunately, uncertainties persist regarding the next steps and the Belgian authorities' plan. The parent community has received a background document, containing oral commitments by Belgians asserting the Evere site's permanent allocation to EEB2. However, the zoning plan contradicts this commitment by labelling the Evere site as "temporary."

One issue arises, which is, that to make use of the Evere site, the school would need a permit.

Question 1: Timeline of the request for the renewal of the permit of Evere, if it is not renewed, what would happen to the children and those who are to come to Woluwe?

There is a cooperative effort in the APEEE Board, APEEE members have attended the government's info session on the zoning plan. However, it is too early to say, Belgium has made clear that the Evere site will be there for the school, but the shape of it is not clear. At this stage, the probability of not having a site is low. There was a clear commitment but only **orally** so far, and some conditions are not clear. Vincent Catot encourages everyone to reach out to the Public Enquiry.

Question 2: what is plan B for a worst-case scenario? I want reassurance that my child will be a pupil of EEB2.

If Belgium provides another site in the area that fills in all the conditions, there is no issue. however, the fear is that there is no clarity, as school n°5 would replace Evere, but we need written clarity that Evere is a site belonging to EEB2 and is distinct from EEB5.

Special mention of solidarity, Evere parents need to know they are not alone, the Woluwe parents will fight for the Evere parents and the matter.

Question 3: The Belgian Authority said Neder-Over-Hembeek would be the last school like this, and wanted a mixed school, any mention if the site is to be changed in the model of the school?

The “accredited schools” mentioned by the parents have their origin in a convention from the 70s. This system has existed for a long time, as of a couple of years ago, accredited schools which have distributed European baccalaureate certificates are already at 22. The Belgian Prime Minister says that accredited schools are the future of European Schools. There should be a spectrum of schools (full ES and accredited schools ‘softer version’ still issuing European baccalaureate, but it is rather a more political discussion) these schools come into the system through the national delegates in the Board of Governors, it is confirmed the accredited schools would be discussed at the InterParents level.

Request to send a version of the APEEE enquiry text to parents for them to send individually.

IT System Project

The President takes the floor to introduce the IT project and provides a state of play and invites a parent volunteer who joined and helped provide a review of the system as it is currently, the step forward and more, to take the floor.

The parent volunteer provides a background of his work in the field of IT. They have been working in IT project management for the last 25 years (and previously business manager In the UK).

Within an IT project, everything developed must be tested. However, time pressures on deliveries, with the school working on a tight schedule cannot be changed. Members of the APEEE team stepped into the Project Management role to provide support.

Following a data breach in 2020, at the time the APEEE enquired the state of play of its infrastructure. The conclusion was that it was necessary to change the IT infrastructure to reply to security needs. Modifying, switching and changing an IT system requires tremendous efforts, which the APEEE has been working on and started implementing in March 2023. The implementation process has advanced in phases:

- During the month of June the parent portal for the registrations was implemented,
- End of June & beginning of July the IT tool to implement the new bus routes was made operational, as well as the app for the bus supervisors to ensure they can take the presence of the children,
- During the month of September, the IT working tool for the administrative staff of the extracurricular activities service was created as well as for the canteen. Followed by creating the app for the supervision staff, which is currently still being tested,
- Ongoing project at the moment is the connection of the accounting system Exact Online with the Salesforce IT platform to ensure an efficient invoicing system as of 2024.

It should be noted that when the IT platform was initially implemented in March 2023 the team discovered that there were 158 error flows to be fixed and corrected. This process is still ongoing and has an impact on the current working tools for the APEEE Administrative staff. Therefore, it will be necessary to continue to invest to provide the right efficient working tools for the APEEE administrative staff and the parents.

Question 4: I have a question on post-school activities management: what happened with the tablets that were used last year that this year staff needs to use paper lists for management of children pick up after activities.

The priority was given to the school transport service this summer, as the risks linked to the services are higher. However, the app for the extracurricular activities tablets has been developed and the Extracurricular Team has been testing the tablet weekly. Nevertheless, every week questions and issues appear concerning the app which need to be addressed. Which underlines the necessity to test before launching. Once the app works properly the team of the APEEE supervision will use them.

Health, Safety & Security

The president takes the floor and invites the coordinator of the Health, Safety and Security working group, Alberto TOSO, to take the floor to provide an overview (the overview is available in the [Annual Report 2022-2023](#)).

Question 5: toilet issue is raised every year, I've just heard the issue has been more or less solved for secondary, what about primary ? is it solved ?

The Secondary toilet issue is more linked to vandalism (replacement of the doors by 'saloon' doors to prevent vandalism, etc) rather than cleanliness. For primary the issue is mainly due to cleaning, the fact that toilets are also used for the OIB garderie which ends at 18h30, they are dirty before the next day starts. A clear issue of cleanliness has been mentioned (no paper, soap) which has been raised in several CEP&M meetings.