

January 2024 Board Meeting

Date: Thursday 18th January 2024 from 19h to 23h10

Location: Teachers' Canteen Woluwe & Online (ZOOM)

Present in situ: Célia ALVES RODRIGUES – Sofia AMOR – Luca CARAPELLI – Pierre DEBAR – Catarina DUARTE GOMES – Andrew Janis FOLKMANIS – Pim GESQUIERE – Andrea GRGIĆ – Bruno LARANJEIRA – Alexia MIKHOS – Elita PETRAITIENĖ – Myriam PINI – Albert RÄDLER – Fabricio SANTOS – Anja SEMMELRODT – Gabriella SKARA – Monika SZULYOVSKY – Francesca TUDINI (until 22h) – Jan VON PFALER – David ZELINGER

Present online: Sabrina FASOLI – Andrea HUTTERER – Nicolas LACROIX – Francesca TUDINI (as of 22h10)

Others: Anja GALLE – Clémence EUGENE

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

Agenda Points

1. Approval of the Agenda

The Chair states that a discussion regarding the working groups (questions, new working groups, etc) will take place after the bureau elections and proceeds to an electronic vote for all members to connect to the platform for upcoming votes and elections).

21 votes for yes (Pim Gesquiere, Francesca Tadini, Sabrina Fasoli, Nicolas Lacroix, Fabricio Santos, David Zelinger, Anja Semmelrodt, Myriam Pini, Andrew Janis Folkmanis, Luca Carapelli, Jan Von Pfaler, Célia Alves Rodrigues, Pierre Debar, Bruno Laranjeira, Monika Szulyovszky, Albert Rädler, Sofia Amor, Catarina Duarte Gomes, Gabriella Skara, Elita Petraitiene, Andrea Hutterer) = 100% 1 vote for abstain (Andrea Grgić). Abstentions are not counted in the results.

Decision: The Board approves the agenda.

A member takes the floor and states that the Chair should explain to the members how the voting takes place (counting, abstentions, etc). Voting in the board is defined in Article 15 of the statutes. Decisions are made by simple majority. There is no definition of simple majority in the statutes. In April 2023 the 2023-2024 board decided to interpret the term in the sense that the option with more votes win and the abstentions are not taken into consideration for the calculation of simple majority. Thus, during the voting, up until December 2023, as per a decision made by the Board in April 2023, members had the option to select *Yes*, *No*, or *Abstain* in a simple vote. N For instance, if 2 members vote yes, 3 members vote no, and 2 members abstain, the decision against the proposal is approved with 60%, while the support for the proposal stands at 40%. The Chair also underlines that for in case of voting on people (for mandates, for positions, etc) the vote is anonymous.

Given that at the EGM of December 2023 and AGM of January 2024 amendments to Articles 14 and 17 of the Statutes were not adopted, board members state, that for legal liability, the Board needs to set the way for voting for the elections of the members of the bureau and all future Board decisions tonight. J. von Pfaler requests that the members of the bureau need to be approved collectively by

unanimity (after electoral process) due to the void of the statutory procedure for election to avoid any associated risk to the APEEE and the board members representing the association. The Board wishes to proceed with defining “simple majority” contained in Article 15 of the statutes and proposes to vote again on the two options submitted to vote in April 2023 and proceeds to the following vote:

The Board votes on how the expression “Simple majority” as referred to in Article 15 of the Statutes is to be interpreted as follows.

- A. The Board adopts the option that gets the highest number of votes of the members who voted in favour or against. Abstentions are excluded from the calculation.
- B. The Board adopts the option that gets the majority (i.e. 50% + 1) of votes of the members who voted. Abstentions are included in the calculation of the majority.

13 votes for *option A* (Francesca Tudini, Nicolas Lacroix, Luca Carapelli, David Zelinger, Myriam Pini, Andrew Janis Folkmanis, Jan Von Pfaler, Pierre Debar, Bruno Laranjeira, Monika Szulyovszky, Albert Rädler, Catarina Duarte Goes, Andrea Hutterer) = 60% and 9 votes for *option B* (Pim Gesquiere, Sabrina Fasoli, Célia Alves Rodrigues, Fabricio Santos, Anja Semmelrodt, Gabriella Skara, Sofia Amor, Andrea Grgić, Elita Petraitienė) = 40%.

Decision: the Board approves option A with a 60 % majority.

A member mentions that important subjects and topics to be discussed and voted need to be prepared and shared with the Board in advance, to allow for a time-set discussion, and to respect the agenda timeframe approved at the beginning of the meeting.

The Chair agrees and states he wishes, for the next meetings, to send the agenda a week to two weeks in advance to the Board to allow for comments and preparation.

Elections

1. Election of the President

Members ask questions regarding the roles of the members of the bureau (such as the president, the vice presidents, the member without a portfolio, the secretary, the secretary of information and the treasurer). The Chair reminds the Board that a document was shared a week before with all members (following their election and the information session organised on Monday 15th January 2024) titled “Guideline on the Internal Working Methods” and provides the answers. The Board proceeds to invite candidates.

Andrew Janis FOLKMANIS stands for the position of president of the Board for the year 2024.

Andrew Janis FOLKMANIS is elected president with an 82 % majority (18% no). (1 vote for abstain – 18 votes for yes – 4 votes for no).

Before proceeding to the next elections, members suggest having an Evere member be the “member without a portfolio” of the bureau.

2. Election of the Vice Presidents & Bureau Members

a. Vice President of Administrative Affairs

Jan VON PFALER and Albert RÄDLER stand for the position of VP of administrative affairs. Each candidate takes a turn to present their candidature.

Albert RÄDLER is elected with a 55% majority. (*11 votes for Jan Von Pfaler – 12 votes for Albert Rädler*).

b. Vice President of Pedagogical Affairs

David ZELINGER, Catarina DUARTE GOMES, and Célia ALVES RODRIGUES stand for the position of VP of pedagogical affairs. They take the floor to speak, present their candidature and engage in a Q&A session. Members agree on the Board's implication in requesting more action regarding the absenteeism of teachers. David ZELINGER removes his candidature.

Catarina DUARTE GOMES is elected with a 68% majority. (*15 votes for Catarina Duarte Gomes and 7 votes for Célia Alves Rodrigues*).

A request is made to have the elections of the InterParents delegate before the end of the meeting, as the next InterParents meeting is scheduled on Friday 19th January 2024.

The Board proceeds to elect the members of the bureau which consists of the secretary of the bureau, the treasurer, the secretary of information and a member without a portfolio.

c. Treasurer

The Board agrees that the treasurer will also be the budget working group coordinator.

Jan VON PFALER stands for the position of treasurer.

Jan VON PFALER is elected for the position of treasurer with a 75% majority (15% no). (*15 votes for yes – 5 votes for no – 3 votes for abstain*).

d. Secretary of the Bureau

A member suggests, as a project for the secretary of the bureau, the reviewal and drafting proposal of the employment regulations and proposals to dismiss someone in cooperation with a lawyer specialised in Belgian Labor Law, as they believe there is no knowledge about what the procedure is regarding dismissal without severance payment. The Board agrees to proceed to a vote on the position and discuss the suggestion at the next meeting, as there is a split opinion on whether the project should fall on the secretary of the bureau.

Francesca TUDINI stands for the position of secretary of the bureau.

Francesca TUDINI is elected for the position of secretary of the bureau with a 77% majority (13% no). (*17 votes for yes – 5 votes for no – 1 vote for abstain*).

e. Secretary of Information

The Board agrees that the secretary of information will also be the communications working group coordinator.

Monika SZULYOVSKY stands for the position.

Monika SZULYOVSKY is elected for the position of secretary of information & coordinator communications working group with a 100% majority. (*22 votes for yes*).

A member suggests including a link to the minutes of the Board meetings in the newsletters, as well as sharing them with the entire Board the newsletters for information at least 2 days before publishing.

f. **Member Without a Portfolio.**

It was mentioned at the beginning of the meeting that the Board was in favour of having the member of the Portfolio with a child enrolled at the Evere site.

Andrea HUTTERER stands for the position.

Andrea HUTTERER is elected for the position with a 100% majority. (20 votes for yes – 1 vote for abstain).

The members agree to proceed to elect the InterParents delegates.

3. **Election of InterParents Delegates & Observers**

David ZELINGER and Andrew Janis FOLKMANIS outgoing InterParents delegates take the floor and present the work done by InterParents APEEE delegates/observers, stating the difference between the two is the right to vote (delegates can vote, but observers cannot).

Andrew Janis FOLKMANIS and David ZELINGER stand for the position of InterParents delegates.

Sofia AMOR and Anja SEMMELRODT stand for the position of InterParents observers.

The Board agrees to proceed to one vote to elect the delegates and observers.

Andrew Janis FOLKMANIS and David ZELINGER are elected for the position of delegates & Sofia AMOR and Anja SEMMELRODT are elected for the position of observers with a 95% majority (5% no) (19 votes for yes – 1 vote for no – 3 votes for abstain).

4. **Election of the working group coordinators & Constitution of members**

The chair takes the floor to introduce the working groups that are currently organised. A question regarding the difference between wellbeing working group and the health, safety and security working group (HSS), having topics overlapping in both.

Members discuss the absorption of the wellbeing working group by a working group which already deals with the topics in various forums (such as the HSS, the CEES, etc). A member suggests thinking about a working group with a larger scope to include the wellbeing aspect such as a renamed “Health, Safety & Wellbeing” working group and merging the HSS and Wellbeing back together.

Following a split decision on whether the Wellbeing working group should be absorbed or not, the Board votes on whether to keep the Wellbeing working group as such.

12 votes for yes (Pim Gesquiere, Sabrina Fasoli, Sofia Amor, Célia Alves Rodrigues, Andrew Janis Folkmanis, Fabricio Santos, Monika Szulyovszky, Andrea Grgić, Elita Petraitienė, Gabriella Skara, Jan Von Pfaler, Alexia Mikhos) = 65% 7 votes for no (David Zelinger, Francesca Tadini, Bruno Laranjeira, Anja Semmelrodt, Albert Rädler, Myriam Pini, Catarina Duarte Gomes) = 45% and 2 votes for abstain (Luca Carapelli, Pierre Debar).

Decision: the Board approves keeping the wellbeing working group in its structure.

Due to lack of time, the elections of the working group coordinators are postponed to an extraordinary Board meeting scheduled on Monday 22nd January 2024.

Meeting adjourned at 23h10.

The Board meeting will continue on Monday 22nd January 2024.

Continuation of Board Meeting 18/01/2024

Date: Monday 22nd January 2024 from 19h to 22h35

Location: Teachers' Canteen Woluwe & Online (ZOOM)

Present in situ: Célia ALVES RODRIGUES – Sofia AMOR – Luca CARAPELLI – Andrew Janis FOLKMANIS – Pim GESQUIERE – Andrea GRGIĆ – Andrea HUTTERER – Bruno LARANJEIRA – Elita PETRAITIENĖ – Myriam PINI – Albert RÄDLER – Gabriella SKARA – Monika SZULYOVSKY – Francesca TUDINI – Jan VON PFALER – David ZELINGER

Present online: Pierre DEBAR – Catarina DUARTE GOMES – Sabrina FASOLI – Fabricio SANTOS – Anja SEMMELRODT

Absent: Nicolas LACROIX – Alexia MIKHOS

Others: Anja GALLE – Clémence EUGENE

The Board agrees to keep one set of minutes, as this meeting is the continuation of the previous Board meeting. A reminder that abstentions are not taken into account for the results.

5. Election of the working group coordinators & Constitution of members

The Chair introduces the working groups (services and others), the councils (CEES / CEP&M) and the taskforce (overcrowding). The Board also suggests having a “workshop” before starting – and reminding that all can take up working groups if they are interested.

a. Transport Working Group

The outgoing working group coordinator shares a short overview of the work done and the state of play.

Myriam PINI stands for the position of transport working group coordinator.

Myriam PINI is elected for the position with an 83% majority (17% no). (14 votes for yes – 3 votes for no – 2 votes for abstain)

b. Canteen Working Group

The outgoing working group coordinator shares a short overview of the work done and the state of play, the introduction in place for the working group, such as an invitation to visit the canteen sites (Evere and Woluwe) and have lunch on site. The outgoing coordinator also mentions an agreement (approved in December 2023) which is however not signed yet by all APEEEs. The discussion of the agreement will be added to the next board meeting agenda.

Pim GESQUIERE stands for the position of canteen working group coordinator.

Pim GESQUIERE is elected for the position with an 80% majority (20% no). (16 votes yes – 4 votes for no – 1 vote for abstain)

c. **Extracurricular Activities Working Group**

The outgoing working group coordinator shares a short overview of the work done and the state of play.

Francesca TUDINI stands for the position.

Francesca TUDINI is elected for the position with a 75% majority (25% no). (15 votes for yes – 5 votes for no – 1 vote for abstain)

d. **Communications, Welcoming & Community Building Working Group**

Already elected through the Secretary of Information, who is Monika SZULYOVSKY.

e. **Budget Working Group**

It is usual practice that the Treasurer coordinates the Budget Working Group. Jan VON PFALER is therefore the coordinator. The coordinators of the service working groups are automatically members of the budget working group.

f. **IT Working Group**

The Chair provides a short overview of the work done and the state of play of the working group. And suggests presenting the proposals voted by the board in 2023 to the new working group.

Fabricio SANTOS stands for the position.

Fabricio SANTOS is elected for the position with an 80% majority (20% no). (12 votes for yes – 3 votes for no – 6 votes for abstain).

g. **Health, Safety & Security Working Group**

A member of the working group has sent around an email explaining the topics raised and addressed by the working group.

Andrea GRGIĆ stands for the position.

Andrea GRGIĆ is elected for the position with an 80% majority (20% no). (12 votes for yes – 3 votes for no – 5 votes for abstain).

h. **CEP&M**

A member of the previous CEP&M group has sent around an email explaining the topics raised by the CEP&M, which include but are not limited to the KIVA implementation (anti-bullying), the unsanitary toilets, the homework policy, the digital portfolio, etc.

The Board discusses the need to have two co-coordinators (one for Evere and one for Woluwe), as done last year, and agrees to continue with one.

Nicolas LACROIX (EVERE) Célia ALVES RODRIGUES (WOLUWE) stand for the position of the CEP&M coordinator.

Célia ALVES RODRIGUES is elected for the position with a 58% majority. (11 votes *Célia Alves Rodrigues* – 8 votes for *Nicolas Lacroix* – 2 votes for *abstain*).

The Board suggests that the vice president for pedagogical affairs be part of the CEP&M.

i. **CEES**

A new coming member suggests having “old-timers” be willing to share their experience, knowledge, and contacts with the school, and help coordinate. As the 21 votes are in (21 present members), the vote is closed. However, a member states they did not see the vote and requests to relaunch the vote. As this is the first time such issues have been encountered, the vote is relaunched. It is requested that the members connect once and vote once, to prevent any discrepancies.

David ZELINGER, Gabriella SKARA, Elita PETRAITIENĖ and Sabrina FASOLI stand for the position.

David ZELINGER is elected for the position with a 55% majority. (11 votes for *David Zelinger* – 9 votes for *Elita Petraitiene* – 1 *abstain*).

j. **Wellbeing Working Group**

The outgoing coordinator of the working group has sent around an email explaining the purpose of the wellbeing working group.

Célia ALVES RODRIGUES stands for the position.

Célia ALVES RODRIGUES is elected for the position with a 68% majority (32% no). (13 votes for *yes* – 6 votes for *no* – 2 votes for *abstain*).

k. **Statutes Update Working Group**

The Chair informs the outgoing working group coordinator has sent an informative email mentioning in this email that the group would modify the “ways of working”, which is different from the *Règlement d’ordre Intérieur*, which is planned to be reviewed during the year by the working group. The steps would be, to elect the coordinator, to present the mandate to the Board, to approve the mandate, the working group would work on the tasks, to present the drafts to the Board for approval, etc.

All other working group coordinators, with their members, are invited to draft their priorities and mandate and come back to the Board for their approval during the next Board meetings.

The Board discusses at length what was done, the ways forward, a revised mandate etc, once the coordinator is elected, agreeing that the Board should discuss the working group proposal during discussion sessions organised before votes. A member suggests standing for co-coordinator but will remove their co-coordinator stand as the Board agreed it should be more involved in the process.

A mention stating 20 votes are in and 1 is missing (21 present members), 2 members say they did not vote. The vote is relaunched, and 22 votes are counted, but it is incorrect. A new vote is launched, and a plea is made that the members connect once, vote once, and wait until the vote is closed to disconnect to prevent any discrepancies.

Pim GESQUIERE stands for the position.

Pim GESQUIERE is elected for the position with an 80% majority (20% no). (15 votes for yes – 5 votes for no – 1 vote abstain).

I. Taskforce Overcrowding

The Chair, one of the previous coordinators of the taskforce overcrowding provides an overview of the situation and what has been done.

The Board discusses the need for the taskforce, citing the matter concerns the entire Board. A suggestion is made to organise an information session for parents about the rules in place/attempts already made/and more.

Jan VON PFALER stands for the position.

Jan VON PFALER is elected for the position with a 79% majority (21% no). (15 votes for yes – 4 votes for no – 2 votes for abstain)

6. Election of Central Enrolment Authority Representatives & Back-up

The previous representative shares a short overview of the work done and the state of play, informing the Board that the next meeting is in March 2024.

David ZELINGER (representative) and Andrea GRGIĆ (back-up) stand for the CEA.

David ZELINGER (representative) and Andrea GRGIĆ (back-up) are elected for the positions with a 95% majority (5% no). (20 votes for yes – 1 vote for no)

Discussion Points & Vote

1. Proposed dates for Board meeting 2024

Anja Galle has sent to the Board tentative dates for the monthly board meetings, taking into account the school holidays and EP session weeks in Strasbourg. The Board agrees the next Board meeting is too closely scheduled to allow coordinators to schedule a meeting, it is agreed to postpone the next Board meeting to 6th February 2024.

The Board votes on the proposed Board meeting dates.

17 for yes (Pim Gesquiere, Sofia Amor, Gabriella Skara, Célia Alves Rodrigues, Sabrina Fasoli, Andrea Grgić, Jan Von Pfaler, Francesca Tudini, Bruno Laranjeira, Andrew Janis Folkmanis, David Zelinger, Myriam Pini, Catarina Duarte Gomes, Elita Petraitienė, Albert Rädler, Anja Semmelrodt, Luca Carapelli), 1 vote for no (Fabricio Santos) and 2 votes for abstain (Andrea Hutterer, Pierre Debar).

Decision: The Board approves the proposed Board meeting dates with a 95% majority (5% no).

2. InterParents Online Conference on Neurodiversity

The Board received information about the neurodiversity conference organised by Interparents, in which other APEEEs are taking part to cover a portion of the costs (of around 140€).

The Board votes on covering 140€ of the costs of the conference.

19 for yes (Pim Gesquiere, Sofia Amor, Gabriella Skara, Célia Alves Rodrigues, Sabrina Fasoli, Andrea Grgić, Jan Von Pfaler, Francesca Tudini, Bruno Laranjeira, Andrew Janis Folkmanis, David Zelinger, Myriam Pini, Catarina Duarte Gomes, Elita Petraitienė, Albert Rädler, Anja Semmelrodt, Luca Carapelli, Fabricio Santos, Pierre Debar) and 1 vote for abstain (Andrea Hutterer).

Decision: the Board approves covering 140€ of the costs of the conference with a 100% majority.

Meeting ended at 22h35.

Next Board meeting is scheduled on the Tuesday 6th February 2024.