

## November 2024 Board Meeting

**Date:** Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2024 from 12h to 14h18

**Location:** Online (ZOOM)

**Present:** Célia ALVES RODRIGUES – Sofia AMOR (as of 13h17) – Catarina DUARTE GOMES – Andrew Janis FOLKMANIS – Andrea HUTTERER – Pierre DEBAR – Sabrina FASOLI – Pim GESQUIERE (as of 12h40) – Andrea GRGIĆ – Bruno LARANJEIRA – Elita PETRAITIENĖ – Myriam PINI – Albert RÄDLER – Fabrício SANTOS – Monika SZULYOVSKY – Francesca TUDINI – Jan VON PFALER – David ZELINGER

**Absent:** Luca CARAPELLI – Nicolas LACROIX

**Others:** Anja GALLE – Clémence EUGENE

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

### Agenda Point

#### 1. Approval of the agenda

The Chair takes the floor to introduce the topics on the agenda. The Board discusses the items.

**Decision:** The agenda is approved.

### Discussion Points and Vote

#### 1. On the role of President

The Chair takes the floor and reminds the members that parents (APEEEs) do not have a vote in the Board of Governors. Any position taken, are considered as statements and words in a meeting, and no minutes are drafted for those meetings.

The Board discusses the role and room for manoeuvre given to the Chair to defend the interest of the EEB2 parents. In light of an alleged miscommunication with other APEEEs regarding the statements made by the Chair during meetings with stakeholders, some members requests that the Chair provides clear and precise explanations when taking the floor during external meetings.

#### 2. Agreement on a line to take for the Steering Committee (11/2024) and BoG (12/2024).

The Chair takes the floor and introduces the draft text (see below) shared with members, which is suggested as the starting point for a line to take. The text was used for the discussion with the European Commission on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> October 2024.

Following a discussion, members agree to add a fourth point to the draft text regarding the current situation which represents a real risk for the health, safety and security of the student population at

Woluwe. Changes are urgently needed to remove this risk, while not creating any new health, safety and security risks at Evere.

The Chair adds that the school management has considered option 4: *Accelerated transfer ‘en bloc’ and ‘consolidation’ for all sections but only up to P3 (not yet discussed by the Steering Committee).*

Members discuss the additional suggestions and modifications:

- Mention in the line to take the future for the Nursery & Primary and not just consider Woluwe for Secondary.
- Request the planning of the conversion works in Woluwe and the works for Nursery classrooms, and if there will be the conversion works in Evere.
- Qualitative characterisation (music classes, good size for classes, etc).
- Where will the Primary school of EEB2 be if the permit (for Evere) is not prolonged.
- Remind the stakeholders that the EEB2 population should be treated as one entity.

*“The Brussels II APEEE fully supports the European Commission’s position at the Brussels Steering Committee of European Schools meeting of 3 October 2024, that a permanent site is found to replace the Evere site before decisions are made on the future structure of the Brussels schools.*

*Key arguments for us in favour of the Commission’s position are;*

- 1. It is now firmly established that Belgian authorities will not make the Evere site permanent, as had been believed in December 2022, when the Board of Governors made its decision for a structure of Brussels schools from 2028. The Evere site must be designated temporary, as official Belgian documents do. The only firm date of availability limits is March 2027 when the current site permit expires. This effectively means that currently Evere must be vacated for the school year 2026/2027 unless the permit is prolonged. We have no information about any procedure or its timetable for any such prolongation.*
- 2. The Bxl II Director Ms Malik is proposing a bloc move of all nursery and primary pupils from the Woluwe site to the Evere site from the school year 2026/2027. In addition to the problem of availability of the site in (1), this number of nursery/primary pupils will not fit into Evere in its current configuration. Annex 1 provides the data and calculation on which this observation is based.*
- 3. A promise has been made in December 2022 to the single sections in Woluwe (Dutch, Finnish, Lithuanian, Portuguese, Swedish) that their nursery/primary classes would move to Evere on 2028, not before. In the meetings on the Steering Committee in May, July and October, the Bxl II APEEE representative has insisted that these promises be respected. The Secretary-General Mr Beckmann has stated in these meetings that he does not see this as a reason not to make the bloc move. The proposal of Ms Malik (2) also disregards the promise. We consider completely unacceptable that the Secretary-General proposes to breach this agreement unilaterally.*
- 4. The current situation represents a real risk for the health, safety and security of the student population at Woluwe. Changes are urgently needed to remove this risk, while not creating any new health, safety and security risks at Evere.*

*The Brussels II APEEE wishes to underline that it supports fully all attempts to alleviate the overcrowding in secondary at the Woluwe site and across the Brussels schools as soon as possible. It is surely possible to proceed to this objective quickly if all parties would work together based on the real*

*situation, discover the real limits and find a plan that works nevertheless. Working against evident objective obstacles (see (1)-(3) above) in our view can only lead to failure of the exercise.”*

**Action Point:** prepare a text/point related to the qualitative characterisation in the overcrowding taskforce.

**Action Point:** the Chair to request clarification of the statement made by Mr Beckmann regarding the building permit prolongation of “6-years by default” in the next Steering Committee meeting.

**Action Point:** gather and clarify the points raised by members in an addition to be sent around.

The Board proceeds to vote on the approval of the proposed draft to be (with additional 4.) as the core of the LTT for the Steering Committee of November 2024 and BoG of December 2024, with an addition to be sent around.

10 votes for yes (Andrea Grgić, Célia Alves Rodrigues, Pierre Debar, Monika Szulyovszky, Janis Folkmanis, Jan von Pfaler, Sabrina Fasoli, Elita Petraitienė, Andrea Hutterer, Pim Gesquiere) 2 votes for no (Catarina Duarte Gomes, Sofia Amor) and 3 votes for abstain (Myriam Pini, Bruno Laranjeira, Francesca Tudini).

**Decision:** the Board approves the draft text as the line to take for the meetings.

### 3. Dates of the next Board meetings

The Chair asks the members to save the date for an extraordinary Board meeting on the 20<sup>th</sup> November 2024, in addition to the November Board meeting scheduled on 19<sup>th</sup> November 2024, as the Board has matters to discuss.

Members acknowledge the request and ask to have the agendas for both meetings in advance (19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>) to review the order of the priorities and make comments.

The Chair and the coordinator of the taskforce overcrowding will discuss offline about the addition to be sent around to the Board.

4. **On the principles and process of consultation with the parents.** Not discussed due to lack of time.
5. **Visit of the BoG to Evere & Woluwe on 2nd December 2024.** Not discussed due to lack of time.
6. **On the principles of representation at Steering Committee & CEA.** Not discussed due to lack of time.

## Any Other Business

Meeting ended at 14h18.

Next Board meeting is scheduled on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2024.