

## January 2025 Board Meeting

**Date:** Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> January 2025 from 19h to 22h55

**Location:** Teachers' Canteen Woluwe & Online (ZOOM)

**Present in situ:** Célia ALVES RODRIGUES - Vanessa BATISTA - Sabrina FASOLI (until 20h00) - Pim GESQUIERE - Joana GIL (until 20h30) – Sanjee GOONETILAKE - Ute HAMMERSFAHR (until 22h20) - Elita PETRAITIENĖ - Fabrício SANTOS (until 20h30) - Jan VON PFALER

**Present online:** Pierre DEBAR - Sabrina FASOLI (as of 20h50) - Andrew Janis FOLKMANIS - Andrea GRGIĆ - Andrea HUTTERER – Bruno LARANJEIRA (until 20h00, rejoined 21h10) - Carin PERSSON SVENINGSON - Johanna PEYREDIEU DU CHARLAT - Myriam PINI (until 20h35) - Fabrício SANTOS (as of 20h30) - David ZELINGER

**Others:** Anja GALLE - Hong Ha NGUYEN - Clémence EUGENE

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

### Agenda Points

#### 1. Approval of the agenda.

A notification added to the agenda that any member can make a suggestion to create a new working group. Agenda approved by acclamation.

**Decision: the Board approves the agenda unanimously.**

#### 2. Approval of the 16/01/2025 Board report.

The report approved by acclamation.

**Decision: the Board approves the 16/01/2025 report unanimously.**

#### 3. Board meeting dates for 2025

The chair proposes to discuss Board meetings dates next Board meeting and keeps the date for the next meeting – Tuesday 18 February 2025. Members agree by acclamation.

### Items for decision

#### 1. Human resources -

The item is confidential due to protection of personal data. The chair verifies if all Board members have signed The sharing of information policy and The personal data protection policy. All members confirm they will not share the information discussed under this point outside the Board. (Clémence EUGENE leaves the meeting, recording is paused).

Board proceeds discussing HR topic in the closed Board meeting together with the Director and a staff member. Furthermore, the Board, the Director and the staff member discuss hiring of the financial manager ad interim and agree that the matter will be followed up by the Budget working group.

## 2. Convention agreement between the school & APEEE on roles & responsibilities on safety & security

The chair presents the draft Convention agreement between the school and APEEE on roles and responsibilities on safety and security (Convention). The purpose of this document is to clarify the roles and responsibilities between the APEEE and the School regarding safety and security and specifically for the activities organized by the APEEE. The Convention must be signed by APEEE. Every European school has agreements with their consecutive parents' associations according to their specifics. Currently there are 4 Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) which the APEEE & the school have since many years. These memoranda regulate the use of school premises for the APEEE functioning and services.

On page 11 of the Convention point VI final provision the following is noted: *"Save as otherwise provided in this agreement, existing agreements between the parties shall remain in force and apply"*. Board members raise concerns of the urgency to sign the Convention but also of the need for clarity about the application of the provisions of the existing agreements.

The Board votes to give the mandate to the President to sign the Convention only with the provision that an additional memorandum, clarifying the application of existing agreements, is to be signed by the parties on more details (including APEEE office in Evere) - 12 votes for yes, 2 votes for abstain.

**Decision: The Board gives a mandate to the President to sign the Convention only with the acceptable memorandum in place.**

## 3. End of school year activities for secondary students during oral BAC.

The chair presents the topic.

There are currently no classes in the secondary in the last two weeks of the school year because of the BAC orals. Currently the school is organising voluntary activities for students who wish to participate. This practice will change in the school year 2025/2026 following a decision of the Board of Governors.

The Board of Governors decided in December 2024 (Ref. 2024-09-D-41-en-4) the following revision of the Annex I of the General Rules of the European Schools:

*If the oral examinations take place during more than five working days, the Administrative Board may choose between the two following options:*

- *Option 1: The school will organize replacement compulsory activities for the number of days above five working days when oral European Baccalaureate examinations take place.*
- *Option 2: The school will organize replacement activities during the entire duration of the oral examinations, with the option to make them all compulsory or designate five working days as optional and the remaining duration as compulsory.*

*In duly justified circumstances, the Administrative Board, acting unanimously, may establish other arrangements that deviate from the above guidelines.*

The item was discussed at the Administrative Board of the EEB2 on 27/01/2025 and will be proposed for a decision by a written procedure.

The school proposed:

- Option 1 being four working days A deviation from the above guidelines and organise activities only for S1-2.

Opinions raised in the discussion:

- That the rules should not be deviated, and activities should be organised from S1 till S4;
- That organising activities from S1 to S4 is not feasible from an organisational point of view;
- That opinions in the parent community diverge, but that the key concern is parents from S1-S2;
- That even S1 to S2 is practically no feasible. This would mean to find simultaneously for 700 pupils' activities outside the school;
- That the guidelines are decided, and that there can be only deviations within the guidelines;
- That there should be a gradual implementation, starting from S1-S2, and then in subsequent years, based on practical experience, a further roll out to higher years;
- That if activities are organised, they should from a practical point of view not be four days, but five days (from Monday to Friday);
- That the whole parents' community should be consulted on the matter;
- That the whole parents' community has been consulted several times on the matter in the last decade, including in 2024;
- That the OSGE repeated several times that the Admin board of a school cannot challenge the principle established by the Board of Governors decision of December 2024 according to which as of 2025/26 some activities encompassing S1 to S4 need to be organised as compulsory. Therefore, arguments and/or statements that the activities would not be organised by the school at all, or that the activities are organised as voluntary for the whole two weeks of BAC orals were not admitted.
- That if the derogation is not accepted, compulsory activities will need to be organised under Option 1 or Option 2 of the Board of Governors decision (Ref. 2024-09-D-41-en-4) for all S1 to S4.

**Vote for the board:** The board supports deviate from the above guidelines whereby compulsory replacement activities will be organised for S1 and S2 in 2025/26 school year, without prejudice to any subsequent school years. 12 votes for yes (Célia ALVES RODRIGUES - Vanessa BATISTA - Sabrina FASOLI - Andrew Janis FOLKMANIS - Pim GESQUIERE - Sanjee GOONETILAKE - Andrea GRGIĆ - Bruno LARANJEIRA - Elita PETRAITIENĖ - Fabrício SANTOS - Jan VON PFALER - David ZELINGER), 1 vote for no (Pierre DEBAR), and 2 votes for abstain (Carin PERSSON SVENINGSON, Johanna PEYREDIEU DU CHARLAT).

**Decision:** The board supports deviate from the above guidelines whereby compulsory replacement activities will be organised for S1 and S2 in 2025/26 school year, without prejudice to any subsequent school years.

## Discussion Points & Votes

1. **Proposed dates for the 2025 Board meetings.** Not discussed due to lack of time.

The meeting ended at 22h55.

Next Board meeting date is scheduled on 18<sup>th</sup> February 2025.