

September 2025 Extraordinary Board Meeting

Date: Thursday 30 September 2025 from 12h30 to 13h05

Location: Zoom only

Present: ALVES RODRIGUES Célia, BATISTA Vanessa, DEBAR Pierre, FOLKMANIS Janis, GESQUIERE Pim, GIL Joana, GOONETILAKE Sanjee, GRGIC Andrea, HAMMESFAHR Ute, PERSSON SVENINGSON Carin, PETRAITIENE Elita, SANTOS Fabricio, VON PFALER Jan

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

1. Items for decision

The Board discusses the Suspension of secondary lessons during the European Baccalaureate oral examinations (202409-D-41).

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.*

Following the oral agreement at the Administrative board to decide on this matter in January 25, the APEEE Board agreed the following:

APEEE board 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.

In January 2025 meeting, the APEEE proposed S1/S2 activities only, if compulsory and for 5 days.

However, this orally agreed written procedure was never launched.

Following the Administrative Board meeting on 23 September 2025, a written procedure has been launched that:

- regular teaching in secondary school will be suspended during the BAC oral examinations for 8 days.
- voluntary replacement activities will be organised for S1-S4 by the school and the APEEE.

Currently, all the Administrative Boards of all Brussels schools have decided to follow this approach. With Uccle being the school that set everything in motion, The European Commission, which has from a legal point of view reservations regarding this decision, supports a unified approach. However, the European Commission has decided not to cast a vote and abstain. All stakeholders so far on the Administrative Board have voted in favour of the option chosen for the 180 days with the Secretary General and Eurocontrol stating explicitly the argument for a unified approach.

After the discussions the Board decides to vote on abstention from the vote on 180 days as submitted by the Admin Board of the School.

Board members express the wish for a stronger commitment of the School and the Office of the Secretary General in implementing the decision of the Board of Governors of December 2024 (Ref. 2024-09-D-41-en-4) and ensuring secondary lessons for 180 school days.

The decision was taken by 12 votes for yes (ALVES RODRIGUES Célia, BATISTA Vanessa, DEBAR Pierre, FOLKMANIS Janis, GESQUIERE Pim, GIL Joana, GOONETILAKE Sanjee, GRGIC Andrea, PERSSON SVENINGSON Carin, PETRAITIENE Elita, SANTOS Fabricio, VON PFALER Jan) and 1 vote for no (HAMMESFAHR Ute).

Decision: The Board abstains from the vote on 180 days as submitted by the Admin Board of the School.

The meeting ended at 13h05.

Next Board meeting date is scheduled on 09 September 2025.