



MINUTES – MEETING OF 20 APRIL 2026

Participant Board Members:

Albert Rädler (DE), Treasurer
Alessia Ghezzi (IT)
Andrea Panizza (IT), Deputy Secretary
Andrew Janis Folkmanis (EN) *[online – joined at 19h30]*
Anja Semmelrodt (DE)
Anne Becker (DE), Vice-President for pedagogical matters *[online]*
Inês Sajara (PT) *[online]*
Johanna Peyredieu du Charlat (SE) *[online – joined at 20h00]*
Joana Gil (PT), Secretary
José Madeira (DE) *[online]*
Lena Widefjäll (SE)
Mindaugas Skaraitis (LT), Member of the Bureau *[online]*
Nicolas Lacroix (FR), Vice-President for administrative matters
Rüdiger Martin (DE)
Soraya Lemaire (FR) *[online]*
Virgilio Miolato (IT) *[online]*
Virginie Battu-Henriksson (SE), President

Absent Board Members:

N/a

Other participants:

Agnieszka Jean Villanueva (Extra-curricular activities manager) *[left at 20h30]*
Clémence Eugene (Communication officer) *[left at 21h40]*
Hong Ha Nguyen (ad interim Director) *[left at 21h40]*
Paul Orlovski (Canteen manager) *[left at 20h30]*

1. Approval of the agenda

The agenda was approved by unanimity.

Decision: The agenda was approved.

2. Approval of the public minutes of the Board meeting of 17/03/2026

The Board votes unanimously the approval of the public minutes of the Board meeting of 17/03/2026.

Decision: The public minutes of the Board meeting of 17/03/2026 were approved.

3. Items for discussion

3.1 Update on operational matters

The President welcomes the Director ad interim and the staff members present at the meeting and thanks them for their availability and commitment on the handling of the several on-going important and urgent files in light of the move of nursery and primary cycles to Evere.

On the **Woluwe canteen**, Paul Orlosvki updated the Board on the work to transform the canteen into a self-service running already as of *rentrée* 2026 in a phase one, while a second stage will take place in 2027, with new tables, new chairs, and the full self-service running. The menu is being reviewed, included with advice from a nutritionist. Hopefully the *Régie des bâtiments* will ensure that the electricity issues will be solved soon, which impacts on the food offer that the canteen can propose. Work is undertaken to explore ways to lower the cost for parents. The increases imposed last year on the cafeteria and the self-service for teachers hurt the demand in such a way that the increase in price led to loss in revenue. In the pre-budget the estimation is that with the self-service there might be an increase of the frequentation from 5% to 8%. In addition, at present, since there is no access control, the estimation is that children having lunch in the canteen while their parents do not pay for it represent 5% to 10% of the meals served. With the new model, which features access control, those losses will disappear. The expectation is that of a slight surplus at the end of the year.

The President clarified that the replacement of the furniture will come eventually, unlike what was thought at some point, and that is foreseen in 2027. Regarding the survey, the results, once fully obtained, should be able to influence to a small extent what furniture is going to be ordered. The Board was informed that so far there were 406 replies, roughly one third of which from the FR section. Most answers came from S5, followed by S6 and then S4. The lowest participation so far is in S1. The Board discussed the usefulness of engaging with the school to find ways to encourage participation by children, which should for now take place via a link in Teams. A reminder will be sent to ensure higher participation. In any case, the intention of this exercise is to gather students' views, not parents'.

On **extra-curricular activities**, Agnieszka Jean Villanueva informed on the state of play of the survey "Family Needs 2026/2027" launched on 17 April, which already gathered 300 responses. She stressed the importance of this survey as an element to organise the activities – the figures will be critical to be able to meet parents' needs. While for secondary there will essentially be continuity, possibly topped up with some new activities, for nursery/primary there is still a lot of uncertainty. The pre-budget is not yet ready, since it will be much more accurate if designed after the survey. The extra-curricular activities team is now working on the Open Door Day, targeting 6 and 13 June – to be confirmed. The President added that following the survey there will be two info sessions where the APEEE will inform parents on what are the tentative arrangements and get feedback. The Vice-President responsible for pedagogical matters suggested that incoming students in EEB2 could be invited to the info sessions. A discussion took place on the timings regarding the enrolment process; the list of new students will only be made available to the school and the APEEE later in the school year, and maybe too late to invite these new parents to the info sessions. When applying to the schools, parents need to tick a box authorising that their contact information is shared with the School and with the APEEE – so the contacts are received directly from the Central Enrolment Authority. This takes place by end-May, early-June. Something that can be explored is announcing the info sessions on the website, so that new parents can join. In addition, there might be room for an info session in mid-June, when there will be a lot more clarity on many elements.

On **transport**, Hong Ha Nguyen informed that the work is well on track. The lines to EVE have been defined under the first phase of route designing. The second phase, focussing on optimisation, will only be done after the school closes. The team is now working on the first phase of WOL routes, the main concern being the school's timetables. From mid-May the first phase of the routes for WOL should be concluded, and the subscriptions will be open from 1 June. The service is still waiting for the exact figures from the school, which should be available by end-April. The result of the survey "Family Needs 2026/2027" is also very much awaited, as it will have implications for transport. On prices, an update in the indexation by the FBAA (*Fédération Belge des Entrepreneurs Autobus et Autocar*) is also expected. Some companies are already struggling due to the ramping prices of oil caused by the current geopolitical situation. Linked to the ICT project there is the intention of tracking buses, which is an important functionality, especially in light of the move to EVE, by means of which parents will have children with different bus schedules. Implementing it still ahead of September 2026 would be a plus for the families and for the services. The President added that on timetables, as discussed in the WG Business Process, S1-S3 should in principle only have classes until 8th hour, but confirmation from the school is still to come. Additionally, the APEEE is also urging the school to organise the timetables in a way that there are no classes on Wednesday afternoon and no 9th hour on Fridays for anyone. The Board agreed that in any case having just one bus departure is not in the interest of the children or the families. That is the solution in some other APEEEs, but in EEB2 it is preferable to keep two. The Board also agreed on the importance of keeping the existing model, by means of which the children who are not enrolled in 16h20 cannot take that bus.

On **ICT**, the co-Coordinator of the WG ICT Rüdiger Martin updated the Board on the on-going ICT projects and of the main takeaways of the discussions held in the WG ICT. Work is progressing along two main, largely independent strains: infrastructure (hardware and user management, including cybersecurity) and the evolution of the service environment (software). On the infrastructure side, follow-up is on-going to complete the information base, in particular to confirm pricing beyond the initial budget envelope and to clarify sequencing aspects. On the software side, a broader project launched last year, supported by an external consultant (GCP), has completed the request for information (RFI) phase. The analysis is not yet decision-ready. At this stage, no definite solution has been identified, but it has become clear – based on the timelines indicated and highlighted by the consultant – that the full delivery of a target environment would extend over several years (potentially up to 2028). The Board was informed that maintaining the current situation without interim improvements over such a period will not be advisable. It was further noted that the RFI responses reflect a range of differing architectural approaches, which are not directly comparable at this stage. Additional work is therefore required to clarify governance aspects, define a coherent target architecture for the APEEE environment, and ensure consistent alignment between potential solutions and the needs previously identified in a structured manner. In this context, and without prejudice to the long-term direction, the WG ICT, based on input from APEEE management and staff, is exploring pragmatic solutions to address immediate operational needs, improve the service experience and mitigate risks. These solutions are based on specialised platforms already in production at other Brussels-based APEEEs, providing a proven and familiar basis for deployment. In particular, the use of Together School for transport and extra-curricular activities management, and Xafax as a payment solution for canteen services, was presented as possible way forward, while preserving flexibility for the future evolution of the ICT environment.

On **financial matters**, the Treasurer debriefed the Board on the main takeaways of the work undertaken by the WG Budget. In particular, he informed that the results of the first trimester were quite good, with a surplus of c. 500 000 EUR, against 150 000 EUR last year. This is explained by the very high prices, which were determined on the basis that the overhead costs would peak notably due to expected ICT investments. There will be another WG Budget meeting ahead of the next Board, where more data on T2 will in principle already be available. The purpose of the APEEE is not to have big results, but rather to have a small, stable surplus. As regards invoicing, the intention is to come back to a stable and predictable timing. The Secretary for Information also stressed the importance of having accuracy in the invoices, to avoid last year's situation with invoices sent and shortly after being recalled due to potential mistakes. Another relevant point is what to do when parents do not pay the amounts due. A discussion took place, and the Secretary reminded the Board that Article 4 of the Statutes mentions that access to APEEE services is only granted to children whose parents paid the membership fee. The Vice-President for administrative matters stressed the importance of having a proper calendar for invoicing and a well-established procedure with reminders - without enforcement of consequences the outstanding debt will increase, which is the current situation. This is now being taken care of under the WG Budget, with the aim of establishing a streamlined procedure to foster payment by parents. There are cases of financial hardship, but also cases of inertia and negligence. Irrespectively of the ability to recover some of the amounts, at some point the records need to be cleaned and a loss needs to be recognised.

The President thanked Paul Orlovski and Agnieszka Jean Villa-Nueva for their presence and availability. They then left the meeting.

3.2. Update on pedagogical matters

The Vice-President responsible for pedagogical matters stressed the challenges on the pedagogical front – **organisation of the pedagogical working groups** – caused by the fact that not all sections have a representative of their section in the Board. This is particularly felt at CEPM level, since in that committee's meeting all sections have the right to be directly represented, unlike what happens in CEES, where the setting allows only for participation of a more limited number of parents. She invites the Board to reflect on a way to ensure representativity of all sections when there are not Board members from the nine sections.

Andrew Janis Folkmanis concurred that all sections need to feel represented. A possible approach would be to write to the Info representatives and explain the situation, with the aim to explore that the section selects an individual to serve as point of reference for these matters. Johanna Peyredieu du Charlat shared that in the context of a discussion within the parents from the Finnish section in one of their section's meeting, which was not specific to the CEPM, the point was raised that without a Board member from their section they feel insufficiently aware of what are the developments at Board level and would therefore like to send an observer to the Board. Their concern refers both to pedagogical and non-pedagogical matters. All Board members acknowledged that having two sections without representatives in the Board is undesirable, and that the problem is more acute on the pedagogical front, since that is where the specificities by section are more relevant. There was consensus that in any case all parents retain access to information about what is happening, be it through the newsletter, the agenda of the Board meetings that is now shared ahead of the meeting, the minutes of the meetings, which are published at the latest the day following the next Board meeting, the info sessions on specific topics, etc. Moreover, there is no process envisaged in the Statutes, other than the elections in

General Assembly, that would allow for a section to select a parent mandated to formally represent the section before the Board. Virgilio Miolato suggested that the existing Board members act as reference points for the non-represented sections. The Secretary stressed the difficulties of setting up a structure that is not properly reflected in the Statutes and therefore supported Virgilio Miolato's suggestion, which allows to ensure liaison with all sections within the existing framework. A discussion followed on the merits and disadvantages of having a centralised approach, through CEPM and CEES Coordinators. There was consensus that reaching out to parents of non-represented sections in a centralised manner is for the moment useful until a more tailor-made approach is established. Lena Widefjäll shared that for the CEPM upcoming meeting the invitation for comments and suggestions was shared with all sections, and there were comments from parents of the non-represented sections, which shows that the parents from all sections continue to have means to convey their views.

Given the sensitivity of establishing a different framework to ensure representation in this type of cases, the Board agreed to continue this reflection within the WG Internal Rules. In the meantime, the CEPM and CEES Coordinators committed to continue to ensure that the class representatives of the non-represented sections will receive e-mails asking for contributions to the CEPM and CEES meetings.

The Vice-President responsible for pedagogical matters mentioned the usefulness of having one Board member serving as focal point for topics of relevance, although some of those are not a clear cut between pedagogical and well-being. She invited all Board members to reflect on the possibility of curating a given cause, in particular the **digital policies**. The recent conference "Navigating Children's Digital Culture", held on 17 April, showcased the interest of parents in this topic and going forward it will be an area of increased relevance. Board members agreed on the usefulness of having a specific Board member dedicated to policies on digital. All Board members committed to reflect on their own availability to work on that matter. As regards the Conference, the Board weighted on the usefulness of having a more practical approach to the topic, including concrete guidance on how to handle the many challenges that parents face when it comes to raising their children in a digital age. The Board proceeded to discuss the recent Smartphone Delay Parent Pact, an initiative developed by some parents concerned by the excessive use of Smartphones by children. This initiative consists of a pact, which is already open to be adhered to by parents, as part of a voluntary, parent-led initiative supporting children's well-being and healthy development. The initiative aims to delay smartphone use until the end of S4 (around age 14) to reduce peer pressure and early social media exposure. All Board members welcomed this initiative and thanked the parents who launched it. The Board will explore ways to raise awareness for this initiative next to the parent community to increase the adherence of parents, as well as to support the parents who are working on this initiative.

The Vice-President responsible for pedagogical matters then introduced the topic of **educational support**, including for gifted and talented children. This is an area specifically covered by the Whole School Inspection 2026 and the questionnaires and meetings with parents showcased the difficulties still felt in this area, notably as regards gifted and talented children. Johanna Peyredieu du Charlat alluded to the importance of not losing sight of the children who need educational support to cope with the level of learning in their class because, unlike gifted children, they are not keeping up to pace. Looking after the gifted and talented children is an important element, but it could be that parents of gifted children are more vocal in flagging shortcomings in the educational support to their children, while parents of children who lag behind might feel less prone to publicly display their concerns. There was consensus that educational support should continue to be

closely followed by the APEEE in order to ensure that the school delivers educational support to all the children that need it. The discussion will resume once the findings of the inspection are known, since educational support is one of the three core topics of this year's inspection. All Board members committed to, in the meantime, reflect on their own availability to become correspondents/points of contact for that matter.

3.3. APEEE's logo

The President introduced the topic reminding Board members that the current logo of the APEEE is not registered and, therefore, not protected. In the context of the move of all nursery and primary cycles to EVE and taking into account the importance of protecting the logo, she presented the idea of revamping the logo, that would then be immediately registered. Clemence Eugene explained that the project would entail organising a workshop with Board members and staff to discuss the values of the APEEE. After this, the mission statement of the APEEE could be revised, and a brief for the design of a revamped logo would be prepared. Students would be involved, so that the design comes from EEB2's student community. The students who are in ART4 (S4 and beyond) work, *inter alia*, on logos and visual identities, and by involving the teacher it could be explored how the students could work on this project. The President further added that any people invited to produce a logo would be briefed about the importance of conveying a sense of continuity. One possibility would be to focus on students who are already in a setting that is prone to develop some design work; alternatively it can be considered to expand the invitation to all students. All Board members welcomed the idea that any new logo should be developed by the EEB2's students, which would also have the benefit of avoiding additional expenses for the design. In terms of timeline, it would be ideal to have the logo selected by June, so that it can be used already from the beginning of the next school year. There was broad agreement that having the logo produced by students is a key element to the success of this initiative, which should be comprehensive in terms of involvement of the student's community. To ensure that the process is far reaching and appropriately involves students, the APEEE's Secretariat will contact the teachers of Arts to explore how S1-S7 students can participate in this project.

The President thanked Clémence Eugene and Hong Ha Nguyen for their presence and availability. They then left the meeting.

4. Items for decision

4.1. Whole School Inspection and meeting with inspectors

The Vice-President responsible for pedagogical matters debriefed the Board on the steps taken in the course of the previous days and weeks and of the significant amount of work it entailed. There was a survey to parents running from 19 to 23 March which obtained around 600 responses, balanced in terms of representation of both levels and sections. There were two one-hour meetings with class representatives on 14 April in the evening and 16 April at lunch time. Many participants focussed on individual cases, but overall the discussions were relevant and useful. The team that assessed the written responses and attended the meetings with parents is well aware of the parents' views on the three topics specifically covered this year: teaching, learning and educational support. The upcoming meeting with the inspectors requires solid knowledge about the parent views, since it is not a given which questions will be asked. The core team that assessed the answers of the

survey and attended both preparatory meetings is well placed to interact with the inspectors on behalf of the parents.

The Board votes on the composition of the APEEE team representing the parents in the meeting with the inspectors, as follows: the Vice-President responsible for pedagogical matters, Anne Becker, the CEPM Coordinator, Lena Widefjäll, and the CEES Coordinator, Anja Semmelrodt, to represent the APEEE in the meeting due to take place on 21 April 2026 with the inspectors in the context of the 2026 Whole School Inspection, accompanied by three more Board members, namely Alessia Ghezzi, Mindaugas Skaraitis and Soraya Lemaire, as observers: approved by acclamation.

Decision: the Board mandates the Vice-President responsible for pedagogical matters, Anne Becker, the CEPM Coordinator, Lena Widefjäll, and the CEES Coordinator, Anja Semmelrodt, to represent the APEEE in the meeting due to take place on 21 April 2026 with the inspectors in the context of the 2026 Whole School Inspection, accompanied by three more Board members, namely Alessia Ghezzi, Mindaugas Skaraitis and Soraya Lemaire, as observers.

4.2. Election of the coordinator of the WG Internal Rules

Since the resignation from the Board, on 17 March, of the then Coordinator of the WG Internal Rules, the group has no coordinator. Before proceeding to the election of the coordinator, the Board discussed the scope of the WG and agreed that the Statutes are also an important topic that needs to be looked into. Several options were considered. The Secretary supported an approach that is inclusive vis-à-vis the parent community, by means of which parents interested and knowledgeable can participate in something as important as the setting up of the internal rules, and more so of the Statutes, of the APEEE. The Secretary for Information and the Vice-President responsible for administrative matters concurred that a lot of work had been put in the past to revise the Statutes in light of the changes to the Belgian law concerning AISBLs, and that a big investment was made to have that work done. However, if it is to be revised or completed, there are many people in the parents' community who participated in the process at the time and whose experience could greatly benefit any work that is to be carried out in that regard. Virgilio Miolato mentioned a keen interest on the topics revolving around the revision of the Statutes to make them more effective and the Vice-President responsible for pedagogical matters concurred that other APEEEs have different approaches for instance in terms of electing the representatives which would be worth exploring. In light of the discussion, there was consensus that going forward the working group should be named WG Governance, to reflect a broader reflection around the structure of the APEEE and not exclusively the internal rules.

Decision: The Board renames the WG Internal Rules as "WG Governance".

Anne Becker volunteers to be coordinator of the WG Governance and is elected by acclamation.

Decision: Anne Becker is elected coordinator of the WG Governance.

4.3. Approval of the mandate of the WG Business Process

The mandate of the WG Business Process is presented by the Vice-President responsible for Administrative matters and the Treasurer. They explained that the intention is to have a mandate generic enough to be reused over time, so that each year there is no need to spend the first weeks or months after the elections within the Board redesigning a mandate. Additionally, and to ensure a smooth interplay with the work of the WG Budget, it is clarified that the WG Business Process advises on budgetary matters under its remit when they are substantial.

The Board votes on the approval of the mandate of the WG Business Process and approves it by acclamation.

Decision: The mandate of the WG Business Process is approved.

4.4. Approval of the mandate of the WG Health, Safety and Security

The mandate of the WG Business Process is presented. The Coordinator explained the priorities defined for 2026. A discussion took place around the drug trafficking and the importance of tackling this issue together with the school. Alessia Ghezzi mentioned that the results of the well-being survey support the idea that the use of drugs is a concern and deserves attention by the APEEE.

The Board votes on the approval of the mandate of the WG Health, Safety and security and approves it by acclamation.

Decision: The mandate of the WG Business Process is approved.

4.5. APEEE's Director post: next steps

The timeline for the recruitment process shared in the course of the day aims at having someone selected by the end of the school year – which is a very ambitious timeline. The key objective is in any case to select the best possible candidate. As regards the selection committee, it should integrate someone designated by the school as observer. From the APEEE, four Board members volunteered to be part of the Selection Committee, namely Andrew Janis Folkmanis, Anja Semmelrodt, Nicolas Lacroix and Joana Gil.

As regards the recruitment process, there was consensus that the key element is to ensure objectivity and neutrality in the selection. However, the members of the selection committee, as volunteer parents, have time constraints and need to ensure a process that is efficient and not overly time-consuming. Andrew Janis Folkmanis stressed the importance of keeping records of all the steps of the process. There was consensus around the importance of ensuring that all steps in the process are carried out in a way that preserves objectivity, notably through involvement of all the members of the selection committee in every stage and through the application of a pre-agreed scoring grid, as already envisaged in the process approved on 17 March. A discussion took place as regards the need to ensure an appropriate balance between a thorough process and time-effectiveness. There was agreement that the two rounds of interviews, unless they would be overly simplified, could make the process quite cumbersome for the members of the selection committee. There was an agreement that the initially planned two rounds of

interviews by the selection committee should be merged into one. A second (and final) round with the final candidates is still foreseen at Board-level.

The Board votes to decide on the composition of the selection panel and to further specify that the members of the selection committee carry the work jointly and that the two rounds of interviews can be merged into one: approved by acclamation.

Decision: Nicolas Lacroix, Andrew Janis Folkmanis, Anja Semmelrodt and Joana Gil are appointed as members of the selection committee in the recruitment of a Director and are mandated to conduct jointly the steps of the recruitment process approved on 17 March 2026, with the two rounds of interviews by the selection committee envisaged there merged into one.

5. Items for information

5.1. Air quality initiative

Johanna Peyredieu du Charlat debriefed the Board on the initiative launched by a group of parents from Brussels-based European Schools, who are concerned by the air quality in school settings. Originally, it aimed at liaising with School Directors to raise awareness of the health and learning benefits of having clean air inside classrooms. These parents reached out to the Office of the Secretary General (OSG) to propose an educational webinar to School Directors. Despite initial interest, OSG suggested developing a checklist to take stock of what is already done by the schools as a first step. This checklist has been shared with the EEB2 school management, but a reply is still pending. Some measures to improve air quality are inexpensive and readily available. EEB1 in Uccle is at the forefront of these concerns and has already taken initiative by transitioning towards a fleet of fully electric school buses. There are some interesting lessons to learn from EEB1 and the air quality initiative plans to organise a call about it. Air quality is included in the mandate of the 2026 WG HSS and the initiative has also been brought to the attention of InterParents. Anyone interested in this topic can join this initiative and be in the loop for more information.

Board members welcomed the information on this initiative. Andrew Janis Folkmanis noted that historically there has always been some resistance by the bus companies to move to electric buses and he welcomes having someone pushing these concerns forward to ensure that, operationally, this can be progressively implemented. Soraya Lemaire took the opportunity to mention that noise pollution is also a concern that should be given attention.

5.2 Debrief on InterParents

Andrew Janis Folkmanis informed that the week before there was the BoG meeting, but there is still no official feedback. There should be more information to be shared in the Board meeting of 12 May. Virgilio Miolato and Andrew Janis Folkmanis both attended the the BoG preparatory meeting. The President had written an email to the President of InterParents asking for support for our budget and asking for clarity on Evere's permit, with detailed lines to take on both topics. The President of InterParents has worked so as to support APEEE, but formal feedback will only come at a later stage. The next step on which the Board could reflect, as Mindaugas Skariatis and Soraya Lemaire mentioned as overcrowding focal points, would be a possible request by the President to the Secretary

General of the European Schools to convoke the Steering Committee about this topic. This topic is important for the future, notably as regards the fifth School and the overall management of enrolments. Other relevant topic is School trips - more developments to be expected on this. Virgilio Miolato added that on the previous meeting, that took place in February, there were no positions taken by APEEE EEB2, just abstention since there was no specific mandate to take a position. He further added that on overcrowding it could be good to discuss about exploring other options like the accredited schools, in order to alleviate the pressure of overcrowding. Andrew Janis Folkmanis concurred that this is an important point, to be taken to the Steering Committee. The President updated the Board that as regards the meeting with the Board of Governors she was asked to attend with the "Groupe d'accompagnement" (interparents representatives and Commission, in preparation for the Board of Governors), which she did on 13 April, and it was agreed in this meeting that the financial points (canteen renovation) would not be raised in the BoG meeting, so the only point to be raised for EEB2 was the Evere permit.

6. HR matters

[Confidential point due to data protection and privacy legislation]

The meeting ended at 23h35.
