

## **Notes from the Class Delegates' Meeting: Primary and Nursery Wednesday 1 March 2017, 19:00 - 20:40**

The school was represented by:

**Mr. Philippe RICHARD** - Deputy Director

The APEEEL2 was represented by:

**Ms. Delphine BALLAGUY** - President

**Ms. Ivana BALLOVA** - MC member

**Ms. Enza PETRONE** - MC member

**Ms. Roberta ZANI** - Secretary

Questions and Answers session

### **Questions about School's teaching programs, languages and learning support**

- Request to share the information about the annual teaching programs on the school's website
  - Syllabuses are available on the website of the European Schools <http://www.eursec.eu/en/European-Schools/studies-certificates/syllabuses> A link to the relevant page will be put on our School's website
- Request to increase the number of European hours, in particular regard to HU and CS sections, in order to better improve L2
  - EH groups have to reach the number of 25 before creating a new group. Therefore, we cannot respect the L2 groups to organize the EH: there are the EN and FR groups where this is not a problem, whereas in the DE group there are only 14 pupils; furthermore, there are no human resources available to organise European hours as it was in the past (L2 groups), and we should keep in mind that European hours are not language courses
- L2 Learning support for HU and CS P5 children would be appreciated, in order to better prepare them from the linguistic point of view, especially in mathematics. Another alternative would be to integrate them in some EN/FR/DE classes since now
  - since last week, 2 more periods per week of special support lessons have been introduced for future SWALS kids. But this could not be granted for next year, it depends on human resources availability and of the needs of the concerned pupils

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- EN and FR classes are already full: it would be too difficult to add other students
- another critical point is the evaluation: if, as example, we integrate students in an EN/FR/DE maths class, how we could then evaluate their performance? who can express their evaluation, considering that they won't be at the same level of the other schoolmates (due to the language level, of course there would be a discrepancy)?
- HU and CS teachers also need all their hours with the pupils to be able to complete the syllabus.
- Concerns about the fact that teachers supposed to provide learning support are sometimes called to replace their absent colleagues, affecting the frequency of the learning support provided to children who need it
  - the school has two permanent replacing teachers and can call some others in case of need. It may happen that they are not enough to replace absents as it was a case in February where many teachers were absent (illness). In this case, learning support's teachers may be called to replace the absent teachers. This does not happen so often and the school tries to avoid as much as possible to replace teachers with the learning support's ones. The school made a call for applications for replacement teachers but there were not so many applications especially in some sections. A call for applications is still available on the school website (<http://www.eel2.eu/fr/page/emplois>)
- Concerns about replacement of gym and swimming teachers, also in terms of continuity
  - if the gym teacher is absent, the class teacher may replace him, but if the swimming teacher is absent nobody can replace the teacher and the swimming lesson could be cancelled.
- Who can request the learning support for a student ? Could L2 support be offered?
  - normally it's up to the teacher to request the learning support, but, if the parents want to introduce a request, they can do it.
  - Yes L2 support could be offered to a pupil.

### **Questions about health matters**

- Concerns about some teachers' behaviour, as it happens that some teachers eat sweets in the classrooms in front of their students
  - the school's Direction will send a reminder to all teachers, asking them to give the good example
- Concerns about the lack of contact / information exchanges between the school and the garderie's infirmaries
  - the parents themselves should inform the CPE's infirmary if their children have specific problems (like epidemic cases)
- Concerns about acoustic and noise levels in the school, especially in the Cantine and in the corridors

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- the school asked several times Bâtiments Publics to help and assist us in order to find a solution allowing to reduce noises in the buildings but unfortunately, nothing concrete has been done yet.

### **Questions about safety matters**

- Concerns about risks linked to terrorism and the measures taken in order to react quickly in case of AMOK (criminal attacks / criminals entering the school's premises)
  - a special AMOK training for teachers has been planned at the end of March
  - in primary and nursery there are special locks at the doors, allowing teachers to close the door from inside without a key and making impossible to open it from outside without a key
  - the same lock system will be soon improved in the secondary as well
  - a phone alerting system will allow to inform all classes at the same moment and there is a special system allowing to close all the blinds in few seconds (so that nobody can see from outside)
  - a parent offered his knowledge about security system and his experience in the field: he will be invited to the next health and safety committee
- Concerns about bullying at the HU maternelle, during the break
  - the Director, who was not informed about those problems, will intervene asap and inform the nursery coordinator.
- Lost and stolen objects
  - all parents are more than welcome to come to school and help APEEEL2 representatives on 17 March, at 14h30, at the Primary entry
- Some parents obstinately park dangerously
  - the School's Director tried to give precise messages but parents do not react. This kind of behaviour is difficult to change, it is up to everyone's ethics and it is hard to educate bad drivers.

### **Questions about school access**

- Some parents complaint about the fact that it is not possible to enter the Nursery or Primary building from the courtyard (and, same limitations for leaving the school premises without passing through the main door)
  - parents are not entitled to enter the buildings from the courtyard, and, as there is a door which might be open, a sign will be put on this door in order to inform parents that they cannot use this access
  - the Director will check if the access could be facilitated for instance with guards on the back
- CS class delegate ask if the back gate (gate No. 7) could be open in short days

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- for the moment this is not possible due to the timetable of the security guards. This request will be raised in occasion of the next Health and Safety Committee

### **Questions about the engagement required to parents for activities**

- Concern about the difficulty, for some classes, to find accompanying parents for school trips
  - at the moment, the only school trip where the presence of the parents is not required is the Zinal trip. The school is evaluating the possibility to implement the system in use for Zinal to all school trips, so to have external accompanying persons instead of parents, but depending on the dates of the school trips, it might be not possible (and this solution might not be the suitable one for other classes).
- As it might be difficult to find accompanying parents for swimming pool and other activities (library for instance), parents are wondering if an extra staff member could be recruited in order to help in this sense
  - due to budgetary constraints, this possibility has to be excluded
- As alternative, some parents suggest organising swimming every two weeks instead of the current weekly basis, with the double of the time spent in the water
  - a survey will be soon launched by the APEEEL2, in order to understand if the majority would like to modify or not the actual situation. The Director has concerns about the length of the lesson, because one hour could be too tiring for small children and is not in favour of this suggestion.
  - Concerns about classes who have swimming lessons just before lunch break and who arrive late in the canteen and do not have time to eat. The Director will try to improve next year timetables to avoid as far as possible these problems.

### **Questions about the Canteen**

- Complaints about the quality of the food
  - parents are asked to put APEEEL2 in copy every time a complaint is sent to Eurest
  - parents can also send complaints and suggestions to APEEEL2, because the association is working with Eurest in order to improve the quality of their offer
  - in order to help APEEEL2 in this job, parents are asked to send specific complaints (affirming that the menu was not good is not enough, it should be specified what was wrong)
- How to monitor Eurest

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- regular visits and inspections are done by the APEEEL2 MC members responsible for that
- APEEEL2 would like to involve class delegates to the Canteen's inspections. The report from the last inspection is negative and will be presented to the next Canteen Committee.
- APEEEL2, as well as the Canteen Committee, react on the basis of the feedbacks received from parents: feedback from parents on elements they consider important is solicited.
- Menus, nutrition values
  - APEEEL2 is trying to convince Eurest to offer the dessert instead of the appetizer (as it was in the past)
  - parents are invited to share the preferences of their children with the Association (if there is a menu which has been very much appreciated, APEEEL2 can ask Eurest to propose that menu more often)
  - as about the offer of fruits, it happens very often that fruits are offered as alternative to the dessert; there is also a governmental initiative concerning the consumption of fruits in the school, "fruit 4 school", and it takes place every week
  - in order to increase fruits' consumption, the school is evaluating the possibility to promote fruits instead of snacks for the break (but this is a cultural matter as well)
- Portions, distribution and queues
  - teachers in the canteen control the quantity and the respect of equal distribution of the food, but this is difficult sometimes
  - problems could be reduced if a self-service is implemented.

## Questions about transport

- discussions with MDDI
  - the school, together with APEEEL2, is discussing since years with the MDDI (Ministère du Développement durable et des Infrastructures) about the possibility to improve accesses to the school
  - MDDI is supposed to take concrete actions in this sense, but improvement and measures would only be ended by the end of 2018, not before. At the moment, MDDI did not provide specific answers. A meeting open to parents will be organised as soon as the project will take concrete form
- Buses : why some buses are free and some others are paying ?
  - Indeed there is inequality in terms of transport's offer, as city buses are free, as well as the buses from few communes close to the schools, but for many other people there are no free transport solutions offered and they have to use ATSEE buses, which have a cost
  - maybe a centralised management of the buses could help, APEEEL2 is working on this subject.

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## Miscellaneous / Divers

- **School calendar** - the school has to follow the guidelines of the European Schools, unfortunately the calendar might not coincide with the Luxembourgish schools' one. As the European schools are intended for the European officials, special needs of European institutions should be taken into account. As example, the school calendar has to be planned considering the parliamentary sessions in Strasbourg. There are also some rules about Easter and Christmas holidays which have to be respected. Of course, when possible, also the Luxembourgish calendar is taken into consideration, but this is not at the first priority
- **Garderie project** - APEEEL2 is starting studying about a project concerning the garderie for parents who are actually not entitled to use the ones offered by the European Commission. We are looking for parents who can volunteer to work on this project. If you're interested, please send an email to office@apeeel2.lu
- **School fête overlapping with a religious event** - the date for the school fête was very hard to find, many factors (bac and compos exams which require the salle des Fêtes as an exams room in June, Pentecote holidays...) are taken into account, unfortunately we did not notice that the chosen day overlapped with one of the religious events in the FR section.
- **SMS system** - For the moment, it is up to the teachers to decide how and when to use it regarding the communication with the parents, except for the school reports

Questions which were not asked due to a lack of time:

- **periscolaires activities:** Why Zumba classes are on Tuesday at 4:45pm to 5:45pm? It's too late for young children who are then very tired after this class. There was a change at the beginning of the year with the Zumba teacher and it was not easy to find a new one a few weeks after the rentrée. Moreover, rooms in the sport building are not available for periscolaires activities before 4:30pm, this is first for secondary students who have lessons until 4:30pm. However, the coordinator will pay attention to this next year and will try to put this lesson earlier in the day.
- **Photo competition:** This year, the winners were only from S6 and S7. Would it be possible to have a competition only for P4-P5-S1-S2? In the previous years, there were winners from S1 and S2. This competition is organised by secondary Art teachers. They are working with L1 teachers as they are sharing the same theme for the poetry competition. This is mainly a secondary project. For primary students, there is the Christmas Card competition but APEEEL2 and the School will think about this suggestion.
- **Teachers' salary:** Is any action being taken to improve the remuneration of locally recruited teachers? Some teachers from Lux2 are involved in a working group in Brussels to discuss this topic. On APEEEL2 side, we raised again this issue at the last school Admin Board and suggested a special allowance for

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teachers to compensate the high standard of living in Luxembourg but this was again refused by the General Secretary of the European schools.

- **School website:** When will the German text be ready ? The structure, the content and the usability of the webpage did not improve since September, does the school have resources to improve the functionalities of the webpage and keep it up-to-date?  
The German version will be ready as soon as the school will find ressources to translate it. This is not the case for the moment.  
The person responsible for the website is working every day to improve the functionalities.
- **School facilities:** Are there any plans for further improvements to the playground, perhaps by introducing more green areas around the school?  
The director will propose a project about this matter during the next educational council.
- **Plaine :** Is the closure definitive ? Is the school looking for a new facility for next P3 school trip? It seems that the closure is definitive. We are looking for new facilities for P3. Parents and APEEEL2 will be informed at the right time about this.
- **Is the school planning any covered parking for bicycles** so that they would be protected from rain or snow? The School Director doesn't have information about this.  
APEEEL2 already asked the School to ask Bâtiments Publics (owner of the buildings). We will send a reminder to have an update on this.