APEEEL2
Schola Europaea Luxembourg II

Feedback from the School Administration Board

on 25/01/2022

Attended by APEEEL2 Representatives.

The School Administration Board takes place twice a year in attendance of the Secretary General of the European Schools, from this year Mr Beckmann, and different representatives from the European Commission, the EIB, and the Luxembourg delegation.

The last Board meeting took place on Tuesday 25 January 2022, also attended as usual by your APEEEL2 parents' representatives who are pleased to summarise below the various topics discussed during the meeting:

Mr Beckmann shared 3 important key information:

- Since 01/01/22, Manuel Bordoy has been appointed as the **new Deputy Secretary General**. This is a very positive news for our ES system, as Mr Bordoy brings a wealth of experience to the position, having previously been Head of the Bac Unit at Central Office, as well as Director for Brussels IV European School.

- The situation **of attractiveness of the European Schools in Luxembourg** has improved since 2019, thanks to the EIB substantial contribution allowing for a significant salary increase for locally recruited teachers. However, recruiting and maintaining teachers as well as administrative staff remains a difficult task for our Schools. Proposals are under discussion and will be addressed at the next Board of Governors in April 2022.

- **Bac 2022**: The Bac Task Force has provided some guidelines which were approved in December at the last Board of Governors. The principle is that Bac exams should run as normal as possible in June 2022, and Schools should avoid any exams cancellations. As usual, oral exams are foreseen with 2 examinators: one teacher and one external examinator. In case of the external examinator not being able to travel to Luxembourg, he/she should work remotely, or if impossible, be replaced by another teacher.

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School budget

As the first Administrative Board scheduled in September always focuses more on pedagogical aspects, the second meeting in January usually addresses more financial topics.

The School budget depends is hugely impacted by the **number of pupils**. The forecasts for the school year 2022/23 shows a 5% increase in the number of pupils, with a higher increase in Secondary. The forecasted total number of pupils for the 3 cycles amounts to 2 760 pupils, whereas there are currently 2 620 pupils at Lux2 in 2021/22.

The Central Office, as well as the European Commission, underlined the fact that **the budget line for Education Support** is higher in our School compared to other European Schools. Although Central Office and EC are both in favor of inclusiveness in European Schools, they will investigate this point to understand where the difference is coming from.

ICT audit

An ICT audit was conducted in our School last year, and results were globally not positive. Even though some of the recommendations have been already implemented, such as the migration to a new domain and to Windows 10, our School is still facing major difficulties regarding other recommendations such as Wifi implementation, network issues and the IT team. Our School Management is strongly committed to improving the situation, and this may also have an impact on the School budget.

SWALS situation in Lux2

Further to the letter sent to Mr Beckmann by the APEEEL2 SWALS Working Group on 20/01/22 - see following article for details https://www.apeeel2.lu/swals-representatives-open-letter-to-osges-01-2022/ - APEEEL2 insisted on 3 facts:

- The number of SWALS pupils in Secondary has doubled in 5 years.
- Our School manages 6 different SWALS languages in Secondary.
- Despite the above facts, the number of grouped/reduced L1 SWALS periods has remained unchanged for the past 5 years.

APEEEL2 considers it is unfair that a growing number of SWALS pupils are impacted by the financial savings imposed on SWALS L1 periods. We insisted that more importance should be given to the pedagogical impact as well as SWALS pupils' wellbeing when taking all facts into account. Mr Beckmann confirmed the receipt of the APEEEL2 letter and will now proceed with analysing its content. He explained that classes reductions and regroupings are not only decided on financial aspects, but also for pedagogical reasons. Mr Beckman did not deny the fact that there may be some issues affecting SWALS pupils, but he also highlighted that Bac

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results indicated that SWALS pupils generally perform better than other pupils – see ES Bac results statistic from 2021 https://www.eursc.eu/Documents/2021-07-D-1-en-5.pdf

GeoGebra

APEEEL2 raised the question of the consequences of the recent decision by the Board of Governors not to use GeoGebra for S5 and S6 exams this year in June, and for S7 exams next year.

Mr Beckman confirmed that the decision not to use GeoGebra was based on technical issues, as Geogebra application's new version is less stable in examination mode than the previous one. Teachers' representatives raised their concerns and questioned how to cover the new syllabus without any software (GeoGebra or a graphic calculator). Mr Beckman will report back to Mr Munkacsy, Head of the Pedagogical Unit and will keep us informed.

Certification of the rapid tests done at school

APEEEL2 took the opportunity of the presence of the Luxembourg delegation to raise some parents' concerns about the requirements for their children over 12 years-old to be tested twice a day: the first time for attending school and the second time for attending Conservatoire or other sport clubs. We would like the tests carried out at school to be certified, as it is the case in local schools.

As the Luxembourg delegation works closely with our School Management, they were already aware of this issue. They understand our parents' request, however, they explained that the national platform generating the certified code is not available for private schools. In addition, the certification is based on the national student's register which does not exist for all Lux2 pupils. The issue is complex, but they confirmed that they are working on it, and that it has been reported to the Ministry of Education.

Miscellaneous

- **Enrolment policy 2022/23**

It is important to highlight the fact that registration will start earlier this year - in March - compared to previous years. All information is available on http://www.eel2.eu/fr/page/periode-dinscriptions

- **S7 pupils intending to study in the Netherlands after the Bac exam**

To answer one of our previous questions, our School Director confirmed that Mrs van Lindert, a Dutch chemistry teacher at Lux2, has accepted the role of advising the increasing

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number of S7 pupils intending to study in the Netherlands. She will also work closely with the Dutch coordinator from Lux1 as they have a Dutch language section.

- **New memorandum of management for school trips**

A call for tender for school trips will be launched at central level and the new organization for travel arrangements will apply as of school year 2022-2023. APEEEL2 requested more information on the new call for tender, as it will impact parents who in the end pay for the trips. Mr Beckman explained that a Working Group has been set up at central level, with the active participation of Interparents. Specifications are almost ready, and the procedure will soon be published. Mr Beckman also confirmed that parents' representatives from Interparents will be part of the Selection Committee and involved all along the process.

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