FEEDBACK FROM SCHOOL ADMIN BOARD

Meeting of Wednesday 01/02/2023

APEEEL2 was represented by Mr André Schmutz (APEEEL2 President), Mrs Claudia Lange-Tramoni (APEEEL2 Vice-President), and Mrs Delphine Ballaguy (APEEEL2 Secretary General).

The meeting was chaired by Mr Andreas Beckmann, Secretary General of the European Schools.

Oral communication from Mr Beckmann
The Secretary-General explained that the admission framework of Ukrainian pupils in European Schools will remain the same in 2023/24. Ukrainian pupils who are enrolled at Lux2 will therefore be able to continue their school life at Lux2 in 2023-24. The Board of Governors even decided that all pedagogical costs (including mandatory school trips) will be covered by the school budget.

ICT issue
The Administrative Board has been informed that our School is currently facing some major ICT issues, including redesigning our network for WIFI, replacing the virtualization service to which teachers are connected and other major IT infrastructure issues.
The School is assisted by an external IT consultancy company, as well as the IT department of the European School Luxembourg 1 and the Central Office.
The School has restructured its HR department in the IT area and has requested the Administrative Board members their approval for creating a new permanent ICT post.
APEEEL2 enquired why the School did not restructure its ICT department earlier. All the representatives (teachers, parents, students) insisted on the negative consequences of these IT problems on teaching, as teachers are increasingly required to move towards digital education.

Even though teachers, parents and pupils' representatives voted in favour of an ICT permanent post, EIB, the Commission, and the Secretary-General did not support this request, considering that the School could fix the problem with a temporary contract.

School budget
The Administrative Board was the opportunity to present the School budget for 2024.
As salaries constitute 87% of the School budget, each index in Luxembourg has a huge impact on the School budget. Expenses linked to energy costs have also increased significantly. Therefore, the School budget will increase by 12% in 2024.
Further to this, the School has requested an additional significant budget for IT. The Central Office explained that the financial situation at central level is extremely difficult between mandatory salary increases and inflation on all public accounts. All expenses which are not mandatory will be scrutinised.
Therefore, the additional budget requested for ICT was refused, the School is expected to make savings on other budget lines.

APEEEL2 representatives insisted on the following points:

1. **Derogations**: As soon as the School opens a lesson with less than the minimum number of pupils required, it needs to be reported with the implied cost and agreed upon by the Administrative Board. On the other hand, the School must also report all lessons which are grouped (eg. L1 SWALS lessons

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in Secondary), but the cost savings are not reported. APEEEL2 raised some questions about this measure and wanted some precisions about the grouping rule in S6 and S7.

2. **SMS**: Parents' representatives wanted to point out that for years the use of SMS has differed from one teacher to another, creating many discrepancies. Efforts have been made, but our demands on this subject remain unchanged year after year.
   It was important for APEEEL2 to be able to share all current issues faced by our School, so they can be considered by the Central Office during the discussions on the choice of the new tool replacing SMS. The Secretary General explained that SMS will still be used for a prolonged period, as more time is needed to work on the procurement of a new system.

3. **Amendments to General Rules**: APEEEL2 representatives informed the Admin Board's members of APEEEL2's dissatisfaction with the recently voted amendments. We detailed a few points presented in our published article https://www.apeeel2.lu/amendments-to-the-general-rules-of-european-schools-06-08-12-2022/

   Mr Beckmann disagreed with us and confirmed that Parent's Associations are full partners of the European Schools.



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