Feedback from School Advisory Council on 27/06/2023

Attended by APEEEL2 Representatives.

Your APEEEL2 representatives attended the second School Advisory Council for this school year on Tuesday 27/06/2023. We are pleased to share with you the main topics which were discussed at this meeting:

School Calendar for 2024/2025

The Lux2 school calendar is always defined in collaboration with Lux1 and must take into consideration the European Schools' constraints (regarding Easter holidays and the Bac examinations dates). The calendar for 2023/2024 is already online https://www.apeeel2.lu/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/D-MvD-cc-23-002_Calendrier-scolaire-2023-2024.pdf and we discussed the one for 2024/2025 at this meeting.
APEEEL2 always supports having a school calendar that is as closely aligned as possible with the Luxembourg school calendar. This will be the case again in 2024/2025, except for one-week delay during the Easter holidays (this is often unavoidable).
The School Management has decided to keep Friday 02/05/25 as a school day even though Thursday 01/05/25 will be a public holiday. Because of the Easter holidays, and the following Friday falling on 09/05, this would have otherwise resulted in 4 Fridays in a row being skipped, which is not acceptable for the Secondary school.

Whole School Inspection (WSI)

All European Schools are subject to regular global evaluations. The last Whole School Inspection for Lux2 took place in March 2020, therefore the next one will be in March 2025.
Until then, the School is still working on recommendations made at the last WSI and which are included in the Annual School Plan (vision of the School, School climate, organization of the School, and middle management…)
APEEEL2 only insisted that the topics concerning parents and/or APEEEL2 should be discussed with APEEEL2 Parent's Representatives. This was agreed by the School Director.

Annual School Plan

The School Management plans to include the following topics in the Annual School Plan:

- Implementation of the 8 key competencies in the pedagogical planning (to be continued)
- PISA results for schools
- Implementation of the remaining recommendations of the Educational Support Evaluation Report and implementation of the Action Plan Educational Support and Inclusive Education

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- Recommendations from the Whole School Inspection which are have not been completed yet.
- Learning Support
- Digital learning

School Trips

APEEEL2 requested that the issues regarding the school trips should be discussed, as we were informed by InterParents that many schools were not satisfied with the services provided by Denatravel, the travel agency which won the European tender.
Different meetings took place at central level with School Directors, teachers' representatives and InterParents. There was a large consensus from all representatives that the situation with Denatravel could not continue as it stands now: Prices are too high for a very poor service. InterParents wanted to end the contract, but this was rejected by Central Office.
The Deputy Director for Primary confirmed that there were difficulties at several levels: cost, lack of communication, lack of competencies of Denatravel's staff etc…For example, teachers and parents were lacking information on the pedagogical program and the pupils' distribution in the rooms.
Information was also missing for Secondary trips and some meals were not included for some S6 trips where parents had to pay extra cost in addition to the already high cost of the trip.
The School Director confirmed that school trips for 2023/2024 are already in preparation and that Central Office is currently working on making the contract with Denatravel stricter and more suitable for schools. He is confident that the situation will be better in 2023/2024.

Mobility Program

APEEEL2 requested to add this point on the agenda as this program is a wonderful program for pupils and a great opportunity for those who are motivated into participating. We stressed that the Information Meeting organized by the School at the beginning of the school year for S4 pupils and their parents was useful and well presented. However, APEEEL2 would like to officially complain about the bad organization, not specific to our School but also to other European Schools. APEEEL2 received some feedback from Interparents that the situation was no better in other schools.
We understand that after a long break due to Covid, the program resumed this year with a high interest from pupils from our School and other schools. This resulted in a much higher number of applications to manage.
We complained that pupils must apply very early in the school year (the deadline was in December 2022) but end up being left without any answer or feedback until the end of the school year. Some pupils still do not know as of today whether they are accepted or not in another school for next September.

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The Deputy Director for Secondary explained that all European Schools must first proceed with new registrations for 2023/2024 and wait until they know which classes will be split, before deciding whether they have enough places to accept pupils from the Mobility Program.
APEEEL2 will raise this problem of disorganization again with InterParents. We will also ask the School Management to improve the communication between parents and pupils at Lux2 level and raise their concerns at Central level.

Drug Policy

At the last Health and Safety Committee meeting, intensive discussions took place regarding the Drug Policy (a new document for our School which will also be common to Lux1). APEEEL2 representatives, as well as Secondary psychologists, have made many comments on this document, which in our opinion was not promoting enough education and prevention.
The last version of the document, presented today, was better and we noticed an important step forward. We were pleased to notice that our comments had been taken into consideration. However, APEEEL2 representatives could not yet approve the document, as we still had comments on the last version. We will keep you informed as soon as we receive the finalized version.

Miscellaneous

APEEEL2 requested an update on the recruitment procedure for the Education Support Coordinator position in Secondary. The School Director confirmed that the procedure was over and that they will communicate soon.
APEEEL2 also enquired when parents will be informed of Ms Soekov's departure from our School. As Secondary pupils have already finished school, a communication will be sent to parents at the end of August/beginning of September on the new organization of the Secondary School Management.







Artwork in Secondary school

APEEEL2 School Advisory Council – 27th June 2023

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