Feedback from School Administration Board on 18/09/2024

Attended by APEEEL2 Representatives.

Your APEEEL2 representatives attended the School Admin Board held on Wednesday 18/09/24. This meeting is chaired by the Secretary General of the European Schools, Mr Andreas Beckmann.

Information from Mr. Beckmann

- **New Head of unit Pedagogical Development**: Mr. Ciprian Fartusnic, has been nominated Head of the pedagogical Unit at the OSG, to replace Mr. László Munkácsy. He is totally new to the European School system but experienced in the Romanian system.
- **New AES (Accredited European Schools):** There is a project of an Accredited School in Vienna which will be discussed in various meetings in October and December 2024.
- **PISA for schools in spring 2025**: There are discussions about the possibility for the 6 AES in Luxembourg to integrate the PISA International Schools.
- **180 days**: There are discussions about the fact that in many secondary European Schools, lessons finish earlier in June because of the organization of the Oral Bac examinations. There are some disagreements, and a compromise will first be discussed in October and then in December with an impact expected only on 2025-2026 school year.
- **SMS replacement**: APEEEL2 asked for an update on the replacement of the SMS software as we need some new functionalities which can only be developed with a new tool (such as parents' authorization to share their contact details with APEEEL2/Class reps, better communication to divorced parents…). Mr Beckmann informed us that SMS will be replaced by 4 or 5 different tools so it will not be implemented before the end of 2026.

Report of the School Director

- **School population:** The school population has now reached **2 843 pupils in total** with 207 pupils in Nursery, 940 in Primary and 1 696 in Secondary.
- **Events:** Last year, the School welcomed some big events such as the *State visit of the Czech President* attended by the Grand Duc of Luxembourg, *Eurosport 2024* with the attendance of the Grand-Duc at the Opening Ceremony, a first *Open Door Day* and the *Neurodiversity Week*.
- **Projects in 2024-2025:** Our School will host the MEC (*Model European Council*) in March 2025. Lux2 will also have its third *Whole School Inspection* in May 2025 (it only happens every 5 years) and will organize again a 2nd edition of the *Open-Door Day* on 8th March 2025.
- **Baccalaureate 2024:** Our School achieved a result of 100%. The detailed analyses of the Bac results (per subject and per language section) will be a topic in discussion at the *Pedagogical Day* in November.
- **Educational Support**: There is an increase of ISA students (students with Intensive Support) who are present in number in large classes. It is also possible that the *DALZA program* (forum for parents, teachers and therapists to come together under one digital roof to work together) will be launched as a pilot project in our School.
  Teachers in secondary will be further trained on Educational Support (one compulsory training per teacher).

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Annual Pedagogical School Plan for 2024-2025

- **Nursery / Primary**: The objective of the Pedagogical Plan for 2024/25 is to develop an inclusive and dynamic environment for pupils by developing new projects:
    - Development of new teaching practices.
    - Common pedagogical calendar.
    - Focus on integrating 8 key competences in activities and curriculum
    - Strengthening of our technological tools and training teachers to better meet pupils' needs.
    - Major challenge: educational support and inclusion. Class profiles are changing, and new approaches must be put in place.
    - Commitment to strengthening School spirit.
- **Secondary**:
    - Build School spirit for all stakeholders and work on ethos.
    - Make the Secondary building more welcome and cosier, create a Trophee cabinet to show pupils' successes, promote the European dimension with flags to be added at the entrance of the building.
    - Mobile device policy to be put in place as a challenging topic.
    - Involving the pupils in the *CareTeam*, focusing on wellbeing, also for teachers, creating an atmosphere where staff feel at ease.
    - Implement the changes in S5 regarding assessment.
    - Introducing the homework policy from last year.
    - Pedagogical Planning: 80 teachers evaluated last year, peer observation to be replaced by classroom visit, to observe GOOD practice.
    - Prepare events like MEC (55 pupils auditioned for 11 places to represent our School).

School Calendar for 2024/2025

- The School calendar is common to Lux1 and Lux2 schools.
- Priority is always given to try and comply as much as possible with the Luxembourgish schools' calendar.
- The proposal is to have the Friday after the Ascension day as a free day, but teachers' representatives would prefer starting on 01/09 and working on 15/05. As teachers must start 2 days prior to the pupils, it has no impact on pupils and their families so APEEEL2 would definitively prefer having 15/05 as a free day. The decision has not yet been taken as the Commission would first need to check whether 15/05 is a Commission day in 2026.

Creation of a Romanian Section

The discussion about the possible creation of a Romanian section started last year. The minimum number of pupils required to create a Romanian section has now been reached, with currently:

- 19 pupils in Nursery
- 80 pupils in Primary
- 120 pupils in Secondary

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The motivation to create this section is to ensure the teaching in the mother tongue of our pupils and have a balance in the School's sections. Our Director organized several meetings on the topic: with the SWALS parents' representatives and with APEEEL2, with the Romanian teachers, and with the Romanian parents. The meeting with the parents was the most difficult, as parents mostly prefer to keep the SWALS status than having their own section.
The Head of the Romanian Delegation was present online, and she reported that ES Brussels IV will organize its 1st Bac next year with a Romanian section. This shows the clear advantages of such a section. She suggested to open a Romanian section starting in September 2025 with only the M1 class level, and progressively add levels up to S7 level in the future. The Romanian Delegation will then second teachers accordingly. Mr Beckmann, the European Commission as well as the EIB agreed with this proposal as it embodies the spirit of the Convention of European Schools, and in some way the foundations of these Schools.
APEEEL2 appreciated the initiative from our School Director to meet with all Romanian parents. Although we understand that most Romanian parents are against the creation of a Romanian section, the large number of Romanian pupils in the FR and EN sections must also be considered.
APEEEL2 also appreciated that our Director followed our request to postpone the start of the M2 level of the Romanian section until September 2026, instead of September 2025 with M1 level.
The Administration Board approved the creation of the Romanian Section. It will now be submitted to the Joint Board of Inspectors, the Joint Teaching Committee, the Budgetary Committee and finally the Board of Governors for approval in December 2024.

Questions from the Parents Association (APEEEL2)

- **BAC Quality Control**: Further to the issues faced in several Bac written examinations last year, APEEEL2 requested a better-quality control for the Bac exams. Mr Beckmann replied that a quality insurance mechanism already exists, but that they have noticed some issues relating to the Maths 5 exam. An investigation has therefore been launched by the Head of the Bac Unit on this point.
  Eventually, Mr Beckmann did agree that there is a need for some improvement in the Bac exams quality control.
- **Teachers' attractiveness:** The Secretary-General is well aware of the difficulty to attract teachers in the European Schools in Luxembourg, particularly German teachers. The idea is to bring Nursery & Primary teachers and counsellors' salaries to the level of Secondary teachers. A new benchmark on the salaries of locally recruited teachers also needs to be conducted. APEEEL2 also requested an increase in the number of protected posts for locally recruited teachers.
- **Splitting classes with ISA students:** Recurrent question from the Parents' Association regarding the contradiction between the General Rules stating that a class can be split only when the number of pupils reaches 31, and the Education Support Action Plan recommending splitting a class when there are several ISA pupils in the class. Mr. Beckmann confirmed that the question of class size in case of several ISA students in the same class remains pending. Hopefully, a decision will be made by the Board of Governors next December.
- **Reduction Rule:** There is a rule stating that lessons with less than 7 pupils must be reduced in terms of number of periods per week. This rule generally applies to SWALS L1 lessons.

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However, S1DA pupils are impacted this year as they have 5 periods less than other S1 classes. This represents 15% less of teaching time. The School Management will look into the possibility for these pupils to attend other lessons in other languages sections.

The next School Administrative Board will take place in January 2025.

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