Feedback from the Nursery & Primary Education Council on 25/09/2024

Attended by APEEEL2 Representatives and the School management.

A look back at the main points discussed at the Education Council for Nursery and Primary on Wednesday 25 September 2024.

School start in September

- **In Nursery:** Slight increase in the number of pupils in the small language sections (Danish and Hungarian sections). Unfortunately, with no Czech pupils in M1 or M2, this class is closed for the time being, but the Deputy Director confirmed that there is no plan for this school year or the following year to close the Czech section. A new seconded teacher has arrived in the French section.
- **Primary:** The language sections with a small number of pupils kept the same structure with the same number of merged classes in the CS, DA and HU sections. The school lost one FR class in P2 resulting in 2 classes with high numbers of pupils (29 + 30). Unfortunately, the management confirmed they can only open a 3rd class if the total number of pupils in P2FR reaches 61 pupils. It's impossible at present to know whether this will happen during the year. The school welcomes a new art teacher seconded from Luxembourg. There will be 2 new seconded Italian teachers, but they did not arrive in September. One teacher could finally arrive at the beginning of October.
- **Organization of the lessons L2, Religion, ethics, SWALS, European Hours, Sport…**: All these lessons started smoothly at the announced date. P1 pupils always start their L2 end of September to have some time to get used to their new environment.
- **Educational support**: 5 new support assistants and 2 support teachers have been recruited. The support coordinator provided more stable planning even though it's always difficult to adjust to the different needs, but support lessons could start on the first day of school.
- **Parents/teachers meetings**: APEEEL2 expressed its gratitude for informing parents already in June and beginning of September about the dates of the meetings. However, we also raised our concerns about some mistakes made in the way invitations were sent. Indeed, the management confirmed that the new security procedures where parents must confirm their attendance should be adjusted.

Welcome of the pupils in Nursery

Following several requests from class reps and parents from the nursery cycle, APEEEL2 raised concerns about the way nursery pupils are welcomed in the morning.

- We questioned the Deputy Director for Nursery/Primary Mr. Richard about the security rules which prevent parents from accompanying their child to the nursery building. As we didn't get any text reference related to these security measures, APEEEL2 will raise the topic at the Health and Safety Committee planned on 22/10/24.

Disclaimer: *These are informal notes taken during the meeting and should not be read as an official document*

- We also talked about the fact that in September, nursery children are a little bit lost, and it takes them a couple of weeks to get used to their teachers and school staff (including the nursery assistants who also welcome the children in the morning) as well as the school premises.
- The school management explained that the September organization is planned in several steps:
    - First week: parents are authorized to accompany their child to the class
    - 2nd week: All teachers are in the playground to welcome the pupils
    - From the 3rd week: Rotation of teachers and assistants who welcome the pupils
- In the school's opinion, this organization benefits pupils in terms of socialization and languages learning as they meet pupils from different sections in the playground, as well as other teachers and staff. It also improves their autonomy as they get undressed by themselves and carry their bag.
- However, the Deputy Director agreed to reflect on our proposal to extend the period when parents are authorized to accompany their child on the school premises for next September. He also insisted on the time schedule constraints he must work with, as school starts officially at 8:40 so not all teachers can be there from 8:15. He must work with rotations between teachers and assistants.
- The question of the weather conditions was also discussed. When the weather is bad, pupils enter the classrooms earlier than 8:35. The definition of bad weather is not clear as the interpretation may vary from parents (different cultures) or school management's opinion.
- The Deputy Director will work on this and present us with a more structured plan at the next Education Council planned in December.

School trips in Primary

From the school year 2024/2025, our school will work with *Emile Weber* company for the school trips' organization. This company won the tender for the 2 European schools Lux1 and Lux2.
3 mandatory school trips will then take place this year in Primary:

- P3 pupils will go to Houffalize in Belgium (sports and team building activities) end of March, beginning of April.
- P4 will go to De Haan in Belgium on the seacoast beginning of June.
- The decision for P5 was still under discussion at the time where the Education Council took place (either Freiburg in the Schwarzwald or Oberstdorf in Germany).

Assessment in Primary

The school year 2024/25 is the first year of the implementation of the updated Assessment Tools for the Primary Cycle of the European Schools. All parents with children in Primary have been informed about these changes on 04/10 by email but here is a summary:

- The evaluation scale has now 5 stars (instead of 4) and allows more nuances for the teachers.
- The first school report is modified and will show areas of strength, as well as areas where the child can make further development.

Disclaimer: *These are informal notes taken during the meeting and should not be read as an official document*

- Pupils can now be involved in individual interviews in November. The idea is to make children the actors of their own learning and self-evaluation. APEEEL2 asked the question whether child presence is mandatory. The text says it is highly recommended, but not mandatory.

The next Education Council will take place in December 2024.

Disclaimer: *These are informal notes taken during the meeting and should not be read as an official document*