



**MINUTES : ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
STRASBOURG EUROPEAN SCHOOL
Thursday 12th November 2009 at 18:00**

M. Bittmann, Director of Studies of EES, begins the meeting at 18 :10.

Present :

- EES Management Team : M. Bittmann, Mme Marlier.
- IA-IPR : M. Mertz.
- Representatives of the Local Community : Mme Leroux (Strasbourg Educational Service), M. Letaltec (General Councillor), Mme Thomas (General Council Educational Policies) and M. Cochez (Regional Council Secondary Schools)
- Representative of the European Ombudsman : M. Amir-Tahmasseb
- Parent Representatives (APE-EES) : M. Vraux, M. Berg, Mme Julien, Mme Murphy, M. Lodder and Mme Kristensen.
- Teacher Representatives : Mme Squiban, Mme Molines, Mme Winter, M. Heckmann, M. Labergue and Ms Phillips.
- Pupil Representative : Mlle Alexandrovski.
- School Psychologist : Mme Schäfer
- EES Secretary : Mme Soulage

Apologies : M. Ladaique (National Education Assistant Inspector), Mme Rafik-Elmrini (Assistant Mayor, Strasbourg), M. Zeter (General Council Vice President), Mme Schaal (Representative of the European Parliament) and Mme Muller (Pedagogical Counsellor for Languages).

1) Installation of the Advisory Committee

The Advisory Committee is a unique organisation whose mission is to reunite the group of internal and external partners of Strasbourg European School (EES).

It's aim is to guarantee the coherence of the project.

Reminder : EES operations are regulated by the Code of Education and by specific statutory texts :

- The general interest file.
- The conformity file for european teaching in Strasbourg.

Added to these two documents are the general rules of European Schools and the EES Audit Report from April 2009.

M. Bittmann asked each person present to introduce themselves.

2) Nomination of the Minute-Taker : Aurélie Soulage

3) Approval of the Advisory Committee minutes from 19/06/09

The minutes from the Advisory Committee which took place on 19/06/09 are approved unanimously.

4) Adoption of the Order of the Day

M. Bittmann proposed delaying the point on the future of EES until the discussion on the pedagogical project, which was unanimously approved.

5) Adoption of changes to the text defining the attributions and operation of the Committee

Some changes to the text are proposed by M. Bittmann and unanimously approved :

6 teacher representatives and 6 parent representatives allocated in the following manner :

- 1 nursery representative ;
- 1 representative from the french primary section ;
- 1 representative from the german primary section ;
- 1 representative from the english primary section ;
- 2 representatives from the secondary.

Also the presence of two pupil representatives.

6) Assessment of September 2009

M. Bittmann presented a table given to each of the members entitled « EES Number of Pupils and Teaching Staff, September 2009 ».

Total number of pupils, 489 : 364 for the nursery and primary classes, 125 for the secondary classes.
42 teachers.

Management and secretaries.

Changes as of September 2009 :

- School psychologist present part-time : intervention in the nursery, primary and secondary, which is unique given that school psychologists are usually attached to primary or secondary. However, at EES, one person will be attached to the whole school.
- The school canteen for the nursery and primary classes opened at EES (6 rue de Wallonie) : the children no longer need to go elsewhere.
- An extra floor was added for the nursery and primary classes.
- Two playground shelters were built.
- The secondary classes are still located at the collège Vauban where the school canteen was refurbished with extra equipment : the system of canteen will change as of January 2010 and a biometric recognition system will replace it.

Mme Murphy, parent, asked what will be the entrance conditions for the next school year, notably concerning siblings.

M. Bittmann underlined the difficulties faced during the admission period for 2009/2010 : nevertheless, almost all siblings were admitted, except for the french nursery section.

The question of siblings remains as to the order of priority for the 2010/2011 admissions, as well as for children of EES staff. These questions will be re-examined during the 2nd Advisory Committee.

Two changes have already been decided :

- Differentiate between two categories of entitled children :
 - o A1 : children of community institution staff
 - o A2 : children previously schooled in another european school.
- Regrouping the two categories B5 and B6 : European mobility project and wishing for an education in the spirit of european schools.

M. Bittmann specified that for September 2010, admissions to the french section would be very limited due to the lack of available places, except for the first year of nursery.

Finally, M. Bittmann commented on the graph titled "Origin of pupils by category, school year 2009/2010" :

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Two thirds of pupils come from categories A, B1 and B2, although they represented less than 50% in 2008/2009.

Furthermore, 51 nationalities are represented at EES in 2009/2010.

7) Future of Strasbourg European School

In 2009: signing of the Convention of Approval for a period of 2 years (until 2011), then there will be a new visit by the inspectors. Recommendations made during the 2009 audit must be taken into account.

September 2010 :

- Primary : 2 classes to open (a 3rd class for the last 3 years of the english section and a 2nd class for the last 3 years of the german section).
- Secondary : 3 classes to open (S2 DE, S4 EN and S4 FR).

New classes will open in the secondary this year, grouping together years 4 and 5 with a large choice of options which will require space and premises to be available (e.g : maths options for 4 or 6 periods, social sciences and economics in language 2, a 4th language,...)

September 2011 :

Opening of 3 secondary classes (S3 DE, S5 EN et S5 FR), however, the question of premises for the secondary is still unanswered.

In 2011, there will be a new audit by the inspectors between December 2010 and February 2011 : they will notably be checking that the recommendations made during the first audit have been followed (use of ITC in the primary, pedagogical coordination, project for one site, and auto-evaluation) and be observing the set-up of the changes to the school.

Another audit will be held in order to organise the european baccalauréat at Strasbourg and to allow the opening of years 6 and 7 ; it is a very important stage. The inspectors will check the competence of the teachers, the equipment and the organisation of the pedagogical project.

M. Bittmann specified that EES now has more than 500 pupils and that eventually it should have around 1000.

M. Bittmann also announced that the three yearly contract was recently signed in which the EES project appears. (point n°2).

M. Vraux, President of the APE-EES, intervined to say that he was pleased by the presence of the three local community bodies at the Advisory Committee meeting.

He specified that 351 parents are actually members of the APE-EES.

M. Le Tallec, General Councillor, explained that the chosen location of the Route de la Wantzenau for the future european school is ideal as it is in the centre of the european institutions. The EES project represents an absolute necessity and everything will be done in order to obtain approval ; it is something that is fundamental and unavoidable.

Everything is in the process of being planned and the delivery date for the school is planned for 2013/2014 at the earliest.

M. Bittmann specified that prefabs would be installed in the playground of the collège Vauban in order to receive the secondary classes in September 2010 and this will mean 6 prefabs.

Mme Leroux, representing la Ville de Strasbourg, informed the Advisory Committee that la Ville de Strasbourg would be managing the building project of the new european school. At the moment, the three local community bodies are in the process of working together to make an agreement and put in place the legal and financial tools.

The fact that the 3 local community bodies are working together on the same project is unique.

For la Ville de Strasbourg, the future european school will be built on the Route de la Wantzenau site. The first steps have already been taken to make the land available and studies will be taking place.

An agreement was made with the two other local body communities to have only one building project manager, which will be la Ville.

After the planning studies, work will be carried out with the project manager ; the parents and the teachers will be associated as of the planning stage in order to finalise the project, as of the first semester of 2010.

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M. Cochez, representing the Regional Council, explained that the Regional Council is in discussion with the two other partners regarding the plans but that the decision concerning the siting of the site had not yet been taken.

However, he gave assurances that EES would be on one site.

He specified that the 5th, 6th and 7th years of the secondary would be at the lycée Kléber.

M. Amir-Tahmasseb specified again that during the inspectors visit 2 sites for the school would be tolerated but not 3 ; the approval would be called in question.

M. Le Tallec intervened to state that EES would only be on 2 sites.

M. Labergue, teacher, remarked that at EES one cannot distinguish between 4 collège classes and 3 lycée classes as in the french system. The 4th and 5th year of secondary are together ; they belong to the same pedagogical programme.

Mme Thomas, representing the General Council, again stated that the technical services of the General Council and the Regional Council are working together in order to find a solution to enable the whole of the secondary school to be located at Kléber as the collège Vauban could not hold the school as of 2011.

M. Bittmann is satisfied to hear of these commitments. EES is individual in its operation and it is important for its success and existence to have an independent site.

Effectively, some difficulties have arisen at collège Vauban as the secondary school is not independent, notably for the identity of EES : how can it have an identity in a building where it cannot demonstrate its characteristics ?

Example of a problem : setting up the lunch box system in the secondary.

M. Vraux questions whether it wouldn't be better to move the secondary to Kléber now to avoid congesting Collège Vauban with prefabs.

Mme Thomas explained that a certain number of things must be taken into account.

Mme Leroux reminded everyone that the EES project happened very quickly as it was only announced in September 2007 and the building went ahead during the summer of 2008.

The decision was taken very quickly. The Kléber site was undergoing building works at that time; and there was a convenient proximity between collège Vauban and the site rue de Wallonie.

The nursery, primary and secondary cannot be on the same site at the moment notably because the process of putting contracts out for tender is long and building the new school will take time.

M. Labergue questions the site capacity for the european school. It will be calculated to hold around 1000 pupils ; will this be sufficient for the international families moving to Strasbourg, requiring a school for their children, including non priority families. It is important for the establishment of certain companies in Strasbourg.

M. Berg specified that the European School of Karlsruhe created an important sphere of economic development and it would be interesting to study the impact of EES on the economics of Strasbourg.

Mme Leroux intervened to specify that EES belongs in the european vocation of Strasbourg as it appears in the three-yearly contract.

A study had already been done on the needs of families and it was as a result of this study that it was decided to accept 1000 pupils at EES. There is also a large international school offer at Strasbourg with 7 possibilities.

EES is not in competition with these international sections ; they are complementary offers.

M. Bittmann informed everyone that work is in progress to develop synergies with the international sections, in order to be coherent.

M. Berg put a question to la Ville de Strasbourg : M. the Mayor had planned the setting-up of a pilot committee to coordinate the european and international sections and he wondered if this had been done.

M. Mertz, IA-IPR, specified that there are already academic commissions set up by the orientation law of 2005.

And it is necessary to differentiate between the international sections preparing a french baccalauréat and the european sections preparing a european baccalauréat. These are two different approaches.

8) Strasbourg European School Pedagogical Project

M. Bittmann presented the 6 main lines of the project as defined last year :

- Take and adopt the european curriculums
- Develop initiatives linked to putting in place a standard level of european education
- Prioritise interaction
- Communicate, display
 - Subscribe to the network of partners with the establishments
- Ensure the quality of european teaching at Strasbourg

9) Working groups

6 working groups are going to be put in place for this year

- 2 working groups concerning the value of well-being at school : re-reading of the school rules with the introduction of a behaviour code.
- A working group on the construction of the identity of the school and the development of the sense of belonging to EES.

- A working group on the charity project.

Mme Molines, teacher, presented the work already accomplished by the charity group with other teachers: they have chosen to support a German project for street children in Uganda.

Sponsorship will be around 15 euros per month for at least a year.

In this context, the teachers would like to organise a charity day on the 18th December 2010 during which Christmas biscuits will be sold and a toy sale organised. Money raised would allow the project to begin.

To do this, the teachers asked for help from the parents association.

The APE-EES regretted not being consulted earlier about this initiative.

M. Berg informed the Advisory Committee that a charity group has also been created by the APE-EES and it is a shame that it wasn't informed earlier about the teachers work.

M. Bittmann specified that it is a project initiated by the teachers and that the parents could join in.

The charity day on 18/12/09 will allow the work already done by the teachers and the children to succeed.

M. Amir-Tahmasseb intervened to indicate that it is necessary to have more communication and interaction between the EES management, the teachers and the APE-EES.

It is necessary to learn to work together on concrete things.

- A working group on transition : moving from nursery to primary/ primary to secondary.
- A working group on self-evaluation

M. Bittmann specified that the working groups are open to parents.

10) Any other business

Mme Schäfer, school psychologist, presented her work at EES.

She has already been involved in the school year from time to time. This year, Mme Schäfer is working part-time at EES : 1 day in the primary and 1 day in the secondary.

She mainly works with Mme Blanchard in the primary, teacher in charge of learning support. For the secondary, she is currently interacting with certain children. Meetings with parents take place before involving the children.

Discussion groups have also been set up by Mme Blanchard : the 1st discussion group was about the relationship between error and criticism.

M. Schäfer specified finally that two people would be helping her with the english children, although she is perfectly bilingual in german.

M. Bittmann thanked Mme Schäfer for her involvement.

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Conclusions :

M. Berg asked if it would be possible to translate the minutes into german and english. M. Bittmann agreed.

Ms Phillips, teacher, specified that she is happy to teach in the secondary school and that the difficulties experienced in 2008/2009 have been softened.

Elisabeth Alexandrovski, pupil representative, expressed her satisfaction at being a part of EES.

M. Mertz is satisfied about the contribution of M. Le Tallec who specified that EES could count on the support of the General Council and that everything would be done to lead the project to fruition. It was important to hear it.

La Ville has always supported the project but the two other local community bodies don't have the same closeness.

EES is a project belonging to a whole region ; Alsace is historically a welcoming area. M. Mertz hopes that the support of the local community bodies will continue until the end.

He also specified that for the Rectorat, EES is a test case and is observed by several people, for example, with regards to the relationship between the school and the parents. EES is a model for other schools.

M. Amir-Tahmasseb expressed the interest of the European Ombudsman in the school. He found it a shame, however, that there are so few representatives of the community institutions on the APE-EES CD.

M. Bittmann closed the meeting by informing the members of the Advisory Committee that a meeting will soon take place at Strasbourg of the Headteachers of the type 2 european schools.

M. Berg specified that the APE-EES is in contact with Interparents (group of parents from different european schools).

The meeting is closed around 20 : 35.

Meeting secretary,
Mlle Soulage

Meeting president
M Bittmann