



école européenne
de strasbourg

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MINUTES : SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING

17/11/2009

Mme Marlier, president of the School Council, opens the meeting at 18:05 and welcomes everyone present.

Present :

- EES Management Team : M. Bittmann (Director of Studies), Mme Marlier (Head of Nursery and Primary).
- Representatives of the local community : Mme Rafik-Elmirini (Assistant Mayor, Strasbourg) Mme Dreyer (Assistant Mayor, Strasbourg), M. Fillon (coordinator of the school canteen, Strasbourg).
- Parent Representatives elected to the School Council : Mme Barbaressu, Mme Bensalah, M. Brannan, Mme Devaux, Mme Donath, Mme Epstein, Mme Falcoz, Mme Gärmer Dit Richter, Mme Ghita, Mme Hester, Mme Kristensen, Mme Mailliet, Mme Missoni, M. Rooney, Mme Rouveloux.
- Teacher Representatives : Mme Bal, Mme Blanchard (specialist teacher), Mme Bykowa (nursery german section), M. Caboche (primary french section), Mme Gerstner (primary german section), Mme Hamen (primary french section), Mme Harriman (primary english section), Mme Hazledine (nursery english section), M. Heckmann (primary french section), M. Heitz (primary french section), Mme Kahmann, Mme Lanza (nursery french section), Mme Michel, Mme Molines (primary german section), M. Muir (primary english section), Mme Nash (primary english section), Mme Siat (primary french section), Mme Squiban (nursery french section), Mme Wagner (primary french section), Mme Winter (primary english section).
- Pedagogical Counsellor for Languages : Mme Muller
- After-school Care Representative : M. Berger (Director of the « Centre Rotterdam »).
- Service Team: Mme Driesch (Nursery Classroom Assistant), Mme Streit (Nursery Classroom Assistant), M. Zill (caretaker).
- EES Secretary : Mme Oesterlé.

Apologies : M. Ladaique (IENA), M. Bitz (Assistant Mayor, Quartier Conseil des XV), Mme Schäfer (school psychologist), Mme Lodder (parent representative elected to the school council), Mme Paillet (parent representative elected to the school council).

• Introductions and nomination of the minute-taker

After introductions allowing everyone to present themselves, Mme Marlier thanked all those present for assisting in the School Council, notably the 2 Assistant Mayors, Mme Rafik-Elmirini and Mme Dreyer, as well as the Nursery Classroom Assistants and the Caretaker.

The minute-taker was nominated as : Céline Oesterlé.

• Election Results of Friday 16th October 2009

One parents association presented itself for the election of the 16 possible seats. (16 nominated and 10 substitutes).

Number of registered voters : 534

Number of voters : 147

Number of votes cast : 128

Number of void or blank voting slips : 19

Percentage of participation : 25% . The elections were held with a number of parents managing the voting office on voting day.

Mme Marlier deploras, however, the low level of participation (38% in 2008), certainly due to confusion between the election of the new « Comité de Direction » of the parents association (APE) on the 1st October. Next year the « Comité de Direction » must work towards promoting the elections in a better way.

Conversely, the second meeting organised after the elections by those elected, was very constructive and attended by many parents.

The European School must find a balance between french law and its specific european status, which will no doubt be clarified in the coming years.

- **Back-to-School 2009/2010 : organisation and operations**
- **Building works** : The school grew significantly during the summer holidays in order to welcome the 16 classes. The ground floor was reorganised with the creation of a school canteen and a central staircase. The first floor now has a room for the parents association (APE) and the Centre Rotterdam. A second floor was added with 11 new rooms (classrooms, language and religion rooms, a room for the school psychologist, stockrooms) and toilets. Two large playground shelters were built at each entrance.

Mme Marlier thanked la Ville for the summer building works which allowed the school to start in good conditions in a light, spacious and welcoming building.

Mme DREYER noted that the building site was impressive and that she had not believed that the school would be ready in time. The final result is impressive : the school is so well built and well designed that it's possible to forget that it was made from temporary prefabs.

She also reminded everyone that the European School has three partners: the Ville de Strasbourg for the primary, the Conseil Général and the Conseil Régional for the secondary school, all of which makes the project for the future school difficult.

However, she reassures everyone as to the future European School. It is true that the siting of the school at the Robertsau has been questioned but one must remember that a three yearly plan was voted by the Ville and acted upon by the President. Currently the technical services of the 3 community bodies are working on the building project.

Mme Rafik-Elmrini also insisted that one must not listen to rumours. The European School is a determining factor for the european status of Strasbourg, the Mayor of Strasbourg holds the project dear and will not abandon it under any circumstances.

- **Requests put to Mme Dreyer :**

Mme Marlier profited from the presence of the Assistant Mayors to again bring up the point of the benches in the playground which are deemed too squared-off, even though they conform to the required norms. The school is waiting for a provisional cost for altering the benches.

M. Bittmann raised the question of safety around the school grounds.

Before the Toussaint holidays M. Bitz spoke about the plans for marking the roads and two drop-off zones. Weather conditions prevented the work from being carried out during the holidays.

He insisted on parents respecting the signage, as they alone can ensure the childrens safety. Furthermore, he specified that it would be better to park a little further away and walk a little further.

The closing of the school gate is also an important point in the childrens safety, parents must have the habit of closing the gate behind them when they come to collect their children.

The EES also has a big problem finding gym halls. Having no gym, the classes go

- to the gym at the Conseil des XV
- to the gym at the école Sturm
- to the gym at the collège Vauban.

The time slots are insufficient for the primary classes P1 P2 : each class is missing 1 hour.

The school text books for the english sections are very difficult to find and delivery times are very long. The problem is that there is only one « marché » (occasion for suppliers to bid for contracts) but one hopes that with the new « marché » in 2010 the problem will be solved.

Mme Lanza asked if it would be possible to have a sand pit in the nursery playground.

Concerning the Classroom Assistants, Mme Dreyer announced that a 3rd Classroom Assistant had been assigned to the school whilst the other two assistants followed an english course. She reassured everyone that the 3 positions would remain in place for 2010/2011.

Finally Mme Dreyer reminded everyone that the EES project was dear to her and that she would follow its development closely, but that one must not forget that there are 114 schools in Strasbourg and that EES is only one of them.

- **Utilisation of the building :**

Mme Dreyer asked the School Council its opinion on the utilisation of the building, as required by protocol. It seems that EES, with considerable space, has nothing to worry about. She reminded everyone that the use of the building outside school hours must be authorised by the Mayor.

- **Pupil numbers :**

363 pupils divided in the following manner :

- 3 language sections ;
- 94 pupils in nursery and 269 pupils in primary ;
- 4 nursery classes (2 classes for the french section, 1 class for the english section and 1 class for the german section) and 12 primary classes (6 classes for the french section, 4 classes for the english section and 2 classes for the german section) ;
- certain classes have a double level (even 3 in the german section) ;
- pupil numbers per class are between 21 and 26 pupils in nursery and between 17 and 26 pupils in primary.

- **New teachers:**

- Team of 20 teachers present in school everyday;
- 4 teachers in nursery (as in 2008/09) ;
- 11 new teachers in the primary including a position of Learning Support and 3 teaching positions responsible for the additional lessons (European Hour, Language 2, ethics).

- Additional roles:

Learning Support : Mme Blanchard

LS is an integrated part of the european school system.

The objective is to help specific children who are faced with particular difficulties.

It is based on team work which requires the input of the other teachers.

Around 50 pupils who show serious difficulties with regards to their native language and consequent problems (reading...) are involved;

This work is carried out with the strict collaboration of the school psychologist, firstly in the form of discussion with the class teachers and, secondly, the parents (a project with the school psychologist : discussion groups for parents after school hours. The first discussion group on the 9th November on the topic « Error » was a success).

Language 2 : Martine Muller

The teaching of language 2 is organised by groups of ability. Each pupil follows a course adapted to their language level. One must remember that we are not in an equal system.

Lessons are daily, half an hour per day for cycle 2 and 45 minutes for cycle 3.

The factor of time is taken into account : learning for language 2 is progressive and studying by projects gives a sense to the learning.

The different groups in language 2 for cycle 2 (P1, P2) :

German : 1 group of 10 beginners/ 1 group of 10 advanced

English : 2 groups of 17 beginners/1 group of 23 intermediates

French : 1 group of 9 beginners/ 3 groups of around 13 advanced

The different groups in language 2 for cycle 3 (P3, P4, P5):

German : 1 group of 12 beginners/ 1 group of 7 advanced

English : 1 group of 22 beginners/ 1 group of 21 intermediates and 1 group of 16 advanced

French : 1 group of 12 beginners/ 3 groups of around 15 advanced.

In cycle 3 a certain number of children have a good command of their L2. Catch-up lessons for language 2 beginners in P4/P5 have been put in place as in all european schools. This is organised over two years in groups of 10 pupils, twice a week, 45 minutes each session. The pupils must be committed because the language 2 will become a teaching language for some secondary school lessons.

These lessons are given by M. Heitz, Mme Bal, Mme Winter et Mme Nash.

European Hours : Mme Kahmann.

This is a new subject on the european school curriculum which concerns pupils from P3/P4/P5, 90 minutes per week. Children from all 3 language sections are grouped together following the ethos « being together, living together, acting together ».

The objective is to complete a shared project for all the sections over 1 trimester :

1st trimester : travelling through Europe/ 2nd trimester : traditional tales/ 3rd trimester : games.

For these 3 particularities of EES (Language 2, Learning Support and European Hour), leaflets have been created in order to provide information for families.

Religion/ethics : presented by Mme Marlier

Times : Tuesdays and Thursdays from 13h20 to 13h50 for cycle 2 pupils and from 14h to 14h45 for cycle 3 pupils. The european school curriculum includes 1 hour of religion or ethics per week for cycle 2 and 1h30 per week for cycle 3.

Protestant religion : taught by Mme Bergthold in two groups of 17 (cycle 2) and 28 pupils (cycle 3) ; the three language sections are mixed and the lessons mainly held in french (Mme Bergthold speaks the 3 languages)

Catholic religion : taught by Mme Barrett in two groups of 14 pupils (cycle 2 english section) and 17 pupils (cycle 3 english section). The lessons are given in english.

Taught by Mme Nowicki, Mme Juston and M Ebeke in groups of between 16 to 19 pupils for the french and german sections, cycle 2, and in groups of 22 to 23 pupils for the french and german sections, cycle 3. The lessons are given in french.

Jewish religion : taught by Mme Springarn.

Ethics: taught by Mme Hamen, Mme Gerstner, Mme Nash, Mme Michel, Mme Bal, Mme Kahmann in 5 groups of between 15 and 23 pupils.

School doctor :Dr Giron

The school doctors role is the same as in the other schools in Strasbourg.

Her mission is to integrate all children, even those suffering from a handicap or severe problem. The school medical is obligatory for entry into the first year of primary. The school doctor also has a preventative and public health role.

Dr Giron also wanted to remind everyone of the main rule concerning swine flu : a child suffering from swine flu must not return to school before a period of 7 days. Only a doctors certificate stating that a child is no longer contagious can allow a child to return to school before that period is up. As of 3 cases of flu (swine flu or not), the prefet decides whether the school must be closed or not. Mme Marlier insisted on the fact that the secretary must be notified of absences.

School canteen : presented by M. Fillon :

The school canteen welcomes an average of 295 pupils every day (130 on Wednesdays), which represents a percentage of around 90/95% of pupils. Around 65 pupils take a lunch box. Care is provided each day by a team of 21.

M. Fillon specified that the reception of such a large number of children is sometimes difficult to manage and he thanks the teachers for their help and assistance when the children are collected.

The lunch box system has been working well this year, mainly due to the choice of Mme Droesch (Classroom Assistant), as the person responsible, which helps the parents.

M. Fillon also wished to acknowledge the huge efforts made by la Ville in favour of bio products which have been included regularly in the school canteen meals.

After-school activities presented by M. Berger :

Numbers : 150 pupils are registered from the primary classes and 50 from the nursery classes.

Around 75 pupils are welcomed every evening.

The Centre Rotterdam proposes 40 different activities.

Mme Rouveloux raised the question of extending homework help. M. Berger believes that this is difficult to manage as all pupils do not require it. Furthermore, the carers are not trained to do homework help. The after-school system will probably continue with a concept of overseeing homework.

Mme Hazledine remarks that the children are not collected each evening by the same carer. Furthermore, it would be useful if the carers could be easily identifiable by wearing yellow vests, a measure which the parents present equally supported.

Mme Marlier remarked that the parents must not hesitate in contacting M. Berger to inform him of their observations and give him the opportunity to make necessary adjustments.

- **Minutes from the Consulting Committee du 12/11/2009**

M. Bittmann briefly presented the minutes.

He stated with pleasure that the 3 local community bodies were present.

3 important stages were defined for EES before the new school opening in 2013/2014 :

1. The approval from Brussels to be signed in the next few days
2. The new school year of 2010 :

- foreseeable classes : an extra german and english class in the primary section, a second year german class in the secondary school as well as the two fourth year classes in the secondary school

- the installation of prefabs for the secondary school at collège Vauban

- a new audit at EES between January and May 2011 for the renewal of the european school status

3. The new school year 2011 : - moving the secondary school to Lycée Kléber ?

- an audit to approve EES up to baccalauréat level.

- **Nursery and primary projects**

The school project emphasises the importance of the working groups :

- school identity
- transition from one cycle to another (nursery to P1, P2 to P3, P5 to S1)
- solidarity
- self-evaluation

Class Projects :

- ACMISA project by Hervé Heitz and Cécile Hamen : artists come to the school to create an illustrated book of poetry with M. Charles Altorffer.
Theme : « around Europe » ;
- ACMISA project by Martine Lanza and Rachel Wagner : modern dance project, the aim being that the two classes work together, with Mme Emile Camborde, interpreter and choreographer. Theme: « water » ;
- « School and cinema » project : a national action whereby quality films are made available. The pupils will see 4 films at the Star cinema. All the french classes are involved ;
- « TriCTop project » : an action organised by the CUS in order to prepare children for becoming future ecological citizens, notably with workshops on recycling and composting. All classes are involved in the project which will begin in January 2010 ;
- Discovery of the World trip to the Toy Museum at Colmar for all cycle 2 classes ;
- Council of Europe trip on childrens rights by Ross Muirs class ;
- Trip to the Strasbourg Archives by Diane Harrimans class ;
- Swimming trips for the following classes : Mmes Hamen, Wagner, Gerstner, Siat and M. Heitz ;

Important moments from the beginning of the school year 2009/2010 : Day of languages (25/09/09) and european week (19-23/10/09) : the idea is to mix the children from different sections around the theme of the discovery of europe, through shared projects. The conclusion is very satisfactory as it is an opportunity for teachers to work together and for the children to create some beautiful pieces of work ;

Organising the library :

Parents are invited to help in the registration and preparation of library books. At the moment book lending is not possible as there are insufficient books. Parents can contact Mme Bal, responsible for the library ;

Parents association project (APE) by Mme Kristensen

« FRUIT DAY » project: putting in place a fruit snack time on Friday mornings. Parents will be informed of the project by posters and can provide their child with a ready-to-eat fruit snack. The school is in favour of this project by the Parents association (APE).

- **Approval of the School Rules**

The rules are based on departmental regulations. The school rules were approved unanimously by the parents present. They will be completed by a further section « Behaviour code » which will be the result of a working group of parents and teachers, to be presented at the School Council in the 2nd or 3rd trimester.

- **Budgets**

Mme Marlier thanked la Ville de Strasbourg for the following allocated credit. She presented the global budget allocated by la Ville for the 16 classes :

Credit for the nursery (4 classes) :

305,00€ for investment

2593,85€ for operating

Credit for the primary (16 classes) :

4248,80€ for investment

17396,60€ for operating

A large part of the budgets will be used in the creation of the new classes.

Also, buying school books, materials for religion, materials for school support lessons, materials for the school psychologist and for the gym. Buying a second digital camera, a paper-cutter, a laminator, CD players, sports and art equipment.

It's important to remember that money spent on the photocopiers is part of the operating budget and, as the school is new, text books represent a large sum of money. La Ville plans to equip schools with better performing photocopiers.

The school cooperative : representative Jean-Roch Caboche. The amounts proposed to families : 40€ for 1 child at school, 60€ for 2 children and 80€ for 3 children (decision from the School Council of June 2009). Profits from the school fête, June 2009 : 1100€ which will be used to buy books for the library. To buy this year : library books, material for school events, DVDs... The cooperative accounts have been checked by 2 parents from the Parents Association and have been approved. They are public and can be consulted.

Grants : M. Bittmann thanks the 2 institutions who gave grants to EES :

The Parliament : 5000€ for : musical instruments, sports equipment (circus project), library books ; The Council of Europe : gift of books in all languages collected by the Amicale of the Council of Europe for the library.

Various : Mme Marlier is open to all propositions from parent groups if the topic belongs in the pedagogical project of the school.

Certain parents raised the question of the number of computers in the school. Mme Marlier explained that the 114 schools in Strasbourg are all equipped with the same number of computers. But as the needs are increasing, a study by la Ville is in progress.

Mme Marlier thanked all present and closed the meeting at 20h35.

Secretary,
Céline Oesterlé

Headteacher,
Julia Marlier