



**MINUTES : ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING  
STRASBOURG EUROPEAN SCHOOL  
Friday 5th March 2010 at 6 :00p.m.**

**école européenne  
de strasbourg**

M. Bittmann, Director of Studies of EES, begins the meeting at 6 :15p.m.

**Present :**

- EES Management Team : M. Bittmann, Director of Studies, Mme Marlier, Nursery and Primary Headteacher
- IA-IPR (Academy Inspector – Regional Education Inspector) : Mr Mertz
- Representatives of the Local Community : M. Le Tallec (General Councillor - Conseil Général du Bas-Rhin) and M. Cochez (Regional Council Secondary Schools at the Conseil Régional d'Alsace)
- Representative of the European Ombudsman : Alessandro Del Bon
- Parent Representatives (APE-EES) : Mme Kristensen, Mr Berg, Mr Vraux, Mr Lodder and Mme Murphy
- Teacher Representatives : Mme Squiban (French nursery section), Mme Gerstner (German primary section), Mme Winter (English primary section), Mr Heckmann (French primary section), Mr Labergue (French secondary section), Mme Phillips (English secondary section).
- Pupil Representatives : Mlle Alexandrovski (S3 FR), Mr Bouyé (S1 EN).
- EES Secretary : Mme Soulage

**Apologies :** Mr Ladaïque (National Education Assistant Inspector), Mme Rafik-Elmrini, (Assistant Mayor, Strasbourg), Mr Zeter (General Council Vice President), Mme Schaal (Representative of the European Parliament), Mr Amir-Tahmasseb (European Ombudsman), Mme Julien, parent (APE-EES) and Mme Muller (Pedagogical Counsellor for Languages).

**1) Proposition to change the order of the agenda :**

At the request of the local community representatives, M. Bittmann proposes bringing forward the points directly concerning them ; approved unanimously. The rest of the agenda remains unchanged.

**2) Nomination of the Minute-Taker :**

In order to ensure a rotation it is proposed that a parent undertakes this task. M. Bittmann asks Mme Murphy, who accepts.

**3) Approval of the Advisory Committee minutes from November 12th 2009 :**

The minutes from the Advisory Committee which took place on 12/11/2009 are approved unanimously.

#### **4) Points on the future of EES :**

Mr Cochez (Regional Council Secondary Schools at the Conseil Régional d'Alsace) intervenes : the « route de la Wantzenau » is the site which the three local community bodies are working on. A project management team has been chosen : Polyprogramme. However, the proposition for the Kleber site has not been abandoned. Mr Vraux (President, APE-EES) intervenes to state that the APE has requested on several occasions to be involved in these discussions. He reminds everyone that the role of the APE within the European school framework is very different from that of other schools in France : it is party to the different aspects of school operations (after-school care, canteen, after-school activities, etc...) which means it must be consulted as early as possible, from conception onwards.

As of September 2010, the number of pupils will increase again by +70/90 pupils with the creation of three new classes and the filling of existing classes. The number of pupils and the organisation of the nursery and primary school will remain identical until the school moves to the permanent school site.

In the secondary, there is no move planned for 2010 : mobile units will be installed in the two Collège Vauban courtyards for September 2010. This will enable the creation of new classrooms : 6 small, 6 medium and 6 large. Work is in progress on the installation and equipment. Work will start in May and the premises will be available in September.

September 2011 poses a problem for the secondary and solutions are still being studied :

- move everyone
- move years 4 and 5 then 6 and 7 into mobile units at Kléber
- Mr Le Tallec mentions the work being done by a representative of the General Council who is studying all possible options, including the possibility of keeping all students on current site until 2011 until the year S5 is created, with the creation of 3 extra classrooms in the attics of buildings P & L, 3 classrooms in the basement of building P, science labs in Vauban or extra mobile units. This would allow the school to delay moving all or part of the secondary until 2012.

With this information, and following their visit, the two French inspectors from the European School's Council were asked to give their opinion : the renewal of the approval for EES would be difficult if the school is spread over three sites. There is a concern therefore over the short term future of the school.

Current regional elections (1st round 14/03 and 2<sup>nd</sup> round 21/03) postpone the taking of decisions. Questions to be answered are : the three sites, the delayed independence of the secondary (forced to operate in a French system of 55min periods instead of the 45min periods of the EE system), timetable changes. One solution for the approval renewal would be that the whole of the secondary moves in September 2011.

Mr Labergue (teacher) intervenes by insisting on the importance of making it a habit to adopt the specific requirements of the European system because it is different. Mr Berg (APE-EES) also insists on the necessity of differentiating between European school teaching and that of the other schools in Strasbourg.

The consequences of a failure in the approval renewal is brought up : the education would be worthless and it would be impossible to gain the European Baccalauréat (!).

As an example, Mr Bittmann specifies that the conditions for gaining type 2 approval are strict: after its audit Parma only obtained new approval for one year (instead of two) because the inspectors found significant points in need of improvement.

Mr Bittmann illustrated the complexity of the approval process or renewal with the help of a document in the committees file called «Calendar of approval and renewal actions ». This calendar has been given by the European Schools Council.

The actual approval concerns all classes up to year 5 of secondary.

For the opening of years 6 and 7 (the two years leading up to the baccalauréat), a general interest file (first step = declaration of intention) must be lodged in October 2010 in order to obtain authorisation by the European Schools Council in December 2010. If this authorisation is gained, a file of conformity for the opening of years 6 and 7 must be drawn up (2<sup>nd</sup> step) and given to the European Schools Council in February 2011 in order to be validated in April 2011. An audit would then take place in October 2011 (3<sup>rd</sup> and final step) in order to check that all commitments made in December 2011 are in place; the opening of

years 6 and 7 is authorised at the latest in September 2012, with the first European Baccalauréat in June 2014.

At the same time, the current approval renewal (nursery to year 5) follows its own calendar with an audit of EES in December of this year to be submitted for authorisation in April 2011, an operation which will be renewed every two years, thus there will be another audit in December 2012 to be submitted for authorisation in April 2013.

Mr Bittmann describes the make-up of an audit team : 4 inspectors are nominated by the President (rotational) of the European Schools Council : of which, one inspector is from the country of the previous president, one from the country of the current president (Slovenia) and one inspector from the country of the next president. It is therefore necessary to work a lot on these issues before the summer.

Mme Murphy (APE-EES) intervenes to remind everyone that it is necessary to include the parents through the APE-EES in order to prepare the next audit together.

The transitional phase in the years to come appears to be crucial for EES.

Mr Mertz adds that the stakes for Strasbourg and the region are important and that the comments of the inspectors must not be taken lightly. Even if the local press reports remarks such as « it's an elitist school, look at the premises, the facilities, etc... », it is necessary to keep in mind the long term construction of a new type of education, of teaching, shared by European schools.

## **5) Preparation for September 2010 :**

A calendar for the admissions process for the school year 2010-2011 is attached to the file given to the committee.

With regards to the number of pupils and the organisation of classes : for September 2010, only two new classes will be created : one English primary class: there will no longer be double level classes P3-P4 and P4-P5 – each level will be separate (P1 to P5) : and a German primary class.

The rules (European School rules and rules from « la Ville »...) are repeated : a maximum of 25 pupils in primary and secondary classes (28 as of 2011) and a maximum of 24 pupils per class in the nursery (otherwise an extra classroom assistant is required as of the 25th child). Furthermore, the school commits to accepting all category A pupils during the school year, hence the necessity to reserve 3 places per class. Finally, it is very difficult to evaluate the number of families leaving or arriving.

A table of estimates for the numbers of children planned for September 2010 is presented : there will be between 420 – 430 nursery and primary pupils and around 200 secondary pupils with a total number of pupils of almost 630 pupils. It must be noted that some primary classes will be divided in two due to having too many children since the creation of the school. For information, the German nursery section has already received 19 applications for the first year of nursery and the total for the whole school is 300 !

The admissions commission will be held on April 22nd. The results will be posted outside the school the same evening or at the latest the following morning and everyone will receive an individual reply (but not immediately). Transfers from one language section to another are minimal and will be studied case by case.

Children from the same family will be taken in priority within their respective category.

The local community representatives leave the meeting and the committee members thank them again for their presence and involvement. The absence of representatives from « la Ville de Strasbourg » is regretted again.

## 6) **EES Pedagogical Project :**

### a) Comenius Project : 19th February 2010

The objective is to be in touch with other type 2 european schools in a communal project in order to be recognised by Brussels and also to receive information more easily. Currently, the type 2 schools do not appear on the european schools website and don't directly receive any information like the type 1 schools (*this has changed since the advisory committee meeting as the type 2 schools now appear on the european schools website*).

Initial contacts have been made (the websites of the other type 2 schools are accessible through our website) : Dunshaughlin (IRL), Parme (ITA), Manosque (FR), Helsinki, and maybe Culham (GB), who will become a type 2 school in September 2010 (lack of availability), and only Héraklion (GRE) is missing. The first year is a year of coordination in order to allow the teams to work together. The projects budget is 25.000€ over 2 years which will be used to finance trips for pupils and adults. The theme is « Understand the present in order to prepare the future of our planet ».

b) Special day in the 3rd trimester : Wednesday 12th May is International Day. This will allow the school to promote the diversity of the cultures and origins represented at EES (removing the necessity of celebrating all national days). A questionnaire will be given to the parents asking them for their input : stories, cooking, dancing, music, etc.... The APE will be involved in the organising of the morning. Mme Kristensen suggests the creation of a passport to be stamped at each workshop visited.

c) The school fair committee met on March 4th. It is made up of 7 teachers and 4 parents and the date has been fixed as Friday 18th June. The show, organised by the teachers, will be held between 2 :30p.m. and 3 :30p.m. followed by games (CSSR Rotterdam) and traditional stands - drinks, ice creams, cakes, tarte flambée, etc...

## 7) **Minutes from the Working Groups :**

(the first two are in collaboration with the APE)

- o Solidarity : solidarity day on December 12th collected 800€ of which 600€ for sponsoring street children in Uganda. Some children went to visit the european centre for childrens rights, cook books and a childs ABC book were made about childrens rights. The possibility of changing direction was mentioned, nearer to school, for the elderly. Our pupils could meet elderly people in order to share liveliness and spiritedness on an ongoing basis (not just for Christmas). Even more relevant, some families don't have the possibility of having several generations around them (expatriates, etc...). The Head has made contact with a nearby retirement home.
- o Self-evaluation :
  - Evaluating academic results in relation to other european schools, holding shared exercises in order to compare. Currently we are alone and without reference points. The objective is to include all subjects but initially individual activities between partner teachers could be put in place.
  - Culture and philosophy of the school : discussions and debates on various themes : richness of identity, diversity, community, international and european dimensions, progress (earlier communication between APE and teachers about projects : e.g. Newsletter)

- Transition : activities to be put in place in order to create links between primary and secondary and academically to work together : visits to collège Vauban S1 and P5, shared orientation activity...
- Identity : how to define identity? The definition of and activities to be held in order to achieve an identity.

## **8) Any other business :**

*Comments from the APE-EES :*

- A positive analysis of the carnival was presented, with several points to improve , notably the security around the piñatas.
- Gala : a solidarity evening is organised for March 27th from 9 :00p.m. to 1 :00a.m. at the « Centre Européen de la Jeunesse ».
- After-school care: recurring problem due to the high cost of the after-school care at EES in relation to other schools, a request for subsidies is in progress, authorisation of approval from « Jeunesse & Sports » through Rotterdam for overall operations of after-school care and premises, meeting with Mr Bitz, local town representative.
- Green Group : positive analysis of fruit day (fruit kebab project in preparation) and the drop-off test behind the school this morning.

The meeting is closed around 8 :45p.m.

Meeting secretary  
Mme Murphy, Treasurer APE-EES

Meeting president  
Mr Bittmann, Director of Studies