



Parents' General Assembly

Monday 20th November, 2006 – 20h00

Scuola per l'Europa - Strada Aurelio Saffi

Minutes

Number of attendees: 75 from which 13 (over 19) from the PA board

The meeting starts at 20.09. Odile said it will be held mainly in Italian but a translation in English or French can be done upon request.

Presentation of the management board AGSEP members present: Odile Beniflah, Chiara Coscelli, Paola Notari, Giovanna Incerti, Marielle Sauvage, Caroline Cuvillier, Paola Scaltriti, John DeFayette, Maria Carla Magni, Emanuela Mossini, Mavi Lopez Robles, Reinhilde Schoonjans, Radika Potier - Excused: Marie-Ange Rigaux, Gian Carlo Zannacca, Barbara Miele. Absentees: Robert Holleyman, Elzbieta Ceglarksa, Costanza Zampicini

1. Presentation of the annual report 2005-2006 (Chiara)

- **Explanation of what we did last year:** the creation of the association and the procedures to make it operational, the making of the status, the lobbying work with other PA (i.e. Parents Association), with local authorities and with Brussels, the creation of services like the garderie, and more. Everyone can refer to the document.
- **Explanation of the AGSEP organization:** executive bureau composed of 7 members, management board composed last year of 21 members and this year of 19 members, 13 section representatives...
- **Explanation of the school accreditation as an Associated European school :**

On the pedagogical side: the curriculum followed in our school is the same curriculum as in the European schools, it is recognized in other European countries.

We are now in the process of recognizing the 2 last year of the secondary level and obtaining the baccalaureat.

On the administrative side: It is more difficult to explain, because it is still being defined. The school is still financed by the Italian government and other sponsorships and not by the EU. It is still an Italian school with "a something more".

A convention will be signed between the Italian government and the board of governors by the end of the year to fix all administrative matters. Italian government is supporting 100% the project. The school will become effectively an Associated European School on the 1st September 2007.

Impact for our PA: Caroline explains what the role and power of a PA in an European School are.

From now on our PA should officially have visibility in the EU system and have a representative with voting rights through Interparents (the umbrella association of all European schools PA) to seat in official meetings, like the European schools Board of Governors (held aprox every 3 months in Bruxelles).

2. Presentation of the projects for 2006-2007 (Odile)

- **Presentation of what the PA would like to achieve this year and in the future.**

Odile presents the “get involved” page, which is containing ideas of services and events that can be organized by the PA. Other ideas are more than welcome.

- **Call for volunteers :**

Library: It will open soon. Marie-Ange Rigaux is our contact person.

Ski trip: Emanuela Mossini is in charge of the trip but will need help to organize it.

Activities during holidays: Barbara Miele has organized the All Saint’s week and is ready to help for the future holidays in February but would like someone else to organize it. We call for volunteers.

- **Presentation of the services of the PA:**

Garderie service: Reinhilde is our contact.

Transport: Emanuela and John explain what has been done so far: the shuttle bus from the Centro Barilla is free for the moment for all (even the maternal).

Dance activity after 4.30 PM: Maria Carla Magni explains what has started : gioco danza on Tuesday, mix hip hop-jazz-funky on Thursday.

Music: Maravillas Lopez explains that a group needs 4 kids to start. Pio Amore at school can help with contact info at OperArt.

Extra-curricular activities: Caroline is the contact but is only a liaison with the school as all afternoon activities until 16h30 are being organized by the school.

Language exchange: Rosaria Crisafi

Newsletter: Virna is taking over from Odile this year.

Social events: Paola and Giovanna present the social event activities.

The team is preparing the Christmas market to help the school. Parents are meeting and making objects to sell. The team still needs volunteers before and during the Christmas market. Watch for our calls for help.

The Carnival party will be the next event after Christmas.

A spring pic-nic is also planned in May.

Musicals in Milan on Dec 16, 26, 28: All info is on the AGSEP bulletin board and the contact is Maria Carla Magni.

Odile mention that compared to last year, we obtained from the school the right to use the school premises after school, during holidays and weekends. And we are

insured for this. This means that any parent with an idea should come forward and we try to implement it together.

3. Communication channels (Marielle)

- **explanation about how we communicate within the PA and with the parents of the school: our web site www.agsep.eu is our primary channel of communication but we also send emails to all class representatives who should be forwarding them to all parents of their class. We also hold a monthly “InfoCaffè” every last Wednesday of the month and post information on our bulletin board.**

4. Ratification of the annual report (Paola and Chiara)

Paola Scaltriti asks to ratify the annual report.

The parents vote at the majority by raising their hands to approve the report. All hands are raised: Annual Report 2005-06 is officially ratified.

5. Q&A Session

To the PA

- How to find other solution if happy bus is not convenient?
Happy bus is not the solution for everybody. Permits will be issued. We have the right to have it. (for maternal and primary).
The form to fill in to obtain the permit can be found at the secretary of the school.
- What is the PA representation on pedagogical matters?
PA has representatives at the school Management Board (the president of the PA) and at the Educative school council (the section representatives)
- Apart from the organizational point of view, should not the PA have a pedagogical role at school?
Reports with the city, visibility, educative input, financial report...we are only talking about organization.
Odile takes the critic and goes through some of the pedagogical issues that the PA managed up to now: meetings about English sec, secondary sec. A lot is going on internally to section and/or cycles. She also reminds that 9 language section representatives were present at the last school Educative council in June. Ms Zanatta, already arrived, points out that the next one will be held around the 11th December.
- Are we an experimental school, what does experimental project means?
No, we are the first one to be called Associated European School. But European schools are a reality and the pedagogical system is well defined. As we are Associated from the 1st September 2007 we will

HAVE to stick to all rules that apply to the other European Schools. The only aspects which could remain distinct are the financial ones

- What is the PA role in the future negotiations and phases of the project? Risks of the change? Are we going to become a private school, expensive? Who will finance the future of the school?

There should be soon a specific meeting held essentially by the Italian Authorities to answer these questions. It was reminded that the idea for having "Associated schools" came because the EU no intention and cannot afford to open any new EU school although they decentralize agencies all over Europe in remote locations where no international schooling is available. Therefore this school will never be totally financed by the EU.

To the school Direction (The school direction was invited to join the meeting from 9.00 pm, Mrs Zanatta, Mr Olivati and Mr Valdessalici were present)

- What about the uniform?

The idea is coming from the 1st of secondary Italian.

They ask why they didn't have one.

School told them to make a project and collect input from the kids. Then the idea will be discussed. No decision has been taken.

- Inscription in primary from maternal kids?

Inscriptions modalities have been elaborated.

Rules are the ones of the EU schools since accreditation and cannot be changed or adapted.

Inscriptions for 2007-08: in primary:

-kids must be 6 year by 31 December 2007.

-For children born between 31 dec till 31st Jan it is the parent's decision.

-For children born after (specially talented children)it has to be discussed and decided by the previous year pupil's teachers of the School.

- What has been done for the issue of the kids who are speaking Italian with 2 Italian parents and who have been inserted in maternal eng?

Some parents are concerned about the kids speaking Italian.

Mrs Zanatta explains that the children who were an issue regarding their level of English in the English Maternal last year are carefully followed by their teachers who ensured that progress was good enough and that they could carry on being in the Maternal EN

Mrs Zanatta explained that because of the accreditation, from now on the school will have to stick precisely to the European School rules:

-The criteria to enter the English section are same as in the European Schools: If the dominant language is not obvious the pupil has to go through trough a test

-If a kid does not have mother tongue/dominant language section, he will be inserted in one of the vehicular language section (in European Schools. those are the FR, the EN and the German sections, at the School we only have, so far, FR and EN) In case it is difficult to

determine which one is dominant between FR and EN the pupil will go through a test

- Who is in charge of the extra curricular activities?

The school is entirely responsible for all the activities until 4.30PM.

- Safety: Quid medical certificate for the swimming?

The "libretto sportivo" can be requested to any pediatrician.

School has been working on the safety issues. Still the two main doors are making problem. Contacts with commune and province.

Both of them must be involved. Complex situation.

Owner of the building is the commune.

We are in await for the certificate from the firemen.

Parents are anxious for the safety of the kids. In case of fire, there is a procedure in place.

Responsible from the school for health/safety issues : signora Marisa Carboni. She has been trained for first aid.

- How many kids do we have today at school and up to how many can we have in this infrastructure, keeping safety rules?

Max of kids 450 for this school. We have 318 kids today.

No info for the new school premises. For the moment the Italian government has not allocated funds for it in its Finanziaria. There is also the possibility to receive new premises next to our school.

Big Financial issue.

An eventuality is to receive new premises next to our school.

Financial issue.

- Who is assuming responsibility of opening the school every morning without the necessary safety measures ?

Minimum safety requirements are respected. Mr Olivati ensured that there was an appropriate evacuation plan.

He reminded that by law, an exercise or two need to be carried out every year, it happened last year, and will happen this year.

- Now that we are associated, will the school be financially able to retain the good teachers, and attract new teachers locally and from abroad?

Hybrid school, teachers are paid by Italian state. In July, there will be a new organization Derogation for the languages. Parents insisted that they are en general very happy with the existing teachers and that they want to be sure that everything is done to keep them. They questioned how we could guarantee the quality of the teachers if the salaries are too low. It was answered by the direction that the salary is not the only thing that should motivate a teacher. Today, we cannot think about paying more the teachers. We could hope for it in the future but we do not know

- Request for more communication by all means from the school!

Odile closes the meeting 10.35 pm