

## **Compte rendu de la réunion des délégués de classe du secondaire**

### **Meeting for Secondary Class Delegates Minutes**

**25 février 2015 / 25 February 2015**

This meeting is the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting for Secondary class delegates organised by APEEEL2 this year. The first meeting was a joint Secondary together with Primary and Maternelle class delegates meeting held on November 26. The meeting starting at 19:30 with a presentation of the upcoming Whole School Inspection by Mr Wedel (Deputy Director Secondary). Discussion on this topic was followed by a more “traditional” Q & A session during which questions put by class delegates on behalf of other parents were fielded by Mr de Tournemire (Director) and Mr Wedel.

#### **1. Présentation / Inspection d'établissement – Whole School Inspection**

All European Schools are inspected with a view to an evaluation of how they are delivering at the pedagogical level an exercise referred to as *Whole School Inspection* (WSI). The first time that the European School Luxembourg II will be inspected will be this year, and the inspection will take place between 23-27 March: a team of 6 Inspectors will visit our School to carry out this exercise over a period of a whole week. The inspection team have a procedure to follow which guides the inspection of different aspects. The process includes a School self-evaluation, an audit of documents and interviews & meetings etc. with staff and other stakeholders. The final report makes recommendations to the School. A follow-up desk-analysis exercise is carried out after 2 years to assess whether recommendations have been followed up.

A lot of work is carried out prior to the Inspection by School members. This starts with the self-evaluation and compilation of the required documentation. 8 criteria / indicators are used as the basis for the evaluation. These criteria are: Management & organisation, School ethos and climate, Curriculum and planning, Teaching and learning, Assessment and achievements, Support, Quality assurance and Development. During the WSI, several meetings will take place with different members of the School community: the School Management, Subject and Support coordinators, Staff representatives, Pupils representatives, Parents' representatives etc. A timetable is being prepared which will include between 30-40 visits to classes across all the sections and the cycles of the school (duration: 20-25 minutes). Inspectors will look at various indicators: Harmonisation of teaching across sections, General planning, Pedagogical projects, Evaluation policy, SWALS integration, School climate and ethos etc.

Pupils will be informed about this inspection, in the coming days.

## **2. Q & A session**

Mr de Tournemire spoke briefly about two, in a way conflicting elements, which are particularly challenging within the European School system: harmonisation and differentiation.

- **Harmonisation:** School-wide, a great deal of work is being done to provide Schools and teachers with the tools with harmonising across language sections and subjects. Tests are not harmonised across the board but only for some years and some subjects. However, the School continues to make efforts to support teachers in their efforts to harmonise. For example, Pedagogical Day is often used for this purpose. There is a relatively high degree of harmonisation across the different language syllabi for Maths, the Sciences, History, Geography: harmonisation across Languages syllabi is difficult although at School-wide level, a framework for L3 and L2 syllabi has recently been approved and will slowly be implemented for the different languages. S5 final compo, Bac and Pre-Bac exams are harmonized.
- **Differentiation:** Teachers are required to do all they can to use different approaches and possibly also adapt content in order to cater for the different needs of the pupils they teach. This is clearly no easy task, especially in larger classes.

Q: How does the School evaluate teachers?

A: All seconded teachers are inspected by the School Management as well as by Inspectors from the home country of the teacher involved. Such inspections take place in the teachers 2<sup>nd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> years of teaching the European School. In the case of locally recruited teacher, although evaluation is carried out by the School Management, there is no support on the part of the Inspectors.

Nota bene: At Lux2 Secondary, there are currently around 100 teachers teaching different subjects in 19 languages. This clearly makes the task of evaluating teachers that much more complex.

Q: If there is an issue with a teacher, is there a process that can be followed?

A: The first step should always be for a parent or parents to contact the teacher concerned directly. Arranging an appointment for a meeting may be preferable to an email exchange detailing the issue, at least as a first step. If this contact does not lead to a satisfactory resolution, the School Management can be contacted.

Q: What is or can be done about security on the train platform which continues to be a dangerous area especially with fast trains driving through whilst pupils are waiting for their train?

A: It is a very important issue; but there is very little that the School Management other than what it has done already and continues to do. The School has had countless discussions with CFL, e.g. it has asked that there be some sort of "checking" carried out on Mondays / Fridays after School. CFL has refused to do this, saying that the Mamer station services two Schools and that the problem is no greater for our School as compared to the Lycee Josy Barthel. CFL maintains that pupils are under their parents' responsibility and continue to advise that pupils under the age of 12 should not take the train unaccompanied.

Where the School (and parents) can (continue to) work is on the level of raising pupils' awareness to the dangers. Every year, CFL staff gives an information session to our S1 and S2 pupils to raise their awareness of the risks.

Suggestion to parents: The School Management encourages parents to provide concrete evidence citing precise information of any incidents that come to their attention. Video surveillancing is in place at the Station following requests from the School. Video data can be checked more easily if information includes a specific day and time for incidents that are reported.

Call for support: If anyone is willing to drive a campaign of letter-writing which may also involve articles in the media, both APEEEL2 & the School Management are ready to support an initiative on these lines.

Q: Is there a common policy on holiday homework?

A: There is no School policy on holiday homework as of today. But it is on the To-Do list of the School.

Q: Does a policy concerning tests exist?

A: A School policy does exist. A schedule is available (and published on the website) for “long tests”. “Mini tests” can be proposed at any moment by teachers.

Q: Can pupils who have missed a test (e.g. due to illness) be informed asap of when they will be expected to take the test?

A: Teachers will be reminded to provide a clear indication to pupils on this matter. Parents are reminded that they should not hesitate to contact teachers if they would like clarification.

Q: What is the policy for allowing S6/S7 pupils to be absent from School in order to visit Universities, Salons etc.?

A: Evidence should be provided (e.g. letter of invitation to an Open Day) together with a completed request for permission to be absent form one week in advance.

Q: Is there a School policy on Educational Support?

A: A School policy exists on the Website and there is a Support Coordinator for Secondary, Ms Charlotte Henriksen.

Request from the School: There have been repeated acts of vandalism in the Secondary girls’ toilets. Mr Wedel asks the parents to address the issue at home and support the School so that this will not happen again. The School will meet pupils to discuss this issue with them. As a temporary measure, and in order to also give the message to pupils that such acts are unacceptable, some of the toilets are temporarily closed.

Addendum:

The S1, S2 and S3 intermediate reports will be sent on 5 March, those of S4, S5 and S6 on 23 April 2015.

### **3. Next Steps**

A third meeting for Class Delegates will be scheduled to take place before the end of the year.