

INTERPARENTS Meeting
European School, Luxembourg I, Kirchberg, 11-12 April 2013
60th Anniversary Celebrations

INTERPARENTS met at Luxembourg I European School on Thursday afternoon, 11 April and Friday morning 12 April 2013. The Associated schools joined them Friday afternoon and for the official 60th Anniversary celebrations at 5pm. Twelve of the fourteen member Parents Associations were represented (apologies by Alicante, BXL III and IV). Chair: Ana Gorey, President of Interparents.

Ana Gorey reported on the Budgetary Committee and secondary school studies WG. Main concerns were about efforts to change the mission statement, regrouping v reduction, lack of clarity as to the meaning of 'increasing the average size of groups' and 'continuation of sections in secondary' but most of all, that budgetary reasons alone are behind the need for pedagogical changes. However, Interparents needed to think about money saving options for years 4+5 and 6+7 before next meeting mid-May.

Interparents prepared the Board of Governors meeting. They were unhappy that the cost sharing working group had not met in over a year, that there was no working group discussing the overall financing of European schools and that there is no discussion about the budget just acceptance of cuts. Also, that documents are late, unclear and often did not properly reflect working groups, JTC or even Budgetary Committee. The IAS Strategic Audit Plan showed governance at red alert and this was very worrying. Other issues: school failures and repeat rates, policy on creation of groups, courses and classes, SEN statistics, PAS posts, fees and new Type II contracts, organisation of secondary school studies and options.

Thursday afternoon, Johannes Theiner, President of the European Parents Association, of which Interparents is a member, gave a presentation about their members, work and next meeting in Dublin. More exchanges could be interesting as he felt the European school model was an interesting one.

Friday afternoon, the Accredited schools joined Interparents - Bad Vilbel, Helsinki, Manosque, Parma, Strasbourg - and informed them about their respective schools and their network. There was an interesting question and answers session. They discussed the accredited schools document (disappearance of Type II and III model, seat on JTC, new schools) and where common interests lay.

The 60th Anniversary ceremony included performances, a video and speeches (Luxembourgish Minister of Education, Commissioner Sefcovic, Kari Kivinen, Ana Gorey and Thomas Fairhurst) followed by a reception and dinner/dance.

Next meeting is on Monday afternoon 7 and Tuesday 8 October 2012, Brussels II in order to prepare the Joint Teaching Committee 10+11 October.

Rapporteur: Ana Gorey.

¹. This Web report is issued for general information under the responsibility of the Chair. It is not the Minutes of the meeting which will follow in due course after being approved by the participants.