

Class Delegates' Meeting: Primary and Nursery

Monday 19 January

18.30 – 20.00

These notes were taken during the meeting, please do not read them as an official document (APEEEL2, Danielle Ribs-Fleischmann).

Representatives from School present:

Mr E. de Tournemire, Mr Longo, Mr Szucs (Coordination Primary), Mme Schmitt (Coordination Nursery), Mrs Barlow (Representing Teachers and Project Well-being of Students P4+P5 Anti-Bullying)

Topic ZINAL with many Q&As:

Q from P4 French: Can a survey be carried out amongst parents to find out their views? 10 days too much? cost too high?

Q by German section: they were against trip, although children are happy after it. Financial problems with Swiss francs will be a problem. Concerns about bus drivers (local good, Lux not such a good idea)

Q from M2 and P1 parent: why 10 days, what is the goal?

Parents are torn between cost and enjoyment of the trip.

A (Mr Longo):

- tradition of school like all other European Schools, 90% go on a ski trip, normally a long one, with the majority going to France;
- pedagogical project of school which aims to combine fun, sport and Discovery of the World – part of the school curriculum (in an environment different to their usual one);
- children also get the opportunity to live away from home, so getting to know their friends in a different way;
- problem of the Swiss Franc has been taken on board, is very recent;
- School is working on changing to a new location (France – it could also continue to be Zinal);
- train journey is long (1 day to get there, 1 day to come back) and CFL's proposals were high and some hard negotiation was done;
- before the trip, several meetings were held with P5 parents to prepare the trip.

Q: One advantage of Zinal is that it is a self-contained village and the ski station is reserved to the European School, so it is very safe for children.

A: In France, many ski areas are overcrowded, there are stations you can reach with TGV, which could be cheaper.

A (Mr de Tournemire): The idea of the ski trip can also be reviewed as ski is more popular nowadays (and not so special to the children anymore). Do we want 8 days for that trip? It is also very hard work for teachers. One clear strength of the trip is that it is a good way to prepare for the transition to Secondary.

Information from APEEEL2, D. Ballaguy:

Report of APEEEL2 was very positive (safety, station, moniteurs, skiing, accommodation, food) and the quality of service explains the price.

Q: Can't the price be discussed again? The trip seems very expensive, there does not seem to be discount. We have the critical size to be in a position to negotiate (400 people total).

A (Mr de Tournemire): the discussions and negotiations (with CFL) and the Zinal station were difficult.

Q: Is it possible to not have P4 and P5 in the same calendar year? (June/December)

Q: French Maternelle trip 3 days M1/M2? Why so long?

A: Yes, last year such a trip took place. The children enjoyed it. A number of Maternelle teachers organized a similar trip this year this year (1,5 hour trip to Namur). The nature of the trip is such that it is better if it can be organized for the children to have a whole day away together (waking up there and sleeping there). Parents can discuss this with the individual teachers.

Q: Hungarian Maternelle: why is the idea of the Maternelle trips extended to other sections?

A: because it is the individual Teacher's initiative, and therefore there is flexibility (different sections have their traditions and different views on activities of this sort which are not an obligatory part of the school curriculum)

TRAFFIC AROUND SCHOOL:

Q: Hungarian Maternelle: morning traffic. Buses leave at the same time as parents. Could they remain on site for an additional 10 minutes to ease the tracks flow, allowing private cars to leave the site first?

A Mr de Tournemire: at the end of the schoolday on Mondays and Wednesdays, there is a conflict car/buses:

- First solution tried: buses first. There was an incident involving an angry car driver accidentally hitting a Security Agent!
- Second solution has been tried: now buses wait 10 minutes and then leave.

Doing this in the morning has not yet been considered, but YES, it can be.

The police has been contacted: children and also parents need to be "educated" on the subject of Sécurité Routière.

Q: Can the School organize a Park&Ride to Kirchberg for parents who drop off their children in Mamer?

A: No, but there will be a tram from the Station to Kirchberg and it is easy to reach the Station from School by train.

Q: Can something be done to ease the traffic at the lights at the Rue d'Arlon/Rue de Mamer crossroad ?

A: There MDDI has plans to carry out work which should improve the situation a new traffic situation in the area of the Belle Etoile.

Q: Dans le bus de Bertrange, les parents et les élèves de Secondaire ne sont pas admis.

A: l'école travaille à ouvrir le service pour Secondaire et parents. La Commune ne veut pas pour l'instant. Mais l'Ecole continue à demander. Monsieur Wunderlich aussi y travaille avec ardeur.

Q: Education of parents on Security possible?

A: Prevention Routière Capellen has been contacted. We asked for an evening talk, but it seems that a project with children may be more effective.

Q: Family from Bereldange, free bus to Lux1 but 200€ month for Lux2 who need to accompany child 1km to bus stop.

A: Stefan Wunderlich, APEEEL2, and School are aware of this and continue working with ATSEEE (the Association responsible for transport) in this area.

MISCELLANEOUS:

Q: Second language French in English section, some children do not understand French so they need to pay for lessons in French. Can we have longer L2 sessions or select differently?

A: Length of lesson cannot be changed. Soutien is possible, the teachers have to inform the School. School is thinking of new ways to work with differentiation of L2 levels, but not yet implemented.

Q: Can Primary children enter through Secondary gate?

A: Yes, but the child needs to go immediately to Primary Meeting Point. School tries to keep Primary and Secondary children separate for safety reasons.

Q: P2 Italian class have lost some items in the changing rooms while the children were in the pool.

A: one of those in the Cleaning Team was found with a wallet which was not his. This has been dealt with. Please pass on any evidence you may have of theft having taken place to the School. There are clear rules on doors being locked, but please send and relevant info to school management.

Q: P1 German: noise in Cantine too high, can the cantine be made less noisy?

A: this is in consideration. Soundproofing material has already been placed in the

ceiling but an offer of 50.000€ has been made for further work to be done, which is too much. A new analysis will be carried out by the School.

Q: Cycle stands covering

A: The School building is the jurisdiction of the Luxembourgish authorities. A request was made but will be made again to the new minister (Green).

Q: Breaks: more time for P1/P2?

A: at the moment 30 minutes per break but timetables are harmonized for all the European Schools and cannot be changed. Teachers can take children outside for more than that as long as they are there to supervised and there are also sport & swimming sessions.

Q: Can children run outside? Can children go outside when it rains?

A: Children are allowed to run in the playground (outside) but not in the corridors (inside). Nursery teachers have taken a decision to allow children to play outside when it rains, but not in the sand. Primary do not go outside when it is very slippery, snowy, too hot. They play in the classroom instead. Teachers can take children out and allow them to play under the cover (préau) for 5 minutes. There are some cultural differences and there are safety issues with so many pupils.

Q: Can teacher absence be indicated through the new School Management System?

A: If the teachers' absence is known in advance, yes. If it is one day or suddenly, there is no time because the priority is to organize a replacement in a short period of time. A commitment to give instant notice of all, but especially last minute absences to parents, is impossible to make. What school does is provide replacement.

Q: Danish replacement problem? So some days they put sections together.

A: Danish teachers are difficult to find, especially if 2 teachers or more are missing at the same time. The School does its best to find replacements as this is the priority. The case referred to was a highly exceptional one. Danish and German replacement teachers are needed. Please let anyone with Primary diplomas know that they should send their CV and copies of their diplomas to the School if they would like to be considered as replacement teachers. Replacement teachers have to have the same qualifications to teach in the specific cycle (in this case Primary or Nursery) that they would need to teach in their home countries.

Q: Same question from the Greek section

A: the person needs to have the diplomas that the National Inspector accepts.

Q: Pick-up Primary, too many people in the stairs obstructing each other.

A: time to pick up is 30 minutes. Parents seem to be in a hurry. Parents often wait for their children upstairs. School has asked for a ramp to be placed in the middle of the stairs to make going down and up easier. There is also the green card to let children go out by themselves. There is also a lift for prams. Parents

are asked to please not congregate in front of school for security reasons. There are regular meetings with security measures (for attentats) but no communication is made in order not to create panic.

Q: P1 Swimming pool too little time per lesson, so maybe these could take place every 15 days but then with the double the time? Is there help possible from other people than parents to supervise?

A: First suggestion can be taken in consideration. Second question there are rules for that. This case will be considered by school.

Final note

Mr de Tournemire has suggested the following follow-up points (suivi):

1. Evaluation de la possibilité de poursuivre un voyage scolaire à Zinal en 2015/2016.
2. Possibilité de retarder le départ des bus scolaires de notre campus le matin pour permettre aux usagers en véhicule particulier de quitter plus vite le site.
3. Permettre à un enfant du cycle primaire d'accéder à notre campus par le portail (portail entre bâtiment SPORT et SECONDAIRE, vers gare CFL) sous la supervision de son grand frère/grande sœur et de rejoindre directement le bâtiment primaire.
4. Réévaluation de la situation du bruit dans la cantine primaire.
5. Nouvelle demande de toit pour les garages à vélo.
6. Suivi de la demande de rampe au milieu de l'escalier central du bâtiment PRIMAIRE pour faciliter la gestion des flux de parents montant et descendant au moment de la sortie des classes.