

## **JFKS Parent Council Meeting of October 9th, 2018**

### **GREETING**

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA FOR 9 October 2018 - approved unanimously.**

**APPROVAL OF LAST MEETING'S MINUTES (25.Sept.2018) - unanimous approval of English version, German translation to follow.**

### **INSTALLATION OF THE NEW PCB BOARD**

### **SCHOOL REPORTS**

**Student Council** - Amalia Anhalt and Emma Nathenson

The website will be updated to let members of the Student Council access the Student Council meeting minutes and the calendar for the Student Council.

Plans are currently being made to host an Art Show with Nelson Mandela School and other schools in Berlin, where there will be exhibits, poetry readings, musical performances, etc.

Student council had a discussion about planned security updates.

Students were encouraged to participate in Garden Day

Discussion about whether the Student of the Month program awarding 2 students who showed extra work that related to our school's mission statement should be kept or not - not popular among students.

The Student Council is made up of 5 committees: Communication, Career Day, Charity, Events and Fundraising.

## **Elementary School** - Racso Cortinas, American Elementary School Principal

-6th graders are on their class trip, back on Friday October 12th.

-October 16th and 17th are parent-teacher conferences for elementary school.

-Fall break will be from October 20 to November 4.

All admin are back at work on November 5th, but there will be no school that day. The ED has approved a *Studenttag* with outside moderation to work on the school's "*offener Ganztagskonzept*." November 6th is first day back for elementary students.

German teachers are still being recruited. Current German language groups are larger than the administration would like. One or two colleagues should be hired by the second semester but hopefully sooner.

This year's entrance class children are adjusting well to their classroom and enjoying after-school care within their hallways and outside playground. The entrance class hallway is under renovations as sound insulation panels are being put in place to reduce the noise level. If you've been there lately, you will see a hallway under construction. We hope to have the entrance class sound insulation complete this week. Additionally, we have ordered new furniture for that hallway and hope to have it in place and looking much more presentable after fall break. The Hort Erzieher would like to begin offering different options in several of the classrooms in the near future, and are currently working to give students as much freedom of movement and activities as they can in the meantime. The administration is in regular contact with the entrance class teachers to provide assistance as needed. Part of this support is a meeting that is planned after Fall break with the help of an outside moderator to review what is working well, what improvements can still be made as well as to help build the partnership between the entrance class teachers and the Erzieher.

**High School** - Steffen Schulz, Acting German high school principal

### **IMPORTANT DATES**

**October 18th**, Texas Exchange Parent Evening

**November 6th** Parent Teacher Conference

**November 12th** Parent Teacher Conference

**November 15th/16th** BERMUN conference – no regular instruction, but possibly make-up Klausuren

**November 20th** Middle School Concert

**November 22nd and 23rd** Thanksgiving – no school

**November 27th** 8th grade Ski Trip Parent Evening

**November 28th** Dom Concert

Discussion:

Q: Is the high school also hiring new German teachers? There is a need especially in 8th grade, where the German classes are quite large.

A: High school is also looking for German teachers, at least one or two should be hired by the second semester.

Questions about how to reach 11th and 12th grade parents, whose students are not part of a homeroom, were discussed. PCB is working with Hr. Schultz to find a workable solution. If you have suggestions on how to efficiently create a parent email list while still complying with the new Datenschutz laws, please let us know at [parentcouncil@jfsberlin.org](mailto:parentcouncil@jfsberlin.org)

## **Security**

There is no new information to update from the last meeting. But to reiterate from last month's meeting: Starting in January, there will be a security officer on campus from 6:00-7:30 am, two officers from 7:30 to 15:30, one officer from 15:30 to 23:00 and two to three patrols from 23:00 to 6:00. Each weekend day will have two patrols, at least one of which will be during the night hours. In addition, eight security cameras will be installed on the school grounds. All gates will be closed except the main gate which will be closed after 8:00 am. The status of the back gate is still in question. Senate and District want it locked.

Bids for security companies are in, Senate and District have to decide on one. There will be a temporary booth for the security officers to start. The US Embassy has offered to pay for the construction of a permanent booth.

Latest Senate security suggestions are to have a new lock system in all buildings, including the gym, before the end of this calendar year, three additional lights in front of the blue building, and fences around the sports field and between the school and the kindergarten next door. Not entirely clear if these newest suggestions will be able to be implemented by January.

## **School Conference - Kristen Winkler**

The School Conference (SK) has certain rights and responsibilities that are defined in Berlin school law. The SK has the right to be heard (Anhörungsrecht) and give input on some of the security concepts, for example large construction projects (making the fencing higher around campus) and safeguarding the way to and from school for our students (closure of the back gate). Final decisions here, however, lie with the Senate.

There are many opinions about the security measures needed. When discussing the back gate, the School Conference members came to the conclusion that they themselves are not security professionals. Therefore the decision to request the back gate remain open was based on professionals from the US Embassy. The head of security of the US Embassy has said that the back gate can remain open as long as it's monitored, either by a security officer, a faculty member or a camera with a live feed to the front. The entire School Conference feels strongly that the gate should remain open for a half hour in the morning. 10 voted in favor, 1 abstention. School Conference meets again tomorrow and will discuss further. SK will pass along their ideas on why gate should be open to the Senate. Unclear why Senate wants gate closed. Neighbors have complained about the traffic so they believe closing gate will manage traffic. SK understands the frustration, but hopes an agreement can be found that is agreeable to all parties. SK is open to all comments and requests specifically to this issue.

Pia Kaiser wird beim nächsten BSB die Senat Beauftragten fragen.

Discussion:

Q: Have there been any thoughts about how long it will take 1700 students to get through one gate?

A: Details can only be discussed once more specific things have been clarified. This is a concern Herr Schulz shares with the parents.

Q: Can lights be installed in the park?

A: Don't bet on it. Kids will have to go around the park in dark months.

Q: Walking school bus in park?

A: Hopefully yes.

Q: Will the back gate be an emergency exit in case of emergency?

A: Yes.

Further comments:

There are many children who live in the neighborhood who aren't being driven to school that need to be able to access the school easily.

Please sign up to help the traffic committee that has been drastically reduced due to graduating children.

Many questions can't be answered because so much still has to be decided.

**Bullying/Mobbing** -- Steffen Schultz, Acting German high school principal

Before school started, all teachers (ES and HS) attended a presentation with Frau Müller from the police about "Legal Aspects of Dealing with Bullying." Afterwards, guidelines were distributed to all teachers. During this conference, the Jewish Forum for Democracy and Against Anti-Semitism (Jüdisches Forum für Demokratie und gegen Antisemitismus, JFDA) gave a speech on anti-Semitism and bullying. (High school teachers only). An intense and productive discussion ensued. The JFDA will be working with the school all year, developing programs.

On September 20th, Frau Gomes (Anti-Diskriminierungsbeauftragte der Berliner Schulverwaltung) and Frau Schäffer (Beschwerdenmanagement der Berliner Schulverwaltung) met with an expanded administrative group in the school to prepare a detailed analysis of the school's climate with regards to discrimination. A second meeting with the two women will take place on October 16th. All administrators will meet with them, answering questions and filling out questionnaires. There will be a report by the two women that will go to the Schulleitung.

Discussion:

Q: Will parents and students be included in assessment?

A: Student Council members will.

Q: Will only the specific problem that happened last school year be discussed? Or will bullying in general be addressed?

A: It was a broader look at the school's situation in general.

Q: Where is the administrations' proactive approach to this issue, why were new parents not contacted about the issue?

A: Schulz feels very personally affected and is trying to establish the facts of what happened and what the school will do going forward. All administrators and parents and students must do some work to make this school a better place. It all takes a lot of time. The situation is very serious and is being taken very seriously.

Frau Hinrichsen attended the **Symposium for the Declaration of Fighting Anti-Semitism** and then Frau Hinrichsen and Herr Schulz attended an all-day conference for educators called **Alle Gegen Alle - Diskriminierung in der pluralen Gesellschaft** which deals with issues of bullying, sexual harassment, homophobia and anti-Semitism. Many ideas were generated.

Mr. Lazar and Mr. Salzer are co-advising a new version of the Diversity Club.

The administration also met with Frau Berger, a representative from the American Jewish Committee who works at the US Embassy.

The administration met again with the JFDA who will be offering a program for the homeroom teachers during the workshop days in November. The program will include  
a. dealing with different kinds of discrimination, b. reflecting on existing rules, c.

defining the regulatory requirements and d. collegiate case consulting. As the school year goes on, the JFDA will work with several different classes, students and subject teachers.

In early October, Herr Schulz and Mr. Salzer met privately with the affected class to allow to speak confidentially about their feelings, fears and hopes for the future.

The administration is in contact with Frau Erlbaum from the Zentralrat der Juden in Deutschland to discuss a possible collaboration.

The school's Crisis Management Team and the Zehlendorf school psychologist Frau Stüwe meet regularly to prepare the school's responses to various incidents, like bullying, violence, suicide and grief.

#### Discussion

Q: Will the elementary school implement the same things that the high school does?

A: Eventually. Frau Müller from the police will be coming to talk to the kids in elementary school about these issues for now.

Q: Since there are no homerooms in 11th and 12th, how will those students be reached? Since the program will take place during BERMUN, the school is still figuring it out. For now it's just 7th through 10th grade.

Q: Why is there bullying in general?

A: JFKS is a school like any other, it's not a closed society or a vacuum. Bullying will always exist. Our goal is to make sure it's kept to a minimum. Parents must also do their part. Herr Schulz urged the Student Council to start a discussion among the students about this issue. But education begins at home. We can only keep it to a minimum if all - parents, teachers, admins and students - work together.



Q: Are there plans to make an anti-bullying policy for the school?

A: Yes, that's the goal.

Q: Why is JFKS not on the list of Schulen Ohne Rassismus, a European-wide initiative where schools vote to support certain anti-discriminatory values, and gather signatures to support that. 100 schools in Berlin have this status.

A: Up until 4 years ago, we were a Schule Ohne Rassismus; the administration will look into getting back into it.

Q: The school must be a safe school that treats everyone with respect. Would like students and parents to feel empowered to report bullying to the right people. Urges the administration to use this incident to reevaluate the school's processes and then deliver that information to all stakeholders.

A: Herr Schulz sees the situation now as a chance to do better and improve the school environment and the processes. The workshops on October 16th and 17th will analyze what the school offers, what needs to be improved and what the clear structures and processes should be. If follow-up workshop is needed, that will be organized. However, mutual respect is needed from all parents, all students.

Q: If my child has bullied someone, will I be informed?

A: Things are changing. There have been three or four cases since the school year started that were immediately reported to Herr Schulz and parents were immediately informed. Processes are already changing. In the past this wasn't always the case. The goal is to change.

Q: Is there a committee that addresses bullying?

A: Not right now.

Q: Do the older kids understand/know that using bad language in front of younger kids is a bad example?

A: High school advocates work with 6th and 5th graders. Frau Stube (district psychologist) meets with crisis management team and the administration is thinking of ways to disseminate information. Teachers can suggest students who need peer support (social, emotional, etc) and they get matched with high school students.

Q: Why haven't all Jewish families been contacted?

A: Herr Schulz visited with the parents of the affected class. Then he met with the students privately where they could air their private fears. He took all this information with him to change things. This week he's meeting with Jewish families at the school.

Q: How can parents who want to get involved on this specific subject get involved? To whom should we turn with our positive energy?

A: Kristen Winkler wants a sub-committee to be established on this issue, if you'd like to be involved, get in touch with Kristen Winkler. Send your emails to [parentcouncil@jfkberlin.org](mailto:parentcouncil@jfkberlin.org) and we will put interested parties in touch with Kristen Winkler of School Conference and Sarah Gross of the ED. Parent Council is organizing break-out sessions for all parents with outside moderators on subjects like screen-time, bullying, drug and alcohol consumption. Anti-Semitism should be added to this list.

Parent says school's goal should be a school without bullying, which is different from conflict. Conflicts are indeed inevitable, but bullying is something else. It is systematic

and chronic. It is not inevitable, and it is not unrealistic for a school to say it aims to eliminate bullying completely.

Parent asks for more transparency and communication from administration directly rather than trickling down through parent reps.

Parent urges other parents to talk to your children about civil responsibility and civil courage.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **ED**

No update

### **BEA**

BEA/BSB Bericht zum Thema Sicherheit, Notfallpläne und Krisenteam an allen Schulen in unserem Bezirk:

Der Trend der neu geplanten Schulen in Berlin geht u.a. auch architektonisch, weniger in Richtung Abschottung, als hin in Richtung "offene" Schulen (Bezirksbildungsstadtrat Mückisch). Das heißt u.a., dass Schulen ein "offener Lernort für Alle" im Stadtteil werden soll, indem Schulgebäude für Lernveranstaltungen für Nachbarschaftsgruppen zur Verfügung gestellt werden. Zur Sicherung dieser Schulen würden elektrische Schließanlagen dienen, welche im Moment noch umstritten sind (Datenschutz).

Im BEA wurden auch die sog. Berliner Notfallordner vorgestellt. Sie stehen seit 2005 allen Berliner Schulen zur Verfügung und behandeln die folgenden

Gewalt-/Notfallthemen: Amoktat, Brandfall, Epidemie/Vergiftungen, Geiselnahme, Sprengsätze, Suizid/Tod in der Schule, Waffengebrauch, Amokdrohung, Bedrohung, Gewalt auf Datenträgern, Gewalt in der Familie, Handel mit Suchtmitteln, Nötigung/Erpressung/Raub, schwere körperliche Gewalt, sexuelle Übergriffe, Suizidversuch, Übergriffe auf Schulpersonal, Vandalismus, verfassungsfeindliche Äußerungen, Waffenbesitz Beleidigung/Drohung/Tätlichkeit, Mobbing,

Suchtmittelkonsum, Suizidäußerung und -ankündigung, Tod von Schulsehörden, die Rolle der Unfallkasse Berlin im Krisenfall, Diskriminierung, Hilfe bei Gewalt gegen Schulpersonal, Homophobie, Kinderschutz, Notfall/Krise/Trauma, Notwehrrecht/unterlassene Hilfeleistung/Fürsorge- und Aufsichtspflicht, Opferentschädigung, Risikoindikatoren für Suizid, selbstverletzendes Handeln, Stalking, Strafanzeige/Strafantrag, Tatausgleich/Wiedergutmachung, Trauerprozesse, Umgang mit dem Täter, Umgang mit den Medien (Presse), rechtliche Hinweise und Materialien.

<https://www.berlin.de/sen/bildung/unterstuetzung/gewalt-und-notfaelle>

Welche Rolle spielt dieser Notfallordner an der JFKS? Ist er allen Lehrern / Sozialpädagogen bekannt?

Auch das Konzept des sog. "Krisenteams" wurde beim BEA/BSB vorgestellt. Zu den Aufgaben gehören die pädagogische, organisatorische und technische Vorbereitung auf Gewalt- und Krisenereignisse und die Weiterentwicklung der präventiven Arbeit im Rahmen des Schulprogramms. In Ausnahmesituationen koordiniert das Team das Vorgehen zur Bewältigung der Krise und leitet geeignete Maßnahmen ein. Nach dem Ereignis sorgt das Team durch angemessene Nachsorge für die Sicherstellung des geordneten Schulbetriebs. Die Senatsverwaltung für Bildung, Jugend und Wissenschaft unterstützt die Bildung von Krisenteams an Berliner Schulen. Bestehende Krisenteams werden durch Schulpsychologen für Gewaltprävention und Krisenintervention (G/K) in ihrer Arbeit fortgebildet, begleitet und beraten. Herr Cortinas berichtete, dass auch die JFKS mit Unterstützung des Bezirks solch ein Krisenteam gebildet hat.

## **SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Bilingual Working Group** - Gretchen Vogel

This is a group of parents working to strengthen the balance of the two languages at

JFKS. The group hopes to launch a program where parents and teachers can find tandem partners to practice and improve their “partner tongue” language skills. They also want to put together an FAQ on the school’s bilingual education framework, including the information that was presented last spring by the administration to the parent council. This will be posted on website for all parents. You don’t have to be a parent rep to be a part of this group. If you’re interested, write to the parent council and they will put you in touch with the working group.

Next meeting will be 8th November at 7:00 pm.

**Traffic Committee** - Nelly Heidbrink

A group of high school volunteers have agreed to help the little kids at the drop-off zones up the ramp to the gate in the morning. 12th graders will accompany them. They will wear green vests. As soon as details are ironed out, they will be disseminated.

Parents - please stop using your bicycles on the ramp. Get off and push your bike up the ramp.

Call for volunteers (primarily parents who are bringing their kids to school) to join the traffic committee. Oct 10 is International Walk to School Day. They hope to resume the traffic committee after the fall break. Send your emails to [traffic@jfkberlin.org](mailto:traffic@jfkberlin.org).

Suggestion: that a working group be formed to canvas the neighbors on the back gate to figure out what the issues are and try to motivate the parents to change their ways.

Next Parent Council Meeting is November 13th.

Garden Day is this Saturday, October 13th, 10 am. Bring your working gloves and your kids.

Call for spotlight suggestions from parents.

Thanks to last year's PCB.

Reminder: Parent reps are responsible for building contact lists for your class.

Q: Can an email list of all the committees be sent out to all parents?

A: Teachers are not allowed to give out contact info of parents to other parents.

If you have an issue, you need to contact homeroom teachers.

The Verein is resuming monthly coffee mornings at Aula featuring free coffee and doughnuts, and information about the Verein. Next meeting is on November 9th at 8:00 am. Open to any parent.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm