

Official Meeting Minutes of Parent Council Meeting on 24.Sept.19

1. The meeting was called to order at 19:04 and all newly elected representatives and guests were welcomed to the parent council meeting.

2. Agenda: A request was made to amend the agenda to move “Miscellaneous” (point 9) prior to “Elections” (point 8), in order to dismiss the current board before electing a new board. The amended agenda was unanimously approved.

3. Meeting minutes from June 18th, 2019 parent council meeting were approved unanimously.

4. Student Council (SC) Report: Emma Nathenson and Sahra al-Malahi

- The HS musical *Thoroughly Modern Millie* will be on 7, 8 & 9 November.
- The National Honors Society collected school supplies for a school in Kenya and already received thank yous and photos from the recipients.
- The SC requested that the parent council send a representative to their meetings. PC agreed to do so.

5. Elementary School Report: Ashia Bell, American Elementary School Vice Principal

- Thanks to the Verein and volunteers who made the Fun Run such a success.
- Task Force on Entrance Class/Hort double room usage meets on Sept. 30th and includes teachers, Hort Erzieher and parents.
- Recruitment: The admin is working hard to find German colleagues, especially for EC, 2nd and 3rd grades. One teacher will transfer to JFK on 4 February. Two part-time teachers will start after fall break. Parents will be notified if their child will change teachers.
- EC literacy classes are on track to start sooner than in previous years.
- Administration is working to find a substitute for special needs teacher Frau Groth, who is out sick.
- Starting on 21 October, EC-2nd grade will have homeroom from 1:10-1:20 to conform to Berlin school law. These grades will then have lunch starting at 1:20. PC requested that the administration inform parents in writing about resulting dismissal time changes. (See monthly bulletin.)
- Lunch lines have gotten better. All children who aren't in Late Birds or Hort must register for a lunch chip, so that the school can prove to the city of Berlin that these children are being served.

6. High School Report: Steffen Schulz, Acting German High School Principal

- Thanks to the Verein for a perfect Fun Run.
- The high school hopes to hire three new German teachers for second semester. Several German partner tongue teachers will retire in June, and they are searching for replacements already.
- Security: New lighting on the way to the gym and in the front bicycle area should be in place in Nov/Dec. The guards on campus from 6:30 am -10:30 pm may be in place after winter break; the bidding process for a service provider is currently underway. Security Booth should be ready at the end of 2019-20 school year.
- New cell phone policy is working very well.
- The 60th anniversary planning committee meets Monday 30 Sept. Hr.Schulz has reserved the Audimax auditorium at Free University on Thursday, 17 September 2020 for a formal celebration. There is room for 1700 guests. If you're interested in joining this committee (working on marketing brochures, press releases, fundraising, finding guest speakers), please email parentcouncil@jfkbsberlin.org.

7. Committee Reports

Educational Directorate (ED): Julia Wachs, Sarah Gross

- A new lock system will be installed in spring 2020.
- The new finance committee submitted several questions to ED: What are the budget figures for our school in 2019 and 2020? How much money has been spent this year from the district and the Senat? Answers were not conclusive. ED will meet with the Senat Schulverwaltung at the end of October to address these questions.
- Principals – Recruiting for a new American ES principal will begin soon with plans to fill the position by July 2020. Applications are already in for ES and HS German principals and the hiring process is moving forward.
- Anti-bullying survey results and analysis will be presented to the parent community in the coming months.
- ED is a supervisory committee with 13 members representing students, parents, teachers, admin, the US Embassy, and the Senat. Embassy and Senat representatives have veto rights. The group meets every 6-8 weeks. They make decisions regarding curricula, hiring principals, contract extensions, calendars, and other issues that involve the mission of the school. Elections for four parent representatives (two main, two alternates) will be held at the 26 November parent council meeting.

BEA/BSB: Pia Kaiser

- The first BEA meeting of the year was focused on issues surrounding the new free school lunches, free student tickets for BVG, Hort expansion, lack of classroom space and mobile phone policies.
- Berliner Wasserbetriebe are now offering drinking fountains that schools can rent.
- Whether the Hort can be offered free of charge from the 3rd grade and up is not yet clear. First the authorities want to see how well the 1-2 grade program is working.

School Conference (SK): Kristen Winkler – -SK focuses on day-to-day issues at the school such as anti-bullying efforts, double room usage, school finances, the food committee, traffic committee, special needs, and security. The committee welcomes parental feedback. Contact members directly or through the parent council. The four main representatives and four alternates are all halfway through their two-year term.

-The SK held an emergency meeting in June to discuss the decision to have the first-grade students use the EC rooms for after school care. This decision has since been reversed. The administration has now created a new task force to find a concept for after school care within the school building.

-Although a concept was to be created by the end of the calendar year, this has now been pushed back until the end of the school year. These topics will be discussed further at the SK meeting on 26 September.

--SK will review the electronic device policy after one year, so please let us know your thoughts.

8. Miscellaneous

Garden Day on 26. Oct. Come help beautify our campus and have your bike registered with the police! A parent has proposed organizing a new “Adopt a Spot” effort to have students, clubs, classes, teachers, and/or parents take care of a spot and keep it clean. Stay tuned for further details.

Spooktacular Buffet: Every two years, the Verein organizes a big Halloween party at the ES. ES parents are asked contribute snacks for the buffet. The buffet funds go to support parent

council events such as parent information evenings about screen time, drug and alcohol abuse, etc.

Email: All parents are encouraged to add their email address to this database.

Verein – Fun Run pledges should be done by bank transfer. Info on tickets for Spooktacular will be coming soon via a letter distributed in classes.

9. Elections:

Nelly Heidbrink was selected to conduct elections of a new parent council board and the Bezirkselfernausschuss (BEA) representatives. Nelly released the parent council board and proceeded to conduct the elections. Nine candidates were nominated for the parent council board. A motion was made to accept all nine candidates to form the new parent council board. The motion was unanimously approved by a show of hands to elect the new board.

New Parent Council Board: Kira Melzer, Gretchen Vogel, Nancy Voke, Buck Chisolm, Luisa Weiss, Jörg Nowak, Heidi Philipsen, Jessica Harnos, and Holger Kölling-Orb

Eight candidates were nominated for as BEA representatives. These candidates were unanimously approved by a show of hands.

New Bezirkselfernausschuss (BEA) representatives: Pia Kaiser, Alke Abbey, Mark Maskow, Mara Leibowitz, Anne Zoll, Eva El-Afy, Christina Pykonen, Holger Koelling-Orb

Parent representatives signed up to attend student council meetings and faculty department meetings.

Next Parent Council Meeting: Nov 26th @7pm

The meeting concluded at 21:02.