



Verein der Eltern und Freunde
der John-F.-Kennedy-Schule zu Berlin e.V.
Society of Parents and Friends
of the John F. Kennedy School Berlin e.V.

John-F.-Kennedy-Schule Teltower Damm 87-93 • 14167 Berlin

Minutes of The Verein Meeting
Wednesday, January 30, 2019
at: 19:00 in Filmroom GR117 JFK Schule Teltower Damm

Board Present: Tracey Tober, Katrin Lührs, Buck Chisolm, Melissa Cattarius, Theresa Helou, Karrie Riemer, Vinh Beinhold-Pham, Fionnuala Hoffmann, Adrian Ludwig

Excused Board: Nelly Heidbrink, Vanessa Hansen (Tracey Tober and Buck Chisolm voting on their behalf, respectively)

Representing School Administration: Brian Salzer absent

Also present: Timm Jones, Dirk Rolf, Susan Brown, Kim Douglass, Myriah Day, Ja-Neil Wehr, Veronica Strange, Carlotta Senfleben, Sarah-Ann Pohl, Ina Ruganonh, Eva El-Alfy, Henri Jackson

Meeting opened at 19:00 by chair Tracey Tober.

1.) Approval of agenda

- Agenda is amended to change the order and have Herr Rolf speak instead of Mr. Salzer who is not present. Agenda approved.

2.) Approval of minutes - of December 2018 meeting

- Minutes approved.

3.) Principal's Notes – Mr. Salzer not present

4.) Fahrradschule/Bicycle Course School – Dirk Rolf & Timm Jones. Mr. Jones feels bicycle safety is a big problem at JFK and suggests the idea of building a bicycle course/school here at the JFK school. Dirk Rolf, police officer and bicycle safety instructor, says at JFKS a majority of students fail the safety test, many do not have a bicycle and little riding practice, especially those children coming from outside Germany. The Berlin

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Fax 030-90299-6377, www.theverein.com, email: info@theverein.com President: Tracey Tober, Vice President: Katrin Lührs, Treasurer: Buck Chisolm, Secretary: Melissa Cattarius **Bankverbindung: JFKS Verein, DKB, IBAN: DE73 1203 0000 1020 1856 49, BIC/SWIFT: BYLADEM1001**

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Senat is doing a lot to help improve this deficiency overall in Berlin. Currently the children receive a card which must be stamped for at least 6 visits practicing riding and safety at a Bicycle School (Sundgauerstr. and Steglitz which will be closed). Since this requirement was established, the fail rate has decreased. Right now it's 20-22%. It would be easier for the parents if every school had a bicycle course/school on their own school grounds where students could practice. Timm Jones and Dirk Rolf have met and discussed plans for a bicycle school at JFKS for practicing and, at some time in the future, also be a location where the students can be tested. Mr. Jones showed a diagram of the bicycle school in the Sundgauerstr. as an example for the JFKS. Not only could the 4th graders practice bicycle riding, but the younger classes could practice crossing the street, observing traffic, etc..., also the 5th & 6th graders could continue to practice their skills, i.e. all ES students could use this bicycle course. Berlin would like for every school to have a bicycle school available. The location at JFKS would be the paved soccer field at the back of the school. Bicycle safety is a part of social studies classes in the 3rd and 4th grades. Considerate behavior, confident riding skills and safe behavior are key and are part of the curriculum of bicycle safety taught to the children. A Fahrrad AG is also an idea as a way to involve the students and take care of the bicycles. The science classes could also use the course as a science activity (renewable energy) to make children aware that riding bicycles is better for the environment than driving.

The cost would be 13.299€. The Berlin Senat finds this would be positive and would support the school in this endeavor. Maintenance costs – in Steglitz 250 children ride everyday on the course - and the redoing costs of the course is about every 7 years. The installation start date at JFKS would be approximately in May if the weather is warm enough. Bicycles are not included in the price. The children could possibly bring their own bicycles, but Herr Rolf feels this could be problematic especially if there is an accident, parents might sue and the school would have an issue, plus the teachers would be responsible for inspecting each bicycle for problems.

If JFKS opened the course to other schools maybe the Senat would help with financing, perhaps parents would donate bicycles...

How many bicycles needed?? Around 24. JFKS would need a place to store and lock up the bicycles and miscellaneous signs, lights, etc... used on the course. This is why a shed (which can be purchased from the OBI sponsored account) and foundation for the shed (Verein support) would also be needed.

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5.) Student Council – Henri Jackson.

- **Fun Run Idea for 9-12 grades.** The Student Council is still collecting ideas for the HS in survey form. Ideas need to be more detailed so we can move forward. A Holi color run in the park next to school is the most popular idea thus far in the HS. The Bezirk would need to be contacted and it would have to be approved. The 9-12th grades would like to continue to receive a Fun Run Tshirt.
- **Tshirt design competition.** The HS students are interested in increasing school spirit by having more modern designs in the shop which would also increase shop sales. The SC will spread the word about this to the HS students. The Verein School Shop supports this competition and will aid the SC in bringing this to life. It was suggested to also have an ES Tshirt design competition in order to involve the entire school. The winning designs would be printed on tshirts and possibly hoodies and other items and sold in the Verein School Shop.
- **Sports Event May 23** – on the sports field – where other schools like Nelson Mandela will also be invited. The SC would like to borrow the tents and maybe music equipment for the event. Tracey ok'd the tents. Buck will check with the tech team ensure there will be volunteers to operate/safeguard the Verein's PA system.

6.) 5th and 6th grade Chrome Books - Sam Kleinman. There is a great need for Chrome Books for the 5th and 6th grade students. Why is this important & where are we today with the curriculum at JFK? Computer literacy and skills are necessary and need to be a part of the school curriculum. Many graduates are being asked about their skills when interviewed. Computer skills are essential for university and job market. 1 to 1 program in the US where every child has access is not available here. The JFKS computer access and literacy is very poor. JFKS has 2 computer labs and 25 students per class in each grade. Grades 1-4 have priority in signing up, then the 3-4th grades have typing time priority, then the grades 5-6th get what is left over. This leaves the 5th and 6th grades with very little computer class time and inadequacy in preparation of skills needed when entering the 7th grade. Science teachers, PT and MT, art, music etc... also compete for computer lab time slots which also makes this tough for the 5th & 6th graders to have computer time. Many of these 5th & 6th graders go 2 years with hardly any computer literacy and then have to go on to 7th grade where they have no competitive edge or way to keep up.

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Why Google Chromebooks? They are tailored for individual needs (ES students in this case) and have special features for this age group. The HS also uses google products, so Google chrome books for the 5th & 6th graders makes sense.

A 25 chrome book minimum is being requested, one full class.

Question asked: Does Google sponsor these to schools? Yes, but JFKS would not qualify because Google sponsors to more underprivileged schools. Also, most grants are given to American schools. Fionnuala will check Metro if they offer lower prices. The ES Wifi will be available mid February 2019 in the 5th and 6th grade classrooms, this is exciting news. The carts will be taken from classroom to classroom as needed and requested. Updating and maintenance is easy with Google. The Google chrome books would be size 11 or 13. How much time will be freed up in the computer lab for the other students? Quite a bit.

€12.000 is the requested amount for 25 chrome books (1 set) and cart.

2 class sets (50 computers) for €24,000 would be optimal. Mr. Kleinman is requesting optimally 2 sets for 24.000€.

6.) Treasurer's Report – Buck Chisolm.

- **Finances.** The Verein is solid, still waiting for many members to pay the membership fees since this year's fees were not deducted automatically.
- **Membership Fees.** At the AGM we will vote to change the fee to one fee of 75€ per family (instead of 2 fees according to how many children/family attend the school) for simplicity and because due to data protection the Verein will not have access to JFKS family information in the future.
- **Tax 2016-2018 tax returns and retaining tax exempt status is in motion.**

7.) Projects

- **Fun Run** – Friday, September 20
- **Spooktacular** – Friday, November 1
- **Flea Market** – May 26 – Marion Patt's last year organizing. Either we have someone take over or we no longer offer the Flea Market. Veronica Strange may be interested. We could advertise on the FB page to find additional interested parties.
- **Thank You Reception.** Friday, February 22

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8.) Requests

- **Fahrradschule/Bicycle course, shed, foundation** – The best offer of 13,299€ includes traffic signs, but no traffic lights because these are so expensive. The foundation (for under the shed) best offer is 1643€. Do we need permission to do this and from whom? Building a foundation/shed – do we need approval? Senat has been informed. Administration is completely supportive. Vote. Entire amount of 15.000€. 11 voted yes. Unanimous. Approved.
- **Chrome books** – Vote for 24.000€, 2 sets of Google Chrome books for the 5th and 6th grades. Buck suggests 1 set and see how the utilization is, then vote on the second set. Katrin feels a larger amount would result in an even lower bulk price and allow all the classrooms to have best access. Vote for 2 sets of Chrome books for a maximum expenditure of 24.000€. Vote 9 yes, 2 abstain. Approved.
- **Writing journal reimbursement** – Karen Wingo purchased the journals in the US over the holidays for 121,53€ without knowing the proper Verein request procedure. Vote to reimburse her this once as an exception. 11 yes. Unanimous. Approved.
- **Class Money** – The ES sports department, for some unknown reason, has not been receiving class money like the other ES school teachers. They would also like to receive class money and request the same amount as the other classrooms. Vote for 60€ total for the 3 sports teachers every 2nd month. Vote. 11 yes. Approved.

9.) Miscellaneous

- **Bookkeeper needed.** Buck will speak with Sarah Pohl about possibly taking on this responsibility.
- **Volunteers for Verein SEPA organization** needed to compile old forms with new and compare and compile. Buck Chisolm, Theresa Helou, Tracey Tober and Melissa Cattarius offer to help. This will take place after winter break during school hours. Please send Tracey Tober an email if also interested in helping.
- **School Shop volunteers.** New volunteers are needed in the school shop, including a new graphic designer. Fionnuala Hoffmann and Jason Ablang (graphic designing)

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have shown interest. Melissa Cattarius will write up a short notice to post and share to all JFKS parents per email.

Meeting adjourned at 20:37.

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