



Verein der Eltern und Freunde der John-F.-Kennedy-Schule zu Berlin e.V.  
Society of Parents & Friends of the John F. Kennedy School Berlin e.V.  
Deutsch-Amerikanische Schule / German-American School – Berlin

THE JFKS VEREIN • Teltower Damm 87-93 • 14167 Berlin

## **Minutes Verein Meeting April 23<sup>th</sup> 2013, 7.00 – 9.45 pm**

**JFKS, Teltower Damm 87 -93, 14167 Berlin, room GR 117**

Susanne Volkmer, Katharine Doeringer, Susanne Vogel-Küntzle, James Bell, Marion Greeves, Jennifer Guethoff, Dagmar Hoppe, Tony Vörös Laszlo, Darla Nickel, Isolde Streit, Tanya Buchwald, Eavan Schmidt-Bleek, Kimberley Schneidereit, Klaus Stein, Bettina Moegelin, Mr. Kelly, Herr Roth,  
excused: Birgit Parr, Caroline Maas, Leah Hecker  
Sonia Weese, Herr A. Schulze, Calvin Weese  
minutes: Susanne Vogel-Küntzle

The chairperson Susanne Volkmer opens the meeting at 7.07 pm.  
Darla Nickels and Tony Vörös Laszlo, our two new board members, introduce themselves.

### **1. Approval of agenda**

additions: - choose project for Fun Run money  
- school party on June 20th  
- e-mail vote concerning OBI wishlist  
- mentoring project  
- OBI invoice

additional requests: - SC needs support (drinks) for guest speakers on Seminar Day  
- senior class asks 50€ OBI material for mural

### **2. Approval of minutes from Board Meeting March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2013**

- approved

### **3. Herr Schulze on MfA - Kräfte**

Since 2010 Herr Schulze has been taking care of the co-workers at JFKS. After the retirement of "our" schools inspector Herr Harnos, the situation has become more complicated. The school is no longer allowed to be the employer for the four co-workers who (as Herr Roth points out) are essential and most important for a smooth functioning of for example the copy machine, the science lab, the library and other things.

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Herr Schulze therefore asks the VEREIN

- to officially take over the responsibility for future MAE-workers (MAE = Mehraufwandsentschädigung, meaning basically "1-Euro-Job")  
-> no extra costs, no extra work for the VEREIN, administration stays with the school.
- to officially take over the responsibility for three FAV-workers (FAV = Förderung von Arbeitsverhältnissen)  
-> appr. 100 € per person per year for insurances
- to keep on supporting Herr Werner
- to consider supporting Frau Kühn with 600 € per month in total

Herr Schulze will send around more information and a team of board members (James Bell, Dagmar Hoppe and Tony Laszlo) will look into legal problems and other issues connected to this topic and then report back to the board.

#### 4. Requests

» Calvin Weese on behalf of the SC asks the VEREIN to support the upcoming Seminar Day with paying for drinks the SC wants to offer the (+/- 40) speakers who donate their time and expertise. **> approved** unanimously  
(No fixed sum approved yet, Coca-Cola sponsors drinks at school party on June 20th, and at religion party on June 25th, maybe there will be enough leftovers. Anyway, the SC can count on the VEREIN, Susanne V. will write to Calvin.)

» Religion teacher Herr Holger Schmidtke has started a new project this school year, a cooperation between 115 ES students and various retirement homes in Berlin. This is the first project of its kind in Berlin, and at the end of the successful year Herr Schmidtke wants to have a party for the students involved, their parents, representatives of retirement homes, other schools and "Generationsbrücke" a society from Aachen which is the initiator of the program.

Herr Schmidtke has an estimate from "Green's" for a 120 person buffet of **1.100 €** and is asking for support.

Before making a decision the VEREIN wants to know more about the party (guest list, sponsors, etc.), Susanne V. will write to Herrn Schmidtke.

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» "Odyssey of the Mind" is a program at the school that not everybody knows about, so Eavan Schmidt-Bleek gives some background information.  
This year in May a team of 9 students is going to the finals in the USA. Since it is a pretty expensive trip they are asking for support from the VEREIN. Last year the support was **€ 550**, there is the proposal to give the same amount this year.

**> approved** unanimously

The board points out that future support from the VEREIN is supposed to flow into the entire project and not into travel costs.

For building material "Odyssey" can use the VEREIN's OBI account.

» Two locker doors are missing, and those doorless lockers are being used as dustbins. To repair the lockers and to be able to react immediately to similar damages, the VEREIN wants to purchase ten spare doors for **€ 380**.

**> approved** unanimously

» Physics teacher Frau Gorgis is taking her Leistungskurs to Moskau (nuclear research institute and center of cosmonauts). This is a tradition-rich trip and the school is very grateful for the contact to Moskau that allows such an extraordinary trip. Frau Gorgis is asking € 50 for each of the 20 participants = **€ 1000**.  
Last year the VEREIN decided to stop giving out per capita support and instead concentrate on the support of needy students. Obviously this decision has not been communicated clear enough to all the teachers.

**> denied** unanimously

Susanne V.-K. will write to Frau Gorgis and explain.

» The BERMUN team is requesting **€ 2500** (the same amount as previous years) for their trip to New York to the Global Classroom MUN.

**> denied** unanimously

This year only 6 students are going to New York (12 in 2011, 9 in 2012), and although the VEREIN board is still willing to generously support this prestigious program, it does not want to see its money being spent merely on travel costs for such a small group. We would rather support on-campus activities (November conference?) or program related expenses.

For this year the New York trip will be supported with **€ 1000**, the remaining € 1500 will be paid in the second half of the year and the BERMUN team is asked to come up with proposals for reallocation.

James is already in contact with Dr. Peterson about this problem.

» The senior class is asking for a **€ 50** OBI voucher to get material for their mural.

**> approved** (1 abstention)

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## 5. Mr. Kelly on AP's

There has been an inquiry by guidance counselor Marcea Eckhardt if the VEREIN could support needy students in covering the costs for AP tests (appr. € 100 per test).

Mr. Kelly explains that a growing number of students are taking AP tests, because they are not only important for college admission in the US but also in GB. Most recently even some German universities accept AP tests, in some cases they count as equivalents to Leistungskurse. If a student takes more than one AP test the financial burden quickly adds up.

The VEREIN sees the importance of this program being offered at JFKS and will seek a speedy and clear decision whether to support individual students or not.

## 6. Miscellaneous

- evaluation workshop

The daylong brainstorming and discussion on April 20th helped a lot with defining the VEREIN's goals and structure. Special thanks go to Leah for hosting the seminar and to Jennifer for leading through the day with verve and efficiency.

- choose project for FUN RUN  
postponed, needs more time

- school party on June 20th (50th anniversary of JFK speech)  
details to follow

- JFKS mentoring project – Bettina Moegelin

The project has started. Since the VEREIN was involved in getting the EU funds, it will stay visible in the project. Bettina acts in close cooperation with Kara Krull, the middle school guidance counselor, who is very experienced and has chosen the first students to take part in this program.

The project will get its own website.

- the bill received from OBI for the painting of walls in the small gym is 90 € higher than the original estimate. OBI is our main sponsor and always very generous with labour costs, so the board decides to pay without further inquiries.

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- Susanne V. asks to please take e-mail votes more seriously! Two board members did not take part in the recent e-mail vote about Frau Borschel's OBI-wishlist.

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