

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 Verein Meeting
October 17th 2013, 7.00 – 9.30 pm**

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

Susanne Volkmer, Katharine Doeringer, Susanne Vogel-Küntzle, Birgit Parr, Klaus Hentges, Marion Greeves, Dagmar Hoppe, Tony Vörös Laszlo, Isolde Streit, Leah Hecker, Theodora Schnauck-Betow, Bettina Moegelin, Eavan Schmidt-Bleek, Vanessa Hansen, Kimberley Schneidereit, Wendy Rohrbacher, Herr Roth, Mr. Germann,

guests:

Dr. Peterson, Frau Hövermann, two students of the BerMUN team,
two representatives (Anton and Max) of the SC

Frau Carola Schild

excused: James Bell, Tanya Buchwald, Jennifer Guethoff, Darla Nickel

minutes: Susanne Vogel-Küntzle

The chairperson Susanne Volkmer opens the meeting at 7.12 pm.

1. Approval of Agenda

additions and changes:

- SC representatives may speak first and then leave,
- topic „Finanzamt“ only if enough time at the end
- short report on locker management

2. Approval of minutes from Board Meeting August 29th, 2013

- approved

3. SC

Anton and Max introduce themselves as the SC contact to the VEREIN.

Their questions to the board are: how much money was collected with Fun Run?
 what will it be spent on? student lounge?

There are no official numbers yet, people can pay or transfer the money they pledged until October 25th and will hopefully do so.

As decided before Fun Run the money will be spent on a new tree on campus plus bench, on a chill-out area (not student lounge) in HS, on noise reduction in HS main hall, and on the project "green classrooms" in ES.

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4. BerMUN

Dr Peterson, Frau Hövermann and two students give an impressive presentation including a video of the BerMUN program. This year the conference at JFKS will take place for the 22nd time with 600 participants from all over the world. New schools interested in taking part in the conference have to be turned down because capacities on JFKS grounds are limited. BerMUN is important for the good reputation of the school, in the international context BerMUN adds to the high degree of popularity of JFKS. The program trains valuable extracurricular skills and quite a number of alumni now work for international organizations or the Auswärtiges Amt.

Topics that are of special interest to the VEREIN:

The November conference is a school event, insurance issues are covered. The program has a number of sponsors and is also financially supported by the Trust Fund. The VEREIN has been supporting BerMUN for many years and intends to continue doing so, however the VEREIN would like to see its subsidies going mainly into the November conference on campus. The BerMUN team sees no problem in reallocating the subsidies accordingly.

5. Aula renovation - update

The aula is the most frequented area on campus. With its by now dangerous electrical equipment, sound and light systems that are insufficient and a bad acoustic the aula badly needs renovation.

Herr Roth and Mr Germann report on the planned activities and their time frame. Since the school will not (at least not for the next two years) move to the Senat, the district has finally started to work on the roof and will work on the ceiling in summer 2014. There is a good team of architect, engineer and technicians and the work is moving on.

Within its costs projection the district will provide the electrical infrastructure, air condition, basic lights and sound, and insulation.

Not covered is a sound and light system for performances on stage, this is where the VEREIN's help is needed.

The problem is that already now decisions have to be made that will later affect installations of technical equipment (which speakers where? LED lights or not? a.s.o.)

Tonight's guest Frau Carola Schild is an expert in acoustics and offers to send an acoustic engineer to school to look at the aula and give recommendations and advice on the equipment (estimates range from 18.000 € to 40.000 €).

The VEREIN very much appreciates this offer and welcomes the initiative to shed some light on the costs that lie ahead. Our supporting member and architect Theodora Schnack-Betow should be part of the meeting.

Herr Roth and Frau Schild will cooperate to fix a date when all involved parties can meet.

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6. Security

A JFKS family has offered a donation of 2.500 € for security measures on school campus if the VEREIN is willing to contribute the same amount.

Herr Roth reports that nowadays thefts are quite common and again and again there are people on campus who don't belong there. The latest theft happened during fall break very early in the morning shortly after the first janitor on campus had turned out the alarm.

A group of board members (Wendy Rohrbacher, Vanessa Hansen and Tony Laszlo Vörös) will meet with two security experts (parents at the school) to find out about the best security measures for the school.

7. Committee reports

PR team

The Fun Run was very successful, exact numbers will follow.

The team has already launched the "tree project", because winter is advancing the planting of a new tree should take place as soon as possible. 10.000 € (+ 1.000 € Mr Kelly's donation) are estimated for this project, besides the tree itself it comprises a square bench, a drainage to facilitate the watering of the tree and a protective grid around the tree.

request management

James Bell and Susanne Vogel-Küntzle revised the draft of the guidelines for financial support for class trips. The new version is approved unanimously (see attachment).

locker management

Katharine Doeringer reports that the locker allocation is completed and Mr Anderson and Ms Lopocz are happy with the new system.

SC representatives have some comments and criticism. The locker team is open for discussion and suggests attending a SC meeting to explain their policy.

Tony Laszlo Vörös is now managing the VEREIN's facebook account.

8. Finanzamt - new letterhead

A new version of the VEREIN's letterhead has been sent to the Finanzamt to meet their criticism. Report will follow as soon as there is an answer from the Finanzamt.

Meeting ends at 9.40 pm

Next meeting on Thursday, **November 14th**