

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, October 25, 2017 at: John-F. Kennedy-School, Teltower Damm 87-93, 14167, Filmroom GR117

Present were:

Board: Wendy Rohrbacher, Vanessa Hansen, Melissa Cattarius, Theresa Helou, Fionnuala Hoffmann, Tracey Tober, Vinh Pham-Beinold, Marion Patt, Sabine Widmaier, Klaus Hentges

Representing School Administration: Mr. Brian Salzar, HS American Principal.

Also present: Buck Chisolm, Susan Brown, Andreas Gleitze, Marion Greeves, Katrin Lührs, Juliet Reichert, Clara Maxwell, Nelly Heidbrink, Kristin Winkler, Michelle Charter

Meeting opened at 19:01 by chair Wendy Rohrbacher.

1.) Student Council Reps introduce themselves. Juliette and Clara.

2.) Approval of agenda

- Agenda is amended to add to projects and miscellaneous and approved.

2.) Approval of minutes - of meeting September, 2017

- Minutes approved.

3) Principal's Notes – Mr. Brian Salzar

He was voted the new Managing director and will represent the principals at the Verein meetings. HS prelim report cards coming out Friday. Lockdown drill will begin soon, week after break on Nov 8th. An email was sent out to all parents today pertaining to this. American families used to this, the German families are not. Children are being prepped on what to do. Drills will last 10 minutes max.

High End media lab with iMacs, Photoshop Suit, etc... planned. Haywire/English dept working together to get a cost estimate together. Hopefully will have this up and running within 12 months. Would be for the entire school, ES & HS.

A big thank you to the Verein for the Fun Run Fundraiser, esp. to Wendy for her hard work. A new idea to tweak the Fun Run so the HS is better involved or have a different Fundraiser is an interest.

4.) Projects:

- 1) Fun Run Update - Wendy Rohrbacher. Mudcracker would like a ES & HS number breakdown. Pizza parties have been given. 31,000€ so far has come in from the sponsors.
- 2) Buchhaltung Update - Andreas Gleitze. Membership list difficulties. Verein may no longer receive student lists from the school. Problem was the parents allowing the school to give the Verein their information and keeping up with how many of children in a family still attend the school and to charge the appropriate fees. Fionnuala mentioned having only one membership fee no matter how many children, a flat fee. Since membership fee hasn't been raised in many years, perhaps this is a good time (Andreas)?
Mr. Salzar said: No more book fees in 2 years. Berlin will give the school the money for this so the parents no longer have to pay book fees.
Verein member list should be updated by this weekend.
- 3) Garden Day Update - Tracey Tober. Was successful. Around 100 people came to help.
- 4) School Shop – Melissa Cattarius. Sabine Widmaier and Marion Greeves stepping down officially, they will still help until end of the school year when needed. Isabel Cerdan is new to the team and will take over Sabine's design responsibilities. New items shown.
- 5) Justin Memorial Fund - Vanessa Hansen. Benches put up in September last year. Haus Reil will receive funds to train faculty to recognize depression and symptoms of troubles in mental health of students.
- 6) Membership Drive – Buck Chisolm & Fionnuala Hoffmann. Update of Membership Drive meeting the previous week. Issues include confusion between Verein and Friendship Center, PC, etc... Should the name and logo be changed? Theresa working on Informatic to show differences between all groups associated with the school. Theresa will bring this to next meeting Nov. 22. Website needs to be updated regularly. Option for parents to pay membership online would be great. Changing the membership flier online so parents can do this – needs to be added to the website. Perhaps a Correspondance Committee would help Andreas in communication with new members and keep old members also updated with their membership. Welcome to the Verein Email needs to be improved. Access to the Verein webpage from the JFKS webpage needs more transparency. Paypal link possible? Supply Kits use PayPal. FB widely used, but not everyone has FB – how can we communicate in combination with the PN and give Verein overview with each PN. Should all Verein members be invited to each meeting?
- 7) Locker Committee. Buck Chisolm & Kristin Winkler. 3rd floor senior lockers are extremely old and need replacing. They are getting quotes and would like to ask the Verein for financial assistance – 10,000€ approximately will be needed. Lockers are funded by the Verein. Could we sell the old ones as vintage lockers(Klaus)?? Ask sports club if they want them(Buck)?? Need 3 quotes.
- 8) Thank You Reception - Wendy Rohrbacher. Should it take place? How can we change it so parents, sponsors and teachers come. BBQ in May/June. Annual Party maybe better name as Thank You Reception? It was decided to keep the reception and form a committee. Tracey and Vanessa will head the committee.
- 9) Christmas Party. December 13. Potluck. Host – Nelly & Fionnuala options.

5.) Requests

- 1) BERMUN – signposts to guide visitors around school campus. 523,24€ requested. Could be used for other school events. Vote: 7 in favour, 3 abstain.
- 2) Student of the Month/Teacher of the Year. Mr. Krupski. 100€ every 3 months requested for gift cards to give the winners. A lot of disagreement with any kind of monetary reinforcement. Perhaps a certificate as praise, but nothing monetary. Vote: 10 against

6.) Miscellaneous

- School jacket. Mr. Jones wants to have this jacket which has been in Haus Reil for many years. Could this be auctioned off? Auction it at the Thank You Reception. Vote: 3 yes, 5 not in favour, 2 abstain.
- Mudcracker interview with the EXCO Committee about the Verein.
- Webpage needs to be updated. Melissa will talk to Katja.
- ES Lesung. 270€ requested. Salah Naoura would be guest speaker. Vote: Yes 10.
- Lacrosse Team request. Trip fund request. 2239€ is total cost of their trip, how much would Verein be willing to contribute to their trips? Sports clubs are separate from the school. Verein would support Sports Dept with Tshirts for students representing the school at sport events.
- Project List.

Meeting ends at 20:59.