



Verein der Eltern und Freunde  
Berlin

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

der John-F.-Kennedy-Schule zu Berlin e.V.

Society of Parents and Friends

of the John F. Kennedy School Berlin e.V.

## Minutes

Wednesday, October 7, 2020

in the large Aula

**Board present:** Vanessa Hansen, Katrin Drakulic, Buck Chisolm, Eva El-Alfy, John Mask, Jacqui Bespolka, Kerrie Riemer

**Board excused:** Theresa Helou (Vanessa has her proxy), Lynn Brinda (Buck has her proxy), Vinh Pham-Beinhold (Vanessa has her proxy), Lia Rigamonti (John has her proxy)

**Also present:** David Krupski (Acting American Principal), Destiny Hein (Student Council Rep.), Allison Berger, Bellinda Abraham, , Lisa Ward, Jennifer Pedussel Wu, Holly McGee, Jaimee Kenna, Melissa Cattarius, Marc Schröder

Meeting started: 19:02

### 1. Approval of Agenda

*unanimous*

### 2. Approval of Minutes of the last meeting, September 9, 2020

*unanimous*

### 3. Note from the acting American Principal - David Krupski

Asking for the support for the teachers' lunch during BERMUN, when the teachers have a workshop. If approved, David will organize it all with the caterer and take care of it.

The teachers would be very happy/receptive to get coffee and donuts. The Verein is planning to do this on Friday, October 9.

The Verein has received a request from the library and David expresses his support for this. The library gets a lot of financial support from the trust fund, but would be very thankful for any additional funds.

In 2018 Brian Salzer had asked for a new media lab for the HS, which was put on hold. What was asked for in this old request should now be covered by the Digitalpakt. David now thinks that laptops are more important for the HS. The



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Chrome books are great, but limited to Google, so 10-20 laptops would be a great help. The school is well staffed to work with these and maintain them with the present staff. 5-6 years is usually the lifespan. The digital learning committee is meeting on Friday and they should say exactly what they want. Krupski stresses, how much these laptops are needed at the HS.

There is a digital learning committee, which helps to train the teachers. More training needs to be done, we do have the capability to do this, but he is very willing to ask for help if more is needed.

The ES would be interested in Chrome books.

Melissa asks if the school shop could sell to the teachers during BERMUN and the teachers' workshop. David says he has no problem with this. During lunch would be best.

Ski trip for 8th grade is a go ahead at the moment. The school negotiated a very good cancellation policy, which allows cost free cancellation of the buses and the accommodation until a week before the trip.

A question from one parent: at his old school, they bought a lot of Apple products and noticed that a lot of the educational software was written for apple products. David says that he thinks Apple products are a lot more expensive, also the educational software is very expensive and they give very little discounts. He thinks that by now the technological benefit is no longer in relation to the higher price.

He is very thankful for the Verein's financial support with the HS councilor.

#### **4. Report from the President - Vanessa Hansen**

- We have a new interim HS Councilor: Laura Marie Hohm. She will work on a mini-job, paid for through the Verein, until the end of the school year. For grades 10 - 12. She is very qualified. She will try to start online over the break and should physically available during the last week of October. Is from the states. Has a master in education, wants to get back into high school counseling. Theresa Geppard will continue, but will only be available during the weekend.

- Haus Reil renovations planned: new furniture, new paint inside, deep cleaning. Is at a stop at the moment. It seems to be pushed until the summer. The administration will come back to us with an updated request.



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- The Verein Exco had a meeting with the new American ES principal: working with her to find out how the Verein can help, especially when it comes to IT/computer. We had a very nice meeting with her, introduced ourselves and told her that we are happy to help. We mainly talked about how we could help with the technical equipment. We are also waiting for her to come back to us with a clear request.

## 5. Report from Treasurer – Buck Chisolm

a) Account balances as of 7 October 2020:

<b>Sparkasse:</b>	<b>€89,936.13</b>
<b>PayPal:</b>	<b>€ 3,043.47</b>
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>€92,979.16</b>
<b>Total authorized expenses:</b>	<b>€8,361.62</b>
<b>Projected balance after planned outlays:</b>	<b>€84,617.98</b>

b) Uncollected dues 2019-2020 approximately €2,478.00.

c) SEPA-Mandates on 30 October 2020 – 351 drafts to be loaded into account.  
Expected draft €26,325.00.

d) Families not opting for SEPA have been notified by email to make bank transfer by 30 October. Transfers are coming in at a steady pace.

e) Report on membership: Currently membership 751. Projected annual income: €55,350.00 based on current membership.

## Report on lockers

Lockers for the HS were released to student in September. Erin Hale has taken over responsibly for the year. The Locker Committee was extremely pleased with the roll-out this year. Many thanks to all the volunteers who helped again this year!

The locker committee is recommending we advance our previously announced two-year replacement cycle to now be implemented/completed in summer 2021.

- July/August 2021 replacement of 216 lockers on 1st and 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of blue building. Projected replacement cost: €22,469.94.
- A representative of our previous vendor, Spielen & Lernen, will visit the school on 19 November. We will evaluate if we can replace the existing 30 cm wide lockers with larger 35 cm ones (note: the same as installed on the



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3<sup>rd</sup> floor in 2018). The limiting factor is determining if we can find adequate new space for the total 'footprint' the larger locker banks will introduce.

- The quote given above is for 35 cm wide lockers. Presently the Locker Committee is planning that the old locker be scrapped.
- Locker cleaning costs for 2021 should be approximately €436.00 less as the lockers to be replaced will not be cleaned.

## 6. Requests

### - Bookkeeper for the Verein:

The treasurer wants to hire Kasia Kedziora as our Verein bookkeeper, paid for on an hourly basis. The board has been informed that she would work for 15 Euro/hour.

Kasia is already very knowledgeable with our bookkeeping software. The long-term plan is that she should also take over the work with the Verein membership.

Some details, concerning taxes, need to be settled, but asking the board to hire Kasia:

*unanimous*

### - BERMUN request:

Help to fund the keynote speaker, Yashka Mounk, for the opening ceremony. There will be a second speech, which will be streamed, open for all students and parents to join. Jason Ablang put in the request. He found other grants for 2.000 Euros, and is asking for the rest of the fee, 1.000 Euro.

For following years, Jennifer suggests that for keynote speakers should be looked for among academia, instead of speakers who do this for profit.

Asking the board for 1000 Euro:

*unanimous*

### - Request for financial help with the yearbook.

Jennifer is attending the meeting, but unfortunately has no update concerning this. We also inform the Student Council representative, who is present.

We would be happy to make this into a yearly support, but the motion needs to come from the students (Student Council) or teachers. If they form a student club, we can easily give them financial support.

*postponed*

### - Request for help with the ski-trip.

These are regular requests for the annual ski trip of JFKS's 8th grade. The teacher Herr Müller is requesting financial help for renting two vans and for the deposit for the reservation of the accommodation. The latter is usually paid back to the Verein.



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Asking the board for 1.200 Euros for two rental vans:  
and

Asking for 2.700 Euro for the deposit for the reservation of the accommodation:

*unanimous*

**- Verkehrsschule bikes: repairing the 5 damaged bikes**

Short update from Eva: We will get a quote concerning the annual inspection of all the bikes. At the moment 5 bikes are damaged and in need of repair. It is estimated that this will cost 25-30 Euro per bike, and should be done during fall break.

Asking for up to 150 Euro to repair the 5 bikes:

*unanimous*

**- Lunch for the teacher workshop November 19th and 20th**

David Krupski asking for 600 Euro for two days, which is a total of 1.200 Euros:

*unanimous*

**New requests:**

**Science kits for 3rd graders:**

Christina Steel, a 3rd and 5h grade Science teacher. In the teaching of the life-circle she wants to purchase six commercial kits for caterpillars for all third graders

Asking for 154,21 Euro in total

*unanimous*

**Masks for high-risk teachers:**

Lisa Ward asking for masks for high-risk teachers (so far only two but with the possibility to request more if needed). The masks are approximately 7,50 Euro per mask in a pack of two. The Verein purchased the same masks for the secretaries.

Vanessa suggest that we approve for up to 20 masks, when they are requested

Voting for up to 20 masks for 300 Euro

*unanimous*

**High School library**

Michele Keller from the High School library has requested financial support. 200 Euro of donations from the Verein, because they cannot have a book sale during Fun Day, which was cancelled because of Corona.

Vanessa suggests that we should also offer this financial support to the ES library

Asking for 400 Euros all together

*unanimous*



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## 7. Miscellaneous

- Department money for the HS?

The Verein gives class money to the teachers in the ES, which we give every second month. The idea is to offer this also to the HS. Since the homerooms are not as important anymore in HS the idea is to offer this to the departments of the HS. The EXCO will think about how much money would be appropriate and will present this suggestion during the next meeting.

School Shop update:

This has been a difficult year for the Shop, because it is not allowed to open regularly and parents are not allowed in campus. The system we found to deal with this is that you can check online, write an e-mail and then pick up through the open window of the shop on certain days.

Even though this goes well and there is a steady number of sales every week, we have a lot less sales, because so many of the big events have been cancelled and we cannot sell there. Therefore Melissa had brought up the idea to sell during BERMUN.

Another idea is to sell at the last day of school before a break. Now for fall break might be too short notice, but before Christmas and winter break.

Two years ago the Verein started to give to the teachers a Christmas gift. This year we would like to give to the teachers t-shirts, 60th anniversary mug or a 60th anniversary bag.

Student Council:

Destiny, the American Student Council representative to the Verein, introduces herself. We ask her to check with the Student Council if they liked the yard signs that the Verein did for the graduation seniors of the class of 2020.

Suggestion to lower the membership dues

This decision can only be taken at the AGM. Buck explains that he had lobbied for raising the fees to 75 Euros per family, since two years ago the school stopped to give us the data to know if a family has one or more children at the school. Now we have accumulated a lot of funds, and Buck is worried that we might run into problems with the Finanzamt.

Katrin mentions that this is not a good time to have this discussion, because we will not have a fundraiser any time soon, so this is a discussion that should be postponed. It would be better to support the teachers and the school with our funds.

There are several big projects for which we are waiting to hear the final requests: We are waiting for replies from the ES and HS administration to hear what they would request for the technological equipment. The Haus Reil renovations will be supported by the Verein.



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Another parent present also thinks that not only will we not have as many other sources to raise money apart from the membership fees, but that once restrictions are lifted there will probably be a greater need for social events and support in general.

Meeting adjourned: 20:33