



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

Wednesday, August 25th, 2021

in the JFKS Aula

**Present:** Jacqui Bespolka, Buck Chisolm, Kim Douglas, Theresa Helou, John Mask, Kasia Kedziorak, Linh Cundiff, Kirsten Marcus, Nelly Heidebrink, Katy Williams

**Excused:** Katrin Drakulic (Jacqui as proxy), Eva El-Alfy (Abstains from voting), Shannon Callahan (Kim as proxy), Vinh Pham-Beinhold (Jacqui as proxy), Lia Rigamonti (Jacqui as proxy).

**Meeting started: 19:05**

### 1. Approval of Agenda

*10 yes  
1 abstention*

### 2. Approval of Minutes of the last meeting

*10 yes  
1 abstention*

### 3. Note from David Krupski

- a. Unfortunately, David Krupski will not be attending Verein meetings for the foreseeable future.

### 4. Report from the President - Jacqui Bespolka

- a. Verkehrsschule Bikes

The bikes were sent for repairs as needed over the summer. There are just a few more bikes which still require new wheels. We have been in contact with Bob Williams to get them done. We expect them to be done in the next few weeks.

- b. ES Planners

This is the first year where the Verein has taken over the production and sale of school planners for the Elementary School. The Verein ordered 300 copies and have sold 240-250 copies. The remaining copies need to be sold in order to



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break even. The copies which were expected to be sold right away still remain likely due to uncertainty of how to obtain them, the lack of ability to communicate how to obtain them, and also due to complications from on-campus hygiene rules which limit anyone's ability to simply go to the school shop and purchase one. There is a solution offered by the school shop (covered below under School Shop point in "Miscellaneous").

c. Coffee Morning –

Friday, 27th 8-9 am. Flyers were distributed through all EC students and on our notice board. Coffee/tea/snacks will be provided

d. Info Fair –

The Info Fair will probably NOT host a Zoom meeting, but send in link to our Website, unless someone is willing to host or has another idea.

## 5. Report from the Treasurer – Buck Chisolm

### a) Account balances as of 25 August 2021:

Sparkasse:	€ 45,559.43
PayPal:	€ 3,043.47
Totals:	€ 48,602.90
Total authorized expenses:	€17,651.49
Projected balance after planned outlays:	€30,951.41

a. Uncollected dues 2020-2021 €8,550.00. (114 members)

b. Report on membership: Currently membership 774. Projected remaining membership fees for 2021-2020: €56,100.00.

### b) Report on lockers (Kristen Winkler & Buck Chisolm Co-Chairs):

a. Phase II Refurbishment of Lockers:

1. 214 old lockers removed/discarded on 2 July 2021. Small discount for reclaimed scrap value.
2. 216 lockers installed on 6 August (1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> floors blue building).
3. Original contract for €27,928.44 but total (final) outlay of:



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€25,966.61. Saving of €1,961.83 achieved through reduced final unit cost and discounts for prompt payment of invoices.

ii. Locker distribution:

1. The normal Orientation Day for the new 7<sup>th</sup> grade and all first-time students to JFK HS scheduled for 13 August was cancelled.
2. Through careful planning with admin (Thank you Erin Hale) the locker committee was able to organize an 'on the fly' 7<sup>th</sup> grade orientation day the morning of the first day of school (16 August 2021). As of today, all but two (2) 7<sup>th</sup> graders are settled into their lockers.
3. All new students have been processed and only eight (8) are not settled in lockers. We are investigating to see if these students chose NOT to attend.

- iii. Special thanks to the many parent and student volunteers that made our locker rollout a big success. Although saddled with a 'short-fuse' planning window and starting with only two volunteers we were gratified to have an additional nine parents help. Additionally, ten HS 12<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> graders gave up their morning to come for an 8 a.m. start to process the new 7<sup>th</sup> graders.

*Question from Katy Williams:* Will there be lockers coming to the Elementary School?

*Answer from Buck:* We are not sure but suspect that the school is looking into cubby holes.

c) **Letter from Sparkasse**

We were advised that effective July 1<sup>st</sup> the average balance of our various accounts in excess of €100,000 will incur a special assessment of 0.5% pa. For July our Verein, GEV and LMF accounts were charged a total of €33.75. The SAF did not incur a surcharge and we are attempting to understand why. We anticipate a similar monthly drain going forward unless we can obtain an exemption from this misguided regulation.

d) **Tagesspiegel Subscription / Magazine subscriptions**

The verein has cancelled the print edition subscription effective 31 August 2021.



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We will then determine if a final payment is required or a refund is due. Michale K. (HS Library) is seeking to determine if students might welcome/use digital access to this paper.

We continue to investigate some long-term reoccurring bills for magazines (Geo and Art dept). It appears that this was funded in 1999 and investigations are underway to see if since that time the Senat budget provides for such purchases. If we can determine that the Senat is responsible for funding items such as this we get the HS to acknowledge responsibility and no longer fund. In-work.

## 6. Requests

### a. Science Project Tulips - Katy Williams

500 Science students in 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> grade will plant tulips along the ramp. The project will demonstrate to students how flowers grow and the time it takes to develop over the seasons. The total amount requested is €200.

*10 yes*

*1 abstention*

### b. Science Project Decal - Katy Williams

The Science Department area of the school is not clearly marked. Both students and parent visitors alike would benefit from knowing its existence and whereabouts. The total amount requested is €80.

*10 yes*

*1 abstention*

### c. Out of pocket paper and ink - Buck

Over the last four years, Buck has printed numerous documents. Buck is requesting a modest amount of compensation for the expenses Buck has incurred in his volunteer role as Treasurer of the Verein. The total amount requested is €50.

*9 yes*

*2 abstentions*



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d. BERMUN - Jason Lang

BERMUN officers are traveling to an official event which serves both as a preparation for their global BERMUN event at JFKS in November, but also as a chance to present their work up to that point to the Model UN community. The request is for support to cover the cost of travel via bus. The total amount requested is €312.

*10 yes*

*1 abstention*

e. Copy King (Board vote held on 19.08.21)

Flyers and posters were printed at a copy shop in order to create awareness about the Verein in the school. This is a Verein initiative. The total cost of this request is €180.88.

*10 yes*

*1 abstention*

f. Music Department (Board vote held on 19.08.21)

The Music Department exceeded their standing annual Verein financial allocation of €3000 for instrument repairs by €222.54. This overrun was requested to be paid for by the Verein.

*10 yes*

*1 abstention*

## 7. Miscellaneous

- a. The Verein Cabinets need to be moved to the basement of the school. Jacqui proposed that there are three options to discuss amongst the membership body: a) volunteers from the Verein membership can move the cabinets, b) The Verein can ask (and compensate) the Hausmeisters to move the cabinets, or c) The Verein can pay small private moving company to move the cabinets. The resounding conclusion was that the Hausmeisters should be asked to move the cabinets. All agreed there should be an informal compensation for this action.
- b. The School Shop is ready to open! Through the use of an App called Calendy, those wanting to purchase and pick-up items from the school shop can schedule an appointment to come on campus for pick-up without violating any



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hygiene restrictions (e.g. too many people in the shop at once). The school shop will be open on September 1<sup>st</sup> from 8.00-9.30am and 2.00-3.30pm.

- c. The School Shop is in need of a graphic designer. Our previous graphic designer from a few years ago has indicated interest. The membership body discussed and concluded that this would be an ideal candidate to fill the need. She will be paid, and payment will occur via direct invoice (i.e. not pauschal).

**Meeting adjourned: 19:49**