



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, September 22nd, 2021

in the JFKS Aula

Present: Jacqui Bespolka, Buck Chisolm, Lia Rigamonti, Kim Douglas, Theresa Helou, John Mask, Eva El-Alfy, Vinh Pham-Beinhold, Thomas Rudert, Simon Russell, Lisa Ward, Nathalia Hansel, Robert Erlbaum, Diana Day, Clemens Schmidt.

Excused: Kasia Kedziora (abstains from voting), Shannon Callahan (proxy is Kim), Katrin Drakulic (proxy is Buck)

Meeting started: 19:02

1. Approval of Agenda

10 yes
1 abstention

2. Approval of Minutes of the last meeting

10 yes
1 abstention

3. Report from the President - Jacqui Bespolka

a. Cabinet Move

The Verein cabinets were moved to the school basement, The Verein has the keys for convenient excess and paid 70 Euros to movers and Hausmeister as trinkgeld.

b. Verein Coffee Morning

Last Friday, some parents turned up, but not as many as hoped. The short notice and lack of advertising was probably the reason. Need to get the word out sooner.

Question: Would it be possible to find a more agreeable time for working parents to join?

Answer: This is something the Verein will consider in its planning for the next



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coffee morning.

Question: Would it help draw more parents to the events if there were a clearly defined purpose of the Coffee Morning, as opposed to simply getting together for coffee?

Answer: This is what was done. This past coffee morning was planned so that the Parent Council Board could introduce themselves and their roles in advance of the PCB Election night the following Tuesday. The missed opportunity was that the Verein did not advertise this well enough, but the purpose was defined.

c. ES Planners

ES Planners are now going on sale at School Shop at 5 euros/copy

d. Gas cylinders

We returned 3 empty cylinders to OBI and 3 full canisters were stored at the All Saints church on Hüttenweg (not a permanent solution). These gas canisters were previously being stored on school grounds but the Verein was unaware that these items were property of the Verein.

Suggestion: Verein should conduct inventory of all items for which the Verein is responsible in order to maintain accountability and oversight.

- e. Suggest Board to meet to discuss potential Fundraising/Community Engagement ideas. Members of the Verein are welcome to submit their suggestions as well. The point of an event is not simply to raise money – although this is useful. The point is to bring the community together. This is why especially now, despite the lingering restrictions, it is so important to have an event for the community.



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4. Report from the Treasurer – Buck Chisolm

a) Account balances as of 22 September 2021:

Sparkasse:	€ 56,068.27
PayPal:	€ 3,043.47
Totals:	€ 59,111.74
Total authorized expenses:	€15,305.02
Projected balance after planned outlays:	€43,806.72

b) Report on membership: Currently membership 761 (15 of which are non-paying members). Projected remaining membership fees for 2021-2020: €48,675.00.

c) Preparation continues for our SEPA-Mandate deductions on 29 October.

- Proofing of banking SEPA setup with nine members will be drafted on 30 September.
- This year we currently have 403 families (53%) choosing the SEPA-mandate option.
- The remaining 347 families have been asked to pay by manual transfer in September.

d) Donations:

- Class 07e (last year) donated €15 remaining in class funds.
- The graduating class of 2021 donated €361.10.
- We are due to receive a refund from the Tagesspiegel for €671.62 for the, now, canceled print subscription.



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5. Requests

- a. Grundschule Lehrerzimmer (ES Teacher's Lounge) – Request is postponed to October meeting

- b. 8th/9th Grade Ski Trip

The 8th Grade Request is for €2.700 for incidentals plus €1.300 for rental cars for two weeks, of which the Verein will traditionally receive reimbursement of the €2.700 incidentals costs. .Total costs for 8th Grade: €4.000 (€1.300 after reimbursement)

The 9th Grade Request is for €1.800 for incidentals plus €650 for rental cars for one week, of which the Verein will traditionally receive reimbursement of the €1.800 incidentals costs. .Total costs for 9th Grade: €2.450 (€650 after reimbursement)

Question: Does the Verein have a credit card?

Answer: No. The costs and management of a credit card outweigh the benefits, as a credit card would only be helpful 1-3 times per year.

*10 yes
1 abstention*

- c. Coffee morning expenses of €75

Approved by ExCo on 14.09.

- d. Teacher appreciation morning ES/HS (€250)

*10 yes
1 abstention*

6. Miscellaneous

- a. Student Council (SC) Representatives to the Verein – the SC representatives to the Verein introduced themselves: Nathalia Hansel (9th Grade) and Clemens



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Schmidt (7th Grade). Welcome Nathalia and Clemens!

- b. Fundraiser / Community Event Suggestions. The Verein President called for suggestions. Several suggestions were made:
 - i. Book-a-thon / Read-a-thon – The students can receive sponsoring from parents and friends for the number of books they read. Some of the proceeds can then fund the class libraries of the ES.
 - ii. Walk-a-thon – The students can receive sponsoring from parents and friends for the number of kilometers then walk or ride their bikes to school.
 - iii. A Facebook Event would be an ideal digital option for holding any community events without having to deal with contact restrictions.

The President thanked everyone for their suggestions and provided clarification that what JFKS needs right now is the feeling of being part of an amazing community. The need we have at present is to come together. See one another and meet our community members. While this is a challenge given the restrictions at the moment, this is a challenge the Verein wants to take seriously and give the community something positive that brings the families of JFKS closer together.

Board members will meet after the meeting to discuss this further.

- c. Formation of a Membership Committee.

The Verein offers a lot to the entire school – especially in a pre-pandemic world: Fun Run, Fun Day, Spooktacular, and the Flea Market just to name a few school-wide events. Additionally, the Verein spends annually in nearly equal amounts to initiatives for the Elementary School (ES) and the High School (HS); however, Verein membership between ES and HS is not equal. Currently, the Verein has 761 members out of an estimated 1,025 families at JFKS (Note: membership is paid by family, not by student). The 250+ non-member families at the school are almost entirely ES families. The question posed is: What can the Verein offer to the ES families in order to encourage engagement with the Verein? A suggestion was made to form a membership committee with the purpose of identifying how to obtain more Verein membership amongst the ES family demographic.

Buck Chisolm, Eva El-Alfy, Simon Russell, and Diana Day volunteered to form such a committee.

It was suggested that the Student Council representatives to the Verein also be part of the Membership Committee in order to help with solutions and also to



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learn about the process of managing a member-based organization.

d. JFKS School Shop Update (Kim Douglass)

- i. Using the Calendly to manage appointments for pick-up of school shop purchases, sales have increased because parents can now easily comply with restrictions on the number of people allowed in the school shop at one time.
- ii. In the month from mid-August to mid-September, the school shop had sales of over €1.500.
- iii. On the day of the Einschulung, the school shop sold over €1.000 of JFKS clothing and supplies. This is in addition to the regular sales mentioned above of €1.500.
- iv. Currently, there is water damage to the ceiling in the JFKS School Shop. The repairs will be completed during Fall Break (October 11-22). Unfortunately, the Verein will need to box up everything in the shop so that the Hausmeisters can relocate it to another area (keeping these items dust-free). Moving boxes will be provided, but Kim **needs 2-3 volunteers to help box everything up on Friday morning, October 8th**. She'll send a reminder closer to the date, but please contact her if you wish to volunteer. If we start at 8:00, it shouldn't take more than 90 minutes-2 hours.
- v. The School Shop update will be added to the regular agenda for future meetings.

e. 2020 Harz Klassenfahrt

Clemens Schmidt (SC) raised the point that the current 7th Grade class was not able to experience the JFKS tradition of traveling to the Harz. The question was posed whether the Verein would support a portion of the costs if the class was to organize the trip with the teachers.

The Verein Board all responded that this would definitely be supported in some way and pointed to the example of the support being given to the 9th Grade to make-up their missed Ski Trip due to the lockdown in the previous year.

Meeting adjourned: 20:10



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