



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, December 15th, 2021

via Zoom Call

Board Members Present: Jacqui Bespolka, Lia Rigamonti, John Mask, Katrin Drakulic, Eva El-Alfy, Theresa Helou, Kim Douglass,

Board Members Excused: Shannon Callahan, Vinh Pham-Beinhold, Kasia Kedzior

Members Present: Lisa Ward, Nelly Heidbrink, Erin Hale, Fionnuala Hoffmann, Antje Pflugbeil, Becca Treptow, Clemens Schmid

Meeting started: 19:08

1. Approval of Agenda

8 *yes*
2 *abstention*

2. Approval of Minutes of the last meeting

7 *yes*
3 *abstention*

3. Report from the President - Jacqui Bespolka

a. Operation Santa!!

A BIG thank you to ALL Verein Board Elves in making Operation Santa a success! With special thanks to Lisa Ward for helping us procure 1800 chocolate Santas in less than 1 week that were distributed to ALL of students, both ES and HS. Laura Martinez-Fonts, Belinda Abraham and our wonderful Board members for their lovely homemade cookies that we put out for our Teacher's Appreciation Friday. Our Board Elves also delivered small holiday gifts to all teachers and administration staff. They were very much appreciated.

I am grateful that the Verein and all its members were able to contribute in this way.



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b. Buck Chisolm's sudden passing

It is with a very heavy heart for me to inform you of the passing of our wonderful Treasurer Buck Chisolm. He has been such a huge presence in our JFK community for more than a decade, from baseball, Boy Scouts, the Verein and much much more. As Treasurer of the Verein, he has turned this organisation around that we now have the ability to meet our basic financial commitment to our students and school without major fundraising - this was certainly put to test these past 2 years. The Verein will miss our hardworking and meticulous Treasurer, a friend that's always there at a heartbeat.

c. Student Council

Clemens Schmid – I too will miss Buck a lot. He was really nice to me and at the first meetings he said a lot of nice things to me. I will miss him.

7th Graders would like a party at the end of the year. They would like to go to a Strandbad/Beach for which they would need funding. We are working out the basic requirements for that.

d. Notes from Erin Hale

I would also like to extend my condolences to the Verein and greater community from the school administration. Our hearts go out to Astrid and Conrad at this time. We are doing everything we can to ensure that Astrid and Conrad have the support that they need.

Thank you for Operation Santa. We were thrilled about the thoughtfulness of the gifts. Teachers always appreciate receiving materials that are used a lot. The white board markers were a hit. Your efforts are greatly appreciated.

Update on the Spider Web:

A new liaison for BIM has indicated that it is possible for an external organization like the Verein to replace the Spider Web. The Spider Web has been closed for a month and a half due to being deemed as irreparable. The timeline for replacement is long.

Q: Would the Verein be reimbursed? A: To Erin's knowledge, no.

EE: This is likely a large project. If the administration would submit a request, then the Verein consider it.

JM: The Verein usually only considers funding requests after their responsible authority has exhausted funds or does not have the funds to support such a request. In the case of the Spider Web, the responsible authority is either the Bezirk or the Senat.

ES Lockers:



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The Senat has indicated that money has been given for the ES to receive lockers. 540 lockers will be installed for grades 3-6 in spring 2022. Then an additional 330 will be installed in fall of 2022. There will be no locks on the lockers. The lockers will be paid through the Senat. The funding from the Senat includes yearly cleaning and yearly maintenance. A company has been identified by the Senat for cleaning and maintenance and is expensive. The maintenance will not initially be large as they will be new. There will be an initial funding need for cleaning and not maintenance.

EE: We should bring this information to the attention of the Locker Committee – Kristen Winkler.

JB: The Senate legally owns these lockers as they are providing the funding for their initial installation. For example, The Verein actually owns the HS lockers. There are open questions about who is responsible for the costs of lockers in the ES.

Update on Haus Reil:

Renovation of Haus Reil is ongoing. The anticipated finish date is August 15th. These renovations should remain effective for over 30 years. This renovation has really addressed some long-term issues and is very much appreciated. The administration would like to know if the Verein would be willing to purchase the other furniture that is needed. The administration would like to highlight the wise decision of the Verein to spend extra money for the adjustable desks, as the organization responsible for office safety has enacted a new requirement that anyone with a desk job must have a movable/adjustable desk.

JB: Is there a budget for furniture from the Senat?

EH: The Senat has a preference for renovated buildings to have adequately improved furniture to match. The estimated cost of furniture required for this second purchase of furniture is approximately €4.500.



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4. Report from the Treasurer – *No report due to absence of Treasurer, Buck Chisolm*

5. Report from the JFKS School Shop – Kim Douglass

- a. Today was the last open day before the Xmas break. Most appointments were taken today amounting to around €400 of revenue.
- b. Inventory is running low and that is good. We are ready to order new designs for mugs and t-shirts, hopefully to be ready for this spring.
- c. We just received a new computer – thanks to Buck. Everything we did at the shop seemed to run through Buck. He will be missed dearly.
- d. We have a new credit card machine which has increased our sales.
- e. Melissa has helped me tremendously in my new role. A new volunteer, Cleaia Ramsey, has been instrumental in establishing our new inventory system. Thank you, Cleaia.

6. Requests

- a. From Jason Lang (BERMUN) for purchase of eight T450s notebooks at a cost of not more than €2900.

10 yes
0 no

- b. Holiday decoration replacements and improvements (e.g. wreath replacement) at a cost of up to €200 to be purchased after the holidays at a reduced price.

9 yes
1 Abstention



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7. Miscellaneous

- a. Katrin Drakulic announced her departure. She will continue work on the establishment of the ES teacher's lounge before her departure.
- b. Holiday Decorations: The Verein will reach out to the community for help in putting up the menorah. Should repairs to the menorah be required, the Verein will reach out to Tom Beery. Next year, the teachers should have their students create ornaments for the tree, and then take them home on the last day of school before the December break. The Verein should approach the religious teachers for assistance in decoration setup and timing. Lia Rigamonte and Shannon Callahan will reach out for volunteers in the community about repair of the menorah.

Meeting adjourned: 20:43