



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

Tuesday, December 13th, 2022

The Residence of Jacqui Bespolka, 79a Heimat, 14165 Berlin

Board Members Present: Jacqui Bespolka, Lia Rigamonti, Tanja Maka-Magill, Robert Erlbaum, Lisa Ward, Kim Douglass, Kasia Esteves, John Mask, Eva El-Alfy

Board Members Excused: Vanessa Lestingi (Robert has proxy), Theresa Helou (John has proxy), Shannon Callahan (Kim has proxy)

Members Present: Mark Fritzenschaft, Hollis Vaughen, Tobias Zeller, Debra Fernandes, Laura Martinez-Fonts, Jamie Turner, Vanessa Hansen, Carsten Caspar, Keyo Caspar

Meeting started: 19:21

1. Approval of Agenda

12 yes
0 abstention
0 no

2. Approval of Minutes of the last meeting

Motion was made to post-pone approval of minutes of the last meeting. Motion passed with 12 yes votes.

3. Note from the Administration – Mark Fritzenschaft

- a. The “Legally Blonde” theater performance is amazing. All are encouraged to go see it. Friday and Saturday tickets are still available.
- b. High School is hiring! Interviews are progressing well with American candidates.



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- c. Regarding the question from the last meeting about the existence of a supply closet: I spoke with Carolin Borschel and she confirmed that supplies are available in limited amounts. Anything beyond small amounts of supplies would require the submission of a form for approval. This is an easy process. I recently approved two requests: one for a new set of textbooks and another for workbooks for an AP class which will be funded by the Trust Fund.

VH: I am a first year teacher. I asked if I could receive supplies and was told no. Lots of people don't know about the existence of this supply closet. Is this available for both ES and HS?

MF: Yes. Both ES and HS teachers can make use of this.

JT: In the past we've asked parents to support some of the requirements teachers have for supplies.

LR: Is it true that the Chromebooks are not working?

MF: I haven't heard about that. I have only heard that the Wifi at school isn't working. That may be related.

RE: Can we get a wifi extension to use for our next Verein Meeting in the Aula?

MF: Sure. I can reserve that for you. Just come pick it up.

JB: Any feedback about the mugs for teachers?

MF: Copious amounts of praise!

4. Note from the Student Council – Keyo Caspar

- a. The Student Council has not had any requests.

JB: My suggestion to the SC was to come up with big ideas on how to make Fun Run more interesting for the HS students. If the SC can come up with ideas, this would have a huge impact to enable the Verein to raise money. Fun Run is the biggest fund raiser for the Verein which then has a big impact towards funding projects at the school.

KC: For students, it's more about being with their friends. The more friends that participate the more their friends join and the efforts multiply. That is where we will focus our ideas.



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5. Report from the President – Jacqui Bespolka

- a. Lots of teachers were grateful for the mugs and cookies given by the Verein to the teachers at yesterday's holiday event. It's always nice to receive this feedback, and yesterday we were able to experience the feedback first hand.

EE: Especially for those who stood in the bitter cold all day...

JB: We all do the work. I was glad to see so many of us show up.

- b. We had an internal board meeting last week. This was to iron out kinks amongst the board itself.
- c. The Parent Council Board and the Verein want to work more closely together more often. This event Monday was a great example of how well things work when we combine our efforts.

LM-F: It really felt great working together.

6. Report from the Treasurer – Robert Erlbaum

- a. The bookkeeping is almost done with November only having 2 open items.
- b. SEPA Membership Deductions have been sent to the bank. Members can expect the deductions to occur in the coming days.
- c. A letter needs to be sent out to all members informing them to pay the Verein Dues if they either haven't paid yet or haven't submitted a SEPA form.

CC: How many members are there?

JM: 819.

JT: Is there a way to know which information the Verein maintains for each member? I'd like to be sure my account information is still correct.

RE: The Tuurio App will resolve exactly this question. Once members have signed up on Tuurio, they will be able to see and manage their own data to



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include account information, children's and parents' names, and addresses.

- d. The Sparkasse account for the Verein will be closed by February. As mentioned previously, this bank has been quite troublesome for us to work with so we have switched to Commerzbank. The PCB account and the SAF account – with Lori Cook – will remain with Sparkasse. It would be nice to move the PCB account as well. Laura can you ask the PCB?

LM-F: Yes!

7. Report from the JFKS School Shop – Kim Douglass

- a. The earnings this year for the School Shop are €13.065,00.
- b. We have purchased lost of new inventory. All items are available in the shop.
- c. If you are considering making a purchase, do so now! The prices will be raised in 2023.

8. Requests

- a. Antonio Gonzales – An apple tree and soil for the garden. Total cost of the request €200.

12 yes
0 abstention
0 no

- b. Maria Treu – Funding for the costs of an Annual Meeting for Psychology. Total cost of request is €431,80. Note: The money has already been spent and a refund is requested ex post.

Motion is made to support the request in line with a previous request of a similar nature after the fact. Proposed funding is €130.

11 yes
1 abstention



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0 no

- c. AMIS Honor Choir - - Request for support to fund a trip for the AMIS Choir – a selective program representing JFKS in a positive light. Total cost of request is €3.600 (€200/student for 18 students).

0 yes
3 abstention
9 no

Note: After a discussion, the board concluded that funding should remain available for families in need of financial support. Those families are invited to submit an individual request for funding based on need.

- d. Legally Blonde – Request to fund school mugs for the cast of the school play. Total cost of request is €100.

12 yes
0 abstention
0 no

- e. AMIS Honor Orchestra – Funding request to support a trip for the AMIS Orchestra.

1 yes
1 abstention
10 no

Note: After a discussion, the board concluded that funding should remain available for families in need of financial support. Those families are invited to submit an individual request for funding based on need.

TM-M: Parents should be informed ahead of time about the potential for the Verein to fund students with financial support needs in order to encourage all students to pursue the AMIS program.

- f. Gift for Verein Bookkeeper – Funding request to pay for the gift to the Bookkeeper. Total cost of request is €156.

12 yes
0 abstention
0 no



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9. Miscellaneous

- a. Carsten Caspar: Who went to see Legally Blonde?

JB: The sound was horrible.

Depending upon where the audience is sitting, the microphones and headsets needed to be adjusted, which resulted in a challenging audio situation.

JB: I have heard that the sound system is quite good and that it takes a high level of expertise or experience to operate.

EE: Let's ask Ms. Cook what's needed. This could be either additional/better headsets or simply expertise.

- b. Robert Erlbaum: Many of the Verein forms need to be updated. Can anyone volunteer to help with this?

KD: I'll do it!

Meeting adjourned: 20:46