



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

Oct 16 2024 in person/virtual hybrid meeting

Present: Ben Bowers, Robert Lenk, Carsten Casper, Jacqui Bespolka, Haley Scribner, John Mask, Kim Douglass

Virtually present: Lia Rigamonti

Student: Jonas Bordet

Parent: Jade Keller, Christine White, Puviyarrasan Manickam

Elementary Principal: Angelika Ecke

Moderating: Robert

1. Approval of the Agenda: Robert

Agree: 8

Disagree: 0

Abstentions: 0

Approval of Minutes from last month's meeting: Ben

Agree: 8

Disagree: 0

Abstentions: 0

2. Report from Admin: Angelika Ecke

- This is my first meeting, and I'm happy to see you.
- We need a gas grill for the school. This is very important to our parents. Ben: it's in our requests.
- We'd also like bags of candy to give to guests. Ben: it's also in our requests.
- Our gardening teacher would like two raised garden beds. Is this a request from Rebecca Menzel Ben: Not yet. Please have her fill out a request.
- Thank you for doing the fun run. It was really fun, and I would love more things like this!

3. Report from Student Council: Jonas Bordet

- We have many projects coming up. One is to ask what students want improved in the school; our number one request was water dispensers. We'd like some! One would be in the cafeteria, one on the grounds, and a few others at key positions. John: we've already begun working with Robert Erlbaum and BIM to install these. Angelika: A teacher has found a company that offers this for schools and doesn't cost us anything. Robert: Get us some facts and figures and we'll get it moving. Hayley: I'll help lead this project.

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Fax 030-90299-6377, www.theverein.com, email: info@theverein.com President: Tracey Tober, Vice President: Katrin Drakulic, Treasurer: Buck Chisolm, Secretary: Eva El-Alfy **Bankverbindung: JFKS Verein, Sparkasse, IBAN: DE78 1005 0000 0190 8829 13, BIC/SWIFT: BELADEBEXX**

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- We want to address the vandalism in the bathrooms. We thought about having a janitor speak to the students so they'd know what it really causes. Angelika: There's a program which gives money to decorate schools and get them to stop vandalizing bathrooms.
- We want to create an inter-school dance for middle-schoolers so they can partake in them.
- We want to have an inter-school soccer event again like the last time with the Nelson Mandela school.

#### 4. Fun Run: Jacqui

- We have registered 1400 runners, 6500 laps, and approximate 40,000 EUR of pledges. We've collected 38,000 EUR. We budgeted 10,000 EUR and we spent 10,223 EUR. We made roughly 28,000 EUR. We're very proud of ourselves. We've announced pizza parties, and they'll get it after fall break.
- The T shirts are being handed out today and tomorrow.
- The feedback was very positive and thankful that we brought back the community spirit.

#### 5. Shop Report: Kim

- The first four and a half weeks of the shop being open, we did many events. We've raised 2904 EUR. I've had some great helpers. I also noticed that last year we made just over 2000 EUR, so we have gone up almost 1/3 more.
- We'll have new things in before Christmas, and look forward to more sales.
- For next meeting: Hayley: Can we offer some other objects? Possibly crop tops? *(to be carried forward to the next meeting)*
- Next year will be our 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and I'd like to do something this winter. How about a trivia night? ISTA were not crazy about that, but we can ask to join their event. Somewhere from Feb-Apr would be ideal. Ben and Jacqui volunteer to join the team for this.
- I'd like a discretionary fund of 200 EUR per year so I can handle gifts for teachers, visitors, and guests. John: let's vote on this later.
- I'd like to give tote bags to all teachers. (showed a design) The cost is 5.53 per bag, so I need a budget of 1700 for Christmas gifts for the teachers. **VOTE: 8 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain**

#### 6. Flea Market: Lia

- Last year was my final year of the Flea Market. I've written down everything. I can help answer the emails, but someone else needs to take over.
- Jacqui: Helga Martin is trying to get the administration and stakeholders to do a fun day for

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- Ukrainian concerns. We can consider that a teacher could cooperate with us?
- Ben: I think it's important for community involvement. Even if we scale it back, let's make sure we do it.
  - Jacqui: Let's get the info that you've written down, Lia, and then we'll see if someone wants to take the lead on this event.
  - Kim: let's pick a day. All: We agree to May 18<sup>th</sup>.

#### 7. PCB: Christine

- We're a new board, so we don't have a lot.
- John: yes/no question: would people come if we invite them to meet up? Christine: I think so, yes.
- Robert: Let's focus on building a bridge with the PCB.

#### 8. Budget for 2025: Carsten

- How do we get to a budget for 2025? Let's assemble a committee and meet 3-4 times before next year.
- Jacqui: What do you see as different from the 2024 budget? (A long discussion ensued about what should be involved in the budget, and whether we should have a set budget at all, and what constitutes a necessary cost.)
- John: Carsten's plan is the budget, but it's not intended to be ironclad. We could still change the allocation, but we're not deciding what we'll do with the money; we're indicating what we feel we should.
- Should we set up a finance committee and begin working on a budget for 2025?  
**Yes: 7 No: 0 Abstain: 1**
- Let's gather information about what the Senat funds so we know what we need to fund and what not.

#### 9. Sports Club: Puviy

- We are in an existential crisis, but we're working on moving forward.
- We're going to need money to digitize: probably around 45,000 EUR. We're talking to a number of organizations to get that funding, but we'd like to ask the Verein for whatever we can't get in other places.

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## 10. Requests

The following requests were voted upon:

Proposal 1: Bags full of candy (Bartz, 150 EUR)

yes: 8 no: 0 abstain: 0 *Request approved.*

Proposal 2: Gas Grill (Hoedt, 2000 EUR) (WE WILL BUY)

yes: 8 no: 0 abstain: 0 *Request approved.*

Proposal 3: Sprachhilfe Posters (Amann, 900 EUR) (*we'd like to see the poster before we agree*)

yes: no: abstain:

Proposal 4: Musical instrument repair (Braun, 71.40 EUR)

yes: no: abstain: *This is pre-approved as a part of the budget.*

Proposal 5: ISTA festival pizza (Hoedt, 300 EUR) We approve 300.

yes: 8 no: 0 abstain: 0 *Request approved.*

Proposal 6: Canvasses for third grade art (Barrios, 190.72 plus tax)

yes: 8 no: 0 abstain: 0 *Request approved.*

Proposal 7: Cross Country Pizzas (Mandel, 150 EUR)

yes: 8 no: 0 abstain: 0 *Request approved.*

Proposal 8: AMIS choir travel recoup (Martin, 904.08 EUR)

yes: 7 no: 1 abstain: 0 *Passed under the condition that each family can be reimbursed for a maximum of 200 Eur but not to exceed what they spent.*

Return of Proposal 5 from last month: Speaker event: Art Spiegelmann

yes: 5 no: 3 abstain: 0 *Request approved.*

\* Meeting adjourned\*

To be carried forward to the next meeting:

- Should we offer new products in the Verein shop, including crop tops?
- 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary: we should do an event to celebrate sometime in February-April 2025. Perhaps a trivia night, name that tune, finish the line of the song, etc?

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