



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

Jan 22 2025 in person/virtual hybrid meeting

Present: Ben Bowers, Jacqui Bespolka, Theresa Luss, Kim Douglass, Jean-Marie, Robert Lenk, Carsten Casper,

Virtually present: Lia Rigamonti, John Mask, Haley Scribner

Students:

Auditor: Will Wollbold

Parents: Adam Kesselhaut

Admin/Teachers: Erin Hale, Helge Martin

Moderating: Jean-Marie

1. Approval of the Agenda: Jean-Marie

Change:

Agree: 9

Disagree: 0

Abstentions: 0

Approval of Minutes from last month's meeting: Jean-Marie

Agree: 6

Disagree: 0

Abstentions: 3

2. Report from Admin: Helge Martin and Robert Barz

- Can I add to the agenda the email? Ben: Carsten and I can handle this, we just need the emails to where we need to send the invites.
- Helge: About the Life Bridge event: it's on our calendar as an approved event on May 17th. Kulturelles Fest Der Vielfalt; our school is turning 65 this year! We'd also like to do a charity event for a Berlin-based organization for Ukraine called Life Bridge Ukraine. It's a day when people sell things and offer information, and there's an open mic concert to benefit Ukraine. There would also be thematic rooms with artists, performers, and so forth. We'll try to get a large variety of embassies and cultures involved. We'll also try to get as much organic food as possible, and perhaps a chef who cooks. The student council has agreed to moderate and host. I'd like to have a coffee and cake situation going in the big Aula. It's meant to show people the horror of war, but avoid politics. We'd like: help with stands, cake/coffee, networking, and invites sent out. Ben: Can I ask what you'd like concretely for your request? Theresa: I'd like to get involved, and I've run the last few fun days. I can help

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Fax 030-90299-6377, www.theverein.com, email: info@theverein.com President: Robert Lenk, Vice President: Jacqui Bespolka, Treasurer: Carsten Casper, Secretary: Ben Bowers **Bankverbindung: JFKS Verein, Sparkasse, IBAN: DE78 1005 0000 0190 8829 13, BIC/SWIFT: BELADEBEXX**

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you get organized and get the request organized. Helge: I don't have a request yet, but I'm going to get it to you. Could the Verein handle the organization? Theresa: That's difficult; we're already stretched thin with our time. Jacqui: It would be better if you could give us a ballpark figure in the next request and then we'll move from there. We're low on volunteers. Jean-Marie: Could we get a request with the numbers? Robert: I see synergies here. We'd planned a music festival after this, and there's a lot of politics in this event. I think we'll have better news in the end, but we just can't commit yet. Jean-Marie: We'll have Theresa connect with you, and we'll have another conversation when we get a clearer request.

- Erin: So the Flea Markt won't happen? Robert: We're not happy about it, but we just don't have the time and energy to do everything; it's what had to go.

3. Report from the president: Robert

- I'm interested in bringing the music festival and your cultural festival together. Ben and Jacqui: let's not change our plans in this moment; can we have the info we already have ready?
- Robert: I'm looking at digitizing our processes this year.
- We need recruitment because we're running low of volunteers.
- This year's challenge: how do we get more requests from the Verein?
- We've made a music festival concept to increase community and cooperation within the JFKS. Adam, what's your experience at the school? Adam: I've gotten involved in many projects including Parentship at Haus Reil. I'd like for the school to be the only place where my kids have to go for their schooling and activities...very specifically including music! I'd like to help kids learn to love music. That's why it's important to have a music festival where the kids take responsibility. Robert: We're moving forward and we have started planning for the music festival, but I feel it would cannibalize one festival to have both ours and your cultural festival at the same time. I think we should cooperate. Ben: I feel we should keep this conversation going, but we don't have time to do it now. How about a WhatsApp channel and we talk about it over the days ahead? Helge: I think we can do that. Let's have coffee and discuss next steps. My email is on the bottom of the sheet: helge.martens@jfkbsberlin.org. Robert: I'll get in touch.
- Erin: I'd like to circle back to something: I'm the first chair of the trust fund. The sports club approached us and we had questions. In the time since, we've gotten more information. First, the admin is appreciative of the sports club, so we're concerned about the current situation. We will support them, but we're not sure how yet. Jean-Marie: I thought the trust fund

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couldn't support this, so this is new information. Erin: I have a lot of discretion, but I still need information. We're ready to commit to 1/3 of their request. John: I'm ready to address this. The board has had trouble in the last years. It's not the structure that's the problem; the work load is too high, and there's push-back from one board member against optimizing. Finally, there are new board members. This will reduce the work-load to digitize. (some discussion went on about what the specific request currently is; in the end, we delayed this until later in the meeting.)

4. Report from vice-president: Jacqui

- The quartet didn't happen.
- Kirsten has officially confirmed she'll resign as the head of the locker committee.
- I'll take my name out of the hat for fun day and concentrate on the lockers. I'm also not available for the summer or orientation day.

5. Report from the treasurer: Carsten

- The Verein hasn't filed a tax declaration in 2022 or 2023, and 2024 has also finished. We need to complete this or we'll lose our tax exemption status. We need to do it now. Jacqui: Didn't Robert Erlbaum do that? Carsten: No. There are two options: one, someone learns how to do it in the Linear system now (but not me); two, I can load things into EasyVerein and handle things myself, and then Tilben Schneider and I can do it from EasyVerein. The drawback is: it's all on me. There's a lot of work that needs to be done, and it's going to take me some time to do it. Indirectly related to this: the staff we don't have for the many things we need to do. John: I propose we amend the rules to change one board member to be a vice-treasurer. I'd like that voted on at the AGM. All: great idea. Jacqui: We'll need a draft of that change and then we need to vote on it, and it needs to be out three weeks before the AGM.
- Robert: We need a budget by February of this year.

6. Miscellaneous:

- Back to the sports club...Erin: We got a request for 31,400 Eur today. What's the request? John: this is the current one. Ben: I suggest we have a payment plan, if we agree to fund, that has milestones and payments when they're reached. Erin: We'll support them somehow, but I'm out of time for this meeting. Carsten: I feel it's more important to get people doing things than pay for them. We should worry about the precedent this sets. John: I agree, and I

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do the same thing. Ben: What would be a budget for the first major milestone? Robert: Can they even pay their people? Jean-Marie: We have different break-downs and don't know what will happen with the trust fund. We're waiting for further information. John: I'll amend our request to be 14,000 euros from you, 14,000 from the trust fund, and we'll raise 5,000 ourselves. Puvy will leave all positions in February and then he's eligible for compensation for his work. Robert: I disagree; you need to have an employment contract. John: there will be. Hayley: have we discussed paying only for the platform and not for the work done? Jean-Marie: No. (We were unable to resolve this in the meeting. The next day, the following text was given via Email: "Dear Verein board members, It's time to vote on the sports club request. Included is the most recent summary of the projected costs for your convenience, but also please be aware that John Mask has reduced the amount being requested from the Verein to 14,000 Euro. Furthermore, pertaining to Ben's suggestion of paying when certain goals are reached, after discussing this with sports club members, it's been made clear that they are interested in the suggestion, but that it's their board's prerogative to do this internally or not. We must consider the request before us as it is. THEREFORE... **Will we approve this request and give the Sports Club of the JFKS 14,000 Euros for their digitization? Please reply to all and indicate either Yes, No, or Abstain.**" The vote was passed, and the results are below)

8. Requests

The following requests were voted upon:

Proposal 1 – Spanish Trip to Berlin (Schaefer, 95.31 eur)

yes: 9 no: 0 abstain: 1 *(Request approved)*

Proposal 2 – Thank You for partners (Borschel, 40 coffee cups)

yes: 9 no: 0 abstain: 1 *(Request approved)*

Proposal 3 – Nature Workshop for grade 4 (Ecke, 684 eur)

yes: 10 no: 0 abstain: 0 *(Request approved)*

Proposal 4 – Odyssey of the Mind Tshirts (Hansen, 600 eur)

yes: 8 no: 2 abstain: 0 *(Request approved)*

Proposal 5 – Urinetown microphone rental (Witte, 842.07 eur)

yes: 10 no: 0 abstain: 0 *(Request approved)*

Proposal 6 – ISTA cups (Witte, 290 eur)

yes: 10 no: 0 abstain: 0 *(Request approved)*

Proposal 7 – Sports Club digitization (sports club, 14,000 eur)

yes: x no: x abstain: x *(Voted to vote on this via Email by Friday)*

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yes: 8 no: 2 abstain: 1 (*Vote was conducted on Jan 24 via email; request approved*)
* Meeting adjourned*

To be carried forward to the next meeting:

- Request to support ES recess kids with toy boxes (from Candace O'Connor)

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