



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

Nov 20 2024 in person/virtual hybrid meeting

Present: Ben Bowers, Carsten Casper, Jacqui Bepolka, Theresa Luss, Kim Douglass, Jean-Marie

Virtually present: John Mask, Robert Lenk, Lia Rigamonti

Students: Millie Dayland, Naomi Gross

Parents: Jade Keller,

Admin/Teachers: Erin Hale,

Moderating: Carsten

1. Approval of the Agenda: Carsten

Change: moving report from the admin to after approval of minutes

Agree: 8

Disagree: 0

Abstentions: 1

Approval of Minutes from last month's meeting: Ben

Agree: 5

Disagree: 0

Abstentions: 4

2. Report from Admin: Erin Hale

- We have a request for Courage Week on 27-31 Jan: admin wants to support this and it fits with our schedule. We would love to have your support with this topic. Jacqui: would this be an annual request? Erin: yes, ideally. Jade: We'd like to look at making this regular and work together long-term to create a process in the future. Erin: We did it last year, and had a rapper who came and presented for the 9th/10th graders about antisemitism. This supports 1st through 12th grades. Jacqui: Do the lunch and snacks support everybody? Jade: It's for everyone who is interested. Jacqui: Does that look like an open-ended cost? Erin: Yes. We're looking at affordable options for catering and snacks. Jacqui: There's another large cost for Demokratie Mobil, what is it? Jade: It's a bus, and each workshop is 100 Eur, which is 5 workshops for each of grades 4, 5, and 6. That's 15 total workshops. Carsten: I think it's well-organized and for a good cause. Ben: I agree. Can we add it to the vote at the end? All: Yes. Carsten: We'll vote later. Please continue Erin.
- I have a request to support elementary school recess with boxes of outdoor toys from Candace O'Connor. (Gave request to us)

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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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- Where are we on the water fountains? Robert: We're asking many people; Mr. Bartz is in the lead, and Haley is also involved. If a request comes to the Verein, we can vote on that in maybe 2025 in the second quarter. Erin: This would be something like a subscription, so could that be supported? Carsten: We're making a budget now, so it's possible. Can we have the numbers? Erin: Maybe 4000 EUR per year for one machine. Carsten: how many machines? Erin: 4. Ben: So 16000 EUR per year is the request? Carsten: that's a lot. Erin: if the student council asks, can we keep the message that we're waiting for info from Herr Bartz.
- The course trips: do you know what's happening? All: yes, the senate has cut the funding. Erin: We in admin would like to use an all-or-nothing approach, so we want to ask if the Verein is able to fund the teacher portion. Robert Barz said between 5k and 10k euros per year. Ben: I did a movie night last Friday and we raised about 1k Eur. When we've funded our trip with a monthly movie night, I'm ready to pass it on to other groups. Jean-Marie: Who do we ask about policy reasons? Erin: Me. We're dealing with questions and want to reassure the teachers.
- Flea Market: We feel May 11 is our first choice, May 25 is our second, June 15th third choice. Kim: May 11 is Mother's day, so no. *(After some discussion, we selected May 25th.)*
- I'd like to openly give my support to the feminist initiative.
- Jacqui: Can we set our meeting here in the calendar instead of the Aula please?
- Theresa: What about the posters of Bloom's Taxonomy? Erin: It's part of our Sprachbuilding which aligns with the strategic action plan. Bilingually we need to have posters in classrooms. Theresa: To what end? Erin: To have a visual anchor to support higher-level thinking skills in two languages. Carsten: Do the teachers support it or is it at the behest of just one person? Erin: It's part of admin's five-year action plan, and this is the first point. Jacqui: Why does it need to be in every classroom? Carsten: We support school initiatives and don't make value judgements. You've made it clear that this does, so that's all I need.

3. Report from the president: Robert

- I talked with Mr. Bartz last week, and discussed infrastructural decisions like the water dispensers. Are we the ones pushing this or is there another initiative? About funding, he's open. I've connected him with Haley to discuss this. The monthly price is variable, so we should find a cheaper supplier.
- The music festival on June 21st is officially approved and will appear in the calendar. We are limited in that we need to get people brought on campus to be checked, and we're

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responsible for them. Carsten: Is there a group to plan this? Robert: not yet, but we can kick it off now. Let's try to find volunteers from other than the board.

- We have a green light for the Air Quality Plan. We can bring people on campus and get security checks for them.
- We discussed the letter from the Senat and things don't look like they'll change soon, so we should prepare to pay 5k-10k Eur for the current school year's trips. We should also prepare for future years, and I think we should approve a budget for this today if possible. Carsten: We have different numbers when discussing this, but about what year are we discussing? Robert: 5K-10K EUR is until June 2025. 20K EUR is the total amount for a running school year, not a fiscal year. Also, parents can sponsor teachers on their own as long as it passes through the Verein. I've checked and it's perfectly legal.

4. Report from Treasurer: Carsten Casper

- I will try to share my screen. We have 118,300.00 Eur right now in our accounts, and we're roughly on-budget for many things. I think we'll enter next year with about 100K Eur.
- The budget work hasn't taken off, but I'm glad we've gotten new information and we'll get going.
- Jacqui: In Jan of 2025 there's a change in taxation, and the school will no longer be an NFP. Do you know how it will affect the school? Carsten: We believe this is a non-issue or something we can work around. Ben: Why not? Robert: There's no fundamental change. Ben: So the school is no longer an NFP but we still are? Erin: Yes. Robert: We're not who they're targeting. We're much smaller than the big Vereins, so nobody will come check our burger sales. Jacqui: If you're sure, then fine, but I'm not convinced. Robert: We can have a 1-hour virtual call with a professional lawyer. Should I book this? All: yes.

5. Report from the shop: Kim Douglass

- Here are the bags for Christmas. They were 4.65 per teacher. I was under-budget, so I'd like to also get Milka snowmen and add to the cost, making it 7.50 per teacher. I'd like 220 EUR to make that happen. Carsten: Let's vote later at voting.
- I'd like to do a budget for the 60th anniversary of the Verein in February or later, and we can do a quiz night as long as it's different from what the ISTA. We can make it a fund-raiser or not. I'll make a plan and we can discuss it next week.

6. Feminist Initiative: Millie and Naomi

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- We'd like to get tampon dispensers and we got approval for the hausmeister. There are a few options, and we have large and small dispensers. It would cost between 210 EUR per quarter, or 1040 per year. We can get a 10% discount if we're regular customers. We'll refill them once a week. Carsten: from where do these numbers come? Both: the website. The first dispenser comes filled. Jean-Marie: How will this work exactly? Naomi: It's best if it goes through you. Erin: Are we locked into one contract or can we adjust it? Millie: We'll find out. Carsten: Why are we supporting this? Both: It's for emergencies, not daily use.

7. Website update:

- Haley and I have a guideline put together. It's essentially a call for volunteers and from there we can develop the plan further. We want to make it easier for people to find out what the Verein does but also collect donations if possible. We have a timeline and a short-term low-budget plan to keep what we've got and make it prettier. On a longer timeline we can really revamp it. Carsten: what are the prices? John: About 3000 Eur to make it look better. For the long-term solution we'll need more planning and prioritizing to make our goal and budget clear. Carsten: What can we do today? John: It's just an update, and we need volunteers. Jean-Marie: let's figure out a priority level and then determine next steps.

8. Fun Run final report: Jacqui

- We had a post-meeting, but I might need some help to load up documents on the google drive so the next fun run will be easier. That's it!

9. Vice-President's Report: Jacqui

- Thanks to Carsten for realizing the Verein's goal of digitizing both membership and documentation, so less to no paperwork and manual filing. As soon as other board members start their rotation to be responsible for info@, I would like to focus on managing and planning our event/social calendar for current and future boards. Therefore, I feel it is time for me to move away from the back office responsibilities to focus on organising social events (like coffee morning) sometime in December at a local coffee shop? It'll only cost us time.
- I'd also like to propose lunches for parents. It also won't cost us money, just time.
- When should we do holiday cheer? Kim: We'll pick a date.
- We should make a budget for the religion department who will take over the decoration of the Christmas tree. They want 100 Eur. It should go into the annual budget.

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- At the last ExCo meeting we discussed a rotation for the Info@ box. I'd like to get someone else to do that.
- Ehrenamtspauschale: because the AQAP is approved, we should use it for that. I would also like to include that we put Kim on that for her design work.
- Carsten: This list is going to take too long. Jean-Marie: let's get a list and deal with these items before the next meeting. Kim: Let's discuss that in chat.

10: Miscellaneous

- Will there be a Christmas potluck? (We're not sure, so we'll discuss in chat.)

11. Requests

The following requests were voted upon:

Proposal 1 – Tampons Machines at the behest of the Feminist Initiative (Gross, 137.39 EUR/month until the end of the school year)

yes: 9 no: 0 abstain: 0 *(Request Approved)*

Proposal 2 – Franco-German relations (Schlicht, 1150 EUR)

yes: 7 no: 1 abstain: 1 *(Request Approved)*

Proposal 3 – New Dishwasher (Witte, 100.94 EUR)

yes: 9 no: 0 abstain: 0 *(Request Approved)*

Proposal 4 – Ski Trip (Nagel, 5000 EUR, 3000 of which will return after the trip.)

yes: 9 no: 0 abstain: 0 *(Request Approved)*

Proposal 5 – Courage Week (McClintok, 4400 EUR for sweatshirts)

yes: 8 no: 0 abstain: 1 *(Request Approved)*

Proposal 6 – Sprachhilfe posters for all teachers (Amann, 900 EUR)

yes: 8 no: 2 abstain: 0 *(Proposal modified as follows: We will buy 10 posters first, then buy more only as requested by the teachers. Following that adjustment, vote completed via WhatsApp. Proposal Approved under these conditions)*

Proposal 7 – Christmas gifts for teachers (Douglass, 220 EUR)

yes: 9 no: 0 abstain: 0 *(Request Approved)*

Proposal 8 – Christmas Tree (McClintok, 100 EUR)

yes: 9 no: 0 abstain: 0 *(Request Approved)*

* Meeting adjourned*

To be carried forward to the next meeting:

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- Flea Market on May 25th
- We should create a budget/plan for an event for the 60th anniversary of the Verein in February or later.
- Request to support ES recess kids with toy boxes (from Candace O'Connor)

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