



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

Feb 19 2025 virtual meeting

Virtually present: Ben Bowers, Haley Scribner, Carsten Casper, John Mask, Eva El-Alfy, Kim Douglass,

Virtually present: Lia Rigamotti, Robert Lenk

Students:

Parents: Steven Hoffman,

Admin/Teachers: Sarah Martin, Helge Marten

Moderating: Haley

1. Approval of the Agenda: Ben

Change:

Agree: 8

Disagree: 0

Abstentions: 0

Approval of Minutes from last month's meeting: (postponed to Friday, Ben will carry it out)

Agree: 7

Disagree: 0

Abstentions: 1

2. Cultural Festival: Helge Marten

- We've got a big event growing! The elementary art show planned for June 2nd is going to move it to this event, so we'll have another 500 people on campus. We're working hard on getting the mayor of Berlin and/or the senator for education to come. We're hopeful! Also, Frau August from the Embassy is interested in joining as well, and also a representative from the Ukrainian embassy too. I know there's a discussion about how to keep the politics out of our event, but there's also the ongoing issues about Ukraine and diversity. The goal is to get students involved. We've got a growing list for people to register to help, and the stands are ordered. We're heading in the right direction to have a great event to celebrate 65 years of JFKS and show the school who we are.
- There's interest in doing a documentary, and they might take some footage to use at our event.
- We're looking at acting, photography, and film as parts of the performing art at the event. We're in contact with the Ukrainian embassy about it.

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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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- Adam Kesselhaut is getting involved.
- It's going to be awesome! Therefore, we're open to any questions and we're looking forward to your support. The more people we talk to, the more connections we can make, and then the better it will be.
- Haley: I know the HS art department is having their art show the following weekend. I'm happy to give them your contact info. Helge: I'm in contact with single teachers so far, but I'm not aware of that yet. That would be helpful, thank you!
- Eva: Has it been in the news letter? Helge: Yes, but only once. I'll get it in again.
- Carsten: You have a lot of contacts in the community, right? Is there a place to go to and get the information in writing? Helge: It's planned, but we're still working on the official invitations to the officials, diplomats, and so on. Haley: When you have that, please share it with us so we can share it around.
- Robert: We in the Verein are organizing the stages all over the event. We are giving out time slots now. Please forward everybody who's interested to me.
- Helge: We're getting posters designed, and we'll get them to you when we have them.

3. Report from the President: Robert

- We have talked with Helge about stage management at the festival, and we are making progress.
- Benedict is willing to take over the management of the flea market. He'll be here for two weeks and will be physically present. He'll also remotely manage until we get to that time. Lia: I'll give more info about him later. Haley: Then let's discuss this later.
- Jean-Marie represented us at the PCB.
- We need to order some equipment before the hot days come so we will be ready.

4. Vice-president's report: Haley (for Jacqui)

- We're waiting to find out about the Aula next month.
- We need someone to help with the elections at the AGM. Does anybody know someone? Eva: I might know someone if it's desperate. Haley: What about people to take the five board seats?
- We are looking at a budget of 300 EUR for drinks and snacks, as well as flowers/gifts for people leaving. Ben: How about a budget of "up to 300 EUR"? Vote: Yes: 6, no: 0, abstain: 2.
- Do we need assistance with slides and projection at the AGM? If so, let Jacqui know.

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- Last year we spent 9700 euro on food for teachers. I feel we're spending a lot on it, but teachers also feel unsupported by the senate. I suggest we talk with admin before picking a budget number. (open discussion included: we want to support them; food might cost too much; it's a fleeting object, not an enduring one; admin keeps asking us to pay for this; most food is on teacher training days; are there tax consequences?; wasn't this to show support to teachers?; could we get kids to make food for teachers on training days, and consider paying that?; what budget would be fair?; lower pay is lower impact on teacher morale) The decision is: let's table this until the next board comes.

5. Report from the Treasurer: Carsten

- (Carsten presented his proposal for the 2025 budget, itemized and compared to what actually happened in 2024
- We need people who want to get active so we can get this budget passed.
- John: PLEASE separate Teacher support from food spent on teachers.

6. Website Update: Haley

- Meg Harvey and I met yesterday. She is interested and available, and could do it for a 5000 euro budget. Could we give her access to the website? Ben: What about a written agreement giving her access and she agrees not to change things, or to repair anything she may delete? Carsten: How about just an email? Ben: Yes, that creates a paper trail.
- Eva: I can't support any system that waves payments through without consulting the board. Ben: Isn't that the point of a budget? To have expected expenses, and know we've planned for it? Eva: A projected budget, in my opinion, doesn't make any sense. Carsten: I have put a lot of effort in, but we can't pass a budget if we can't agree on things. Haley: I'm closing the discussion on this. Let's vote on this budget: Yes: 6 no: 0 abstain: 2 BUDGET PASSES

7. Miscellaneous

- Sarah: I have two requests. The first is for two instruments, an oboe and a clarinet. We feel that we'd save money by retiring old instruments which are, basically, totaled. We'd like to therefore replace the oboe. The other instrument we'd like to replace is a bass clarinet. Our music program is so successful that we have almost double as many kids as we did five years ago, but this means we need more instruments. Eva: Does insurance cover the damage from the kids? Sarah: No older instruments are insured, and insurance doesn't cover normal wear and tear. Ben: Did you check with Admin yet? Also, is this a normal yearly

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expenditure? Sarah: I didn't yet, and yes this is.

- Sarah: My other request is for 6 iPads for the music students. It's hard to get technology; no teacher may request technology from the school's budget. That's why I want iPads, covers, and a charging station. I'd also make these available to HS music students. Haley: Does it have to be iPad or can it be another tablet? Sarah: These are what I know, but I've requested the previous generation so they're lower-price. Haley: What about maintenance and upkeep? Sarah: The school won't do it, but I feel having six would be manageable for me alone, though it's not ideal. Eva: Why six? Why not 24? Sarah: when everybody has one, they'll break them. This is more economical. Eva: What about the chrombooks? Sarah: They're always being used. Eva: Would more chromebooks work? Sarah: They only function with google chrome, and they don't use apps. Carsten: Is there a time limit on this? Sarah: No, but sooner would be better. Ben: I'd like to check with admin, and then carry out a vote one it's passed that bar.

7. Requests

The following requests were voted upon:

Proposal 1 – Praxis Geology - 2024 (176.44 Eur, Martens)

yes: 2 no: 6 abstain: 0 (Request had to be denied as a repayment from the past)

Proposal 2 – Praxis Geology - 2025 (185.50 Eur, Martens)

yes: 7 no: 1 abstain: 0 (Request Approved)

Proposal 3 – Kunst Und Unterricht (152.95 Eur, Martens)

yes: 7 no: 1 abstain: 0 (Request Approved)

Proposal 4 – New Band Instruments (4718.00 Eur, Martin)

yes: X no: X abstain: X (Request tabled for Ben to ask admin and then put to a vote)

Proposal 5 – iPads for ES music classroom (2322 Eur, Martin)

yes: 5 no: 2 abstain: 1 (Request Approved)

* Meeting adjourned*

To be carried forward to the next meeting:

- Budget review for subscriptions
- Air Quality Action Plan
- Request to support ES recess kids with toy boxes (from Candace O'Connor)

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