



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

Apr 9 2025 in person/virtual hybrid meeting

Present: Carsten Casper, Haley, Puvy, Jade Keller, Jacqui Bespolka,

Virtually present: Ben Bowers, Lia Rigamonti, Robert Lenk, Steve Hoffman

Students: Addie (student council)

Parents:

Admin/Teachers: Angelika Ecke, Felix Held

Moderating: Haley Scribner

1. Approval of the Agenda: Haley Scribner

Change: Admin report moves to position 2

Agree: 8

Disagree: 0

Abstentions: 0

Approval of Minutes from last month's meeting:

Decided to delay approval of minutes until next month.

2. Report from Admin: Angelika Ecke

- New program: we're looking for an ES student who would like to play the Cello and Violin. We'll pay for one lesson and the parents will pay for the second lesson. We're looking for five students and the teachers will come from the music school and the staff. They will need to prove they can work with kids. After two years, there will be new members from the younger grades. The school needs to offer a room, and we have settled on the teachers' lounge. The instruments need to be rented from another company, and the parents need to pay 8 euro per hour to rent them. It's possible to reduce this. All together, it would be 1860 Eur per year. For two years, it's 3720 Eur.

Carsten: I understand we have a similar program with violins already. How does that relate to this?

Angelika: It doesn't. They're unconnected.

Carsten: Why not compliment the violin class with this?

Jacqui: They're completely different styles. Also, it's only open to entrance class students, and is independent of the school.

Angelika: It's also after class, and the Suzuki program is before school.

Ben: Is this connected with the request for two instruments from Sarah Martin?

Angelika: No. We get instruments from another company and it works really so.

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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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Ben: Is there any way to use the same strategy to get these instruments?

Angelika: Not really. We get them differently and each one is expensive so we get them where we can.

Haley: When do you need an answer? Can we vote on this in May?

Angelika: Yes, the program is set to start in July.

Carsten: Can I ask for a breakdown so we know what's happening? It feels like there's a lot of overlap between different ways of getting instruments.

Ben: I'm concerned that the music requests are coming in at different times for significant amounts, and I wouldn't want something to be overlooked because it came in later. Can we get a list of what is most important so we can choose where we can best give the money to support things?

Jacqui: Each group, teacher, and class is independent.

Ben: Did we separate our music budget for ES and HS?

Carsten: No. These requests triple the music budget.

Jacqui: But they're all separate, and we should treat them like that.

- Angelika: The lockers need to be cleaned.

Haley: We're aware of this, and we are working on it.

3. Report from the president: Robert Lenk

- What does the student council think about the student project request sheet?

Addie: I think it's worth a try, and if it's advertised correctly, it would work well. What about flyers? It could also be a good avenue for job exploration.

Robert: Would this benefit anybody's CV?

Addie: I think so, yes.

Robert: Do you have a project you'd like funded?

Addie: Yes, for things like computer programming or video production.

- About the water dispensers: we have an appointment next Tuesday with a woman from a real estate agency. We want to focus on two water fountains where the Bezirksamt Zehlendorf pays the monthly cost. It will be delivered by Berliner Wasser Betrieb. We have a growing amount of pressure behind this.

Addie: can student council attend this meeting?

Robert: Yes, but it's tuesday the 15th of April during your spring break. We'll also stream it, though it will be a bit improvised.

- We've ordered the trash bins.

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- We have a page to fill out for flea market positions and we have a meeting with the manager soon. Things are rolling for the flea market.
- We want to purchase the head management equipment. Is that ok?
Haley: Yes, it's been passed.
Jacqui: Who will be responsible for the heat reduction equipment?
Robert: I found two hausmeisters who are willing to do it, and as a backup, I'll do it.

4. Report from Treasurer: Carsten

- Is it possible to create an agenda document that everybody has access to and it evolves over time?
Haley: I like this, and I can help by setting up the agenda on google drive. Why are all minutes not on the drive?
Ben: It's a transition. Most of the recent minutes are there, but before we started migrating to the Google drive, it just wasn't there.
Carsten: I have an idea about requests: when we get a request, we assign it with a number and we always use that number to search for it. It would remove confusion. I suggest YEAR-MO-10charsdesc. This would streamline things. The first person who sees the request would name it and put it on the google drive.
Jacqui: I would like someone other than me, Ben, and Carsten should get involved with the requests.
Carsten: I have a flow chart for this.
Ben: Is this something that fits in this meeting's time frame?
Haley: No, so it's tabled for now.

5. Website update: Haley

- Jade has a proposal in the requests. Jade and I want to work together with the vendor to do the website update.
Puviy: Who's going to give the content, and what technology are you going to use for the website?
Carsten: We could do this bit by bit instead of a large lump sum.
Jade: I want to get involved in how you do this, and would like to help change the language to focus on your target audience.
Carsten: If we're all familiar with Wordpress, maybe we can just do it among the four of us.
Haley: It sounds like we're tabling this request and we'll try to improve the current content.

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Does that feel like correct?

Carsten: Then I'll create admin access for Jade and Haley to our Wordpress.

6: Miscellaneous

- Felix Held: We need new microphones. Our current mics are technically semi-legal. We need to update the mics to a legal frequency spectrum.
Jacqui: What's the “discount offer?”
Felix: We got an offer for a company that's basically Amazon for event tech.
Jacqui: What does all of the information on this sheet mean?
Felix: Basically, the better the equipment, the higher the price. The school could rent or buy them, but if they're bought by the Verein we can rent them out during nine months per year, and it's possible that in 3-4 years we'll regain the costs of the equipment.
Addie: It's extremely annoying to have bad mics. It stops productivity and impacts shows.
Haley: Clubs are currently renting equipment on campus because the old mics are so terrible. We need to update.
Jacqui: The tech crew is having to spend a huge amount of time getting ready for anything because of this equipment, and we also need to attract younger ones to the tech crew or we'll have big problems in the future.
Robert: So basically we can buy the equipment and then rent it to recoup costs, or we can rent it and just eat the costs?
Felix: yes.
Carsten: If we make profit, we need to do some extra paperwork. If they're not here most of the time, it could create a problem. What if we buy a smaller set to stay here and a larger set that we rent out?
Addie: What about the trust fund? Would they be willing to pay for some of this?
Jacqui: That's a very good idea. Felix, if you were a student, what would you pick?
Felix: The Axien system is the best. It's more expensive, but the quality is the best you can get, and it survives much longer.
- Felix: What about the cultural fest? Is that on the agenda?
Ben: The request is in, but our discussion about it is board only.
- Robert: Regarding courage week, we might need to give more attention in the future. I feel like we need to support this with more energy.
Jade: I love that idea, and I'd like to help out!
Robert: So do you feel we should update the Courage Week now, or do we want to maintain what we're doing?

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Jade: For now, we want to make sure each grade has at least one option. Also, most people had the flu this last week, so we'll see what happens next year.

7. Requests

The following requests were voted upon:

Proposal 1 – Gummi Bears for 12-grade test takers (Krueger, 70 Eur)

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

Proposal 2 – Banner for graduation (Mack, 438.80 Eur) Banners are in basement, FYI

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

Proposal 3 – Garden Day Campus Clean-up (Student Council, 537 Eur) to combine with Tool Time

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

Proposal 3.1 – Tool Time (Lenk, up to 500 Eur) to combine with Garden Clean-up

yes: 6 no: 0 abstain: 2 *(Request Approved)*

Proposal 4 – Book Reading for a grade level (Melden, 428 Eur)

yes: 7 no: 2 abstain: 0 *(Request approved via eVote for 50%, or 214 Eur)*

Proposal 4 – Book Reading for a grade level (Rigney, 450 Eur)

yes: X no: X abstain: X *(Request approved via eVote for 50%, or 225 Eur)*

Proposal 5 – Teacher Appreciation Lunch (1400 Eur)

(Offer sent to admin per discussion online where we confirmed a budget of 5000 euros per calendar year, stating that admin can choose where to spend that but we won't pay for food above that amount; admin confirmed this cost as a part of that budget.)

Proposal 6 – Texas Exchange Program gifts (Hoedt, 250 Eur)

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

Proposal 7 – Festival of Culture and Diversity (Martens, 10,750 Eur)

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

Proposal 8 – Two hoodies for French cultural exchange program (Freymadl, up to 70 Eur)

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

Proposal 9 – Resources for children in non-traditional homes (Cagne, 150 Eur)

yes: 4 no: 0 abstain: 4 *(Request Denied)*

Proposal 10 – Website rebuild (Scribner, 5880 Eur)

yes: X no: X abstain: X *(Request has been tabled for now)*

Proposal 11 – Aula Sound System (Scribner, 12,872 Eur)

yes: X no: X abstain: X *(Request has been tabled for now)*

Proposal 12 – Oboe and Clarinet (Martin, 4718 Eur)

yes: 7 no: 2 abstain: 0 *(Request Approved via eVote)*

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Proposal 13 – ES planners (recurring, 1800 Eur)

yes: 6 no: 2 abstain: 1 (Request Approved via eVote)

* Meeting adjourned*

To be carried forward to the next meeting:

- Sound system in the Aula.
- Website rebuild.
- 3720 Eur: lessons for two ES students who play cello and violin

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