



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

Sept 10 2025 in person/virtual hybrid meeting, recorded by Sally AI

Present: Ben, Carsten, Puviy, Haley

Virtually present: Robert

Students:

Parents: Nella Klopotek von Glowczewski, Jamie Turner, Carlotta De Vuvincio, Carissa Tazoo

Admin/Teachers: Erin Hale,

Moderating: Ben

1. Approval of the Agenda:

Change:

Agree: 5

Disagree: 0

Abstentions: 0

Approval of Minutes from last month's meeting: Tabled to remove names of voters until next month.

Change:

Agree: 4

Disagree: 0

Abstentions: 1

3. Admin report: Erin Hale

- Erin: I have nothing official. Ben: I'll make sure admin gets the invite from now on.
- Erin: Can we make sure every request has an admin's signature?
- Thanks to the fun day committee! Let us know when things will happen so we can be ready.
- Haley: Derek Getschow signed a request for music madness. Does that work? Erin: We want it to be only the principals, not the VPs of the school. If you have any questions, just ask me or Angelika directly.
- Erin: Should I be concerned about the Verein? Robert: We've had conflicts, but we're still carrying on. Ben: We need at least five members to be solvent, and we have seven; we'll elect two new members on October 1st.

4. Report from the president: Robert

- We have had a lot of successful parent evenings recently, and we've been doing great!

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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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- We'd like to make a survey with the PCB to get feedback in getting volunteering more active. Haley: I think it's best if we wait until after the survey to make the call.
- We're looking forward to music madness in December.

5. Report from the treasurer: Carsten

- I'm restructuring things in accounting to make it more efficient. IBANs may change, and some other details. I've put up a presentation. Does anybody have any questions?

6. Miscellaneous

- Puviy: We have a family needs request. It came from a parent, which is unusual for our process. Do you have a method we should be using? Haley: How should we respond when we get a parent request? Erin: I would say have them ask the teacher to ask admin. Then we'll send the request directly to you from admin if it's valid. That would follow the proper channels.
- Carlotta: Everything seems to be under control for the Fun Day. We have volunteers and great raffle prizes. The stage seems to be set. We can't control the weather, but we're hopeful. We just ordered 50 booths, with 43 reserved and requests are still coming in. 16 are food, the rest are activities and organizations. The music department has a line-up and food set. We have a 65th anniversary Tshirt design (student-designed, but it doesn't mention the Fun Day directly); we're trying something new. We feel an online order process will reach more people. In a week we've sold more than 100. We've ordered enough for everybody. The last time we were here, we were told we could choose what we would charge for the booths. We want to retain discipline, so we've chosen to not take the 25% we told them we'd take; we've set a fee depending on how much they've earned, and it'll be less than the official 25%. We have a cash-counting machine if we need it, and we'll need one person to sign off at that location. Jamie: parents know that the Verein takes money back. I think this is a good idea to increase positivity. Does the Verein make money? Haley: not really. We rarely make profit, and if so, less than four figures. Robert: we still have income from the fun run, so we're financially fine. Carsten: I agree. Robert: can we split the money into the class kitty? Carissa: This is not our problem; they need to sort it out. Carlotta: We'll send you an email about where we need volunteers. This includes Friday to set up the booth and stage. We also have a sponsor for all forks, plates, spoons, bowls, and so on.
- Ben: We have a sheet for delegations; it's online, so look at it and tell me if you feel it needs tweaks. Robert: Do you Fun Day people still have a verein member supporting you?

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- Carissa: no, but we don't need someone.
- Robert: Let's push the volunteer appreciation initiative to the next meeting.
 - Carsten: we want to do a survey to get info from the volunteers. Carlotta: We decided we'd make a survey to ask them about what they want and what they're happy doing. It's to make sure parents are represented. Carsten: we made it simple, but also asked for a few pieces of information. Carlotta: We're happy to send it out under the name of the PCB.
 - Robert: we would need about 4500 EUR to rent the microphones per year. The school is taking surprisingly good care of the old ones, but they've been here 15 years now. New ones are needed. We could also buy them, but it would cost 60K euros; we could rent them out when not using them to gain income and mitigate the costs. In the first options, we'd pay 45K for 10 years. In the second option, we could have as much as 35K plus after 10 years. Haley: Is admin on board? Puviy: I don't know why we should buy a new asset in the age of subscription models. Carsten: I'm concerned about the treasurers who come after us who have to deal with the income. Jamie: I'd like to know as a member why my money is going to another company. Nella: I'd like to know why these are better microphones? Ben: I feel insurance is a necessity if we choose to buy.
 - Robert: I want to ask if we would like to proceed with admin in bringing in the outdoor classroom concept. Ben: what does it look like in the real world? Robert: It would need to be constructed outside, with a sunshade and benches. All: We love it, let's start asking questions and getting it going.
 - Haley: I feel we don't have a process to get new board members. We also have new members, so let's ask them. Jamie: people stand and announce their candidacy at the normal elections, but you know little about them. I think it would be helpful if we ask people to say why they want to be voted in. Nella: If I think about a job posting, they always write the job requirements. Why not have that for these positions? Second, I know people are often nominated by those who know them, but it's less democratic either. Ben: we, the board, have to fill the position, but it's not clear how. We could have people volunteer or we can nominate them. Haley: We can make job descriptions. Ben: Yes, and send it out with the invitation next week. Carlotta: It would be better to have them, but these are two interim positions, and none of the current members had to do this. It may be a bit weird to set them to higher standards than those to which you had to be held. Carissa: I think you should look at the people who are already involved.

7. Requests

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The following requests were voted upon:

Proposal 1 – Parentship Guest Speaker (Cagney, 150 Eur)

yes: 5 no: 0 abstain: 0 *(Request approved)*

Proposal 2 – Music Madness (Douglass, 200 Eur)

yes: 5 no: 0 abstain: 0 *(Request)*

Proposal 3 – Fun Day Tech (Isik, 1249 Eur)

yes: X no: X abstain: X *(Request not needed; fun day budget re-allocated)*

Proposal 4 – 1st grade ladder (Goethe, 100 Eur)

yes: 5 no: 0 abstain: 0 *(Request approved)*

Proposal 5 – 1st grade book bags (Goethe, 100 Eur)

yes: 5 no: 0 abstain: 0 *(Request approved; for all such future requests: we should reach out to the library and give them a budget and then let them allocate it as they choose.)*

Proposal 6 – Team Building Budget (Bowers, 1500 Eur)

yes: 5 no: 0 abstain: 0 *(Request)*

* Meeting adjourned*

To be carried forward to the next meeting:

- Two requests for 1st grade
- admin to be invited
- budget for family needs (Cagney) onwards
- Two family needs requests are in front of us