

Parents' Association Annual Report 2019

Introduction

The Parents' Association (PA) is an active association representing parents' interests within the European School Karlsruhe. The Association is a non-profit organisation and membership is voluntary. Members of the PA committee (henceforth committee) represent the parents in the school and in the various committees in Brussels. The members all work voluntarily for the benefit of all pupils and parents in the ESK and can influence the decisions made by management locally and at the system level of the European schools. The role of the PA is unique to the European Schools and therefore it is imperative that the PA is active in the school community and parents take advantage of this rare opportunity. The membership fee is currently €30 per family per school year. More details can be found on the ESK PA website: www.esk-eltern.de

Year's review

This year the ESK PA Annual General Assembly (AGM) took place on 21 February 2019. The members of the Association present approved the previous year's Annual Report and the new PA Committee members were elected during the AGM. The financial accounts had been audited and the assembly approved them. The full General Assembly minutes can be found on the PA website. At the AGM the members present unanimously voted that the next AGM will take place in November and the financial accounts will be audited at the end of the calendar year.

The newly elected PA Committee held their first meeting on 6 March 2019. The committee members elected the Board: President – Debjani Basu, Vice-president – Eleonor Kutzner and Treasurer – Brynn Thompson-Renz.

Furthermore, the other 14 Committee members are - Pierre Brun, Cristina Chinese, Letizia Dalle Donne, Caroline Diebold, Annika Koltjes, Felicitas Martens, Bill Scott-Stewart, Magdalena Toma, Olaf Walter, Gessica Zublena, Maggie Guaresimo, Annabelle Humanes, Ilka von Bauer Monteiro de Paula and Clemens Wollfarth.

The various positions represented by the members are:

After-school Activities: Brynn Thompson-Renz

Canteen: Eleonor Kutzner, Magdalena Toma, Caroline Diebold, Felicitas Martens

EuroBoutique: Eleonor Kutzner, Magdalena Toma

Interparents: Maggie Guaresimo, Cristina Chinese

SWALS: Letizia Dalle Donne

Transport: Olaf Walter, Clemens Wollfarth, Annabelle Humanes, Ilka von Bauer Monteiro de Paula

Website: Felicitas Martens, Annika Koltjes

Events Coordinator: Eleonor Kutzner

Pierre Brun had to step down from the PA committee due to personal reasons. Members of the PA Committee represent each Language section in the secondary and primary school.

Additionally, Anja Bühner, Amy Chia-Gaess and Cristina Chinese are in-charge of the organization and coordination of after-school activities.

PA Objectives

In 2019 the priorities of the PA remains the same as in the past years –

- Close monitoring of changes to the “new” marking system and curriculum of Secondary
- Strengthening of relationship and improvement in communication between the different members of the school community.
- Support in building and maintaining a positive school spirit
- ongoing projects

Some of the activities that we were pleased to have supported this year are:

- Organization and sponsoring of (book) prizes for the OS pupils
- Provide financial support to
 - DELF – French Language Diploma
 - various projects both in the primary and the secondary during project days
 - children of families for their class trips who are undergoing financial difficulties
 - and various other class trips and projects

The members of the committee represent parents in meetings such as –

- Adhoc meetings with the management
- Biannual PA/Parents’ representative meetings
- Biannual ESK statutory Administrative Board meetings
- Biannual Educational Council meetings (Secondary, Primary and joint)
- School Advisory Committee (SAC) meeting
- School Security meetings

Please send us an email, in case you would like full details and minutes of the various meetings.

Website (Annika Koltes & Felicitas Martens)

After the launch of the new website in 2018, the new online shop went live at the start of the school year 2018/19, allowing members to conveniently book extracurricular activities online. Even non-members can now register their children for extra-curricular activities with on-site payment of their membership fees.

As with any conversion of systems, there were of course some uncertainties or problems for us. Our team, including our financial officers, extracurricular organizers and our accompanying programmer, was always available and eager to find a quick fix.

Since the introduction of the online shop, it is no longer possible to attend a course without paying for it or the membership fees.

The booking of the extra-curricular activities in the second semester went well.

Furthermore, it is important to us to improve the communication with our members and our potential members. We have developed an information sheet for educating the school community about the work of the parents' association. In the future, we also plan to reduce the "flood of e-mails".

For the future we plan a small ads section for our members.

We look forward to future challenges and welcome any ideas that you may have for the website. We offer our continued support in all your concerns at all times.

Financial report (Brynn Thompson-Renz)

(see also tables in the appendix)

A tax return was not filed in the school year 2018/2019. The next tax declaration, for 2017-2019 must be submitted in 2020.

The income from membership fees amounted to €9,720 in the school year 2018/2019 (€10,590 in 2018 and €8460 in 2017). Another significant source of income was the Summer Fest, which was €3962.64, significantly more than the €1882.68 earned in 2018.

In 2018/2019, the largest expenditure was for school projects at €6045.82, the majority of which were school trips and project week projects. The PA has invested more in funding school projects this year in comparison to the € 5230.19, funded in 2018. Other expenses amounted to €7405.39 in

2018/2019. Our largest expense was the third investment in the ESK Eltern Website development. In addition, we loaned €1700 from the PA account to the Extracurricular activities. These figures are much more representative of our yearly activities than the €16,039.18 in 2018 when we transferred €5928 to the Extracurricular Curricular Activities account from August to December 2018 (€5719 in 2017 and €2402 in 2016). Adjusting for these two large expenses, the actual expenses were €3571.34.

We supported the school trips to Baden-Baden, annual Kangaroo Math competition, DELF, a visit from an exotical animal presentation, extra events for the children during the Circus Week, noise cancelling headphones in the Primary, purchases in KG/Primary and end of school year book prizes, among many many other projects.

Open Day expenses were €204.26. Our overall income from the Open Day was €1587.11 not including the €893 from the Euroboutique, which was calculated with the Euroboutique to account for expenses without allocating them per event.

The Euroboutique generated earnings of €967.64 in 2018/2019 (compared to €334.64 in 2018, -€535 in 2017 and -€830 in 2016). Hoodies, Polos, and Caps were purchased to be sold. 2018 was an even better year for the Euroboutique.

In 2018/2019, the annual contribution to InterParents was €1680. In total we spent €1359.11 in 2018/2019 after accounting for refunds from Brussels. Expenses were actually less because more refunds are awaited.

Funds were not drawn from the SAP donation for this reporting year. Bank fees of €31.20 were paid. The final balance was €250.17.

The social fund was used in 2018/2019 for 14 trips, for a total of €2061. The PA received donations of €166 for this reporting year though more are awaited.

The guest pupil left the school in summer 2017. So, no school fees were incurred for the new school year 2018/2019. Bank Fees of €31.20 were paid. A balance of €1914.60 remains.

The account for extracurricular activities closed in 2017 at -€57.39. In 2018, the year end result was 1190.62€. The adjusted result for amounts loaned from the EV account to the AA account would be -4737.38€. However, due to website implementation, the AA account closed at €123.19. Adjusted for the 1700€ used from the EV account to bridge the summer expenses, it closed at -1576.81. Due to the nature of our payment manager Stripe, the AA account also held €1800 still in membership fees. The final balance of the AA account was €-3376.81. The account finished at €1400 better than the previous year and the same, or better, is expected in the coming year.

The final result for the school year 2018/2019 was positive at €634.21. The result for 2018 was negative at -6039.86€. The overall result for this school year still reflects our final website payment of €2734.05. Adjusted for this, we would have had a result of €3368.26. We are looking forward to the coming year and the additional available capital to invest in the children.

The financial statements have been audited and cleared.

It is proposed to continue with the membership fee of €30 per family per year.

After School Activities (Anja Bühner, Amy Chia-Gaess and Cristina Chinese)

This year, we again offered various courses like in past years; the established language clubs (German, French, English, Russian, Chinese, Japanese, Greek, Italian, Romanian Dutch and a new course, Persian). We had to raise the price from 110 to 150 for all language courses except German, English and French due to the low demand.

New courses such as Origami, STEM/MINT course or the robotics course are offered in both primary and secondary schools; self-defense for 10-13 year olds and Arduino club for pupils of the secondary school.

In addition, we are offering music lessons in piano, violin, flute, guitar and harp.

Furthermore, sports activities (capoeira, football, basketball, yoga, ballet, gymnastics, ball sports, obstacle course and athletics) were also popular and so are swimming lessons at the Fächerbad. Active games have been added for the little ones from KG. The DFJW (German French Youth Office) again gave us a big grant for our French courses, which could then be offered with fewer children.

For our parents and teachers we are still offering the language courses in German, Italian and Spanish and have added a French course to it.

There are currently 64 different courses with 318 registered children, most of whom are from the primary school. For KG, we have 12 different courses, for primary 45 and for secondary 27 different ones.

All costs will be covered for this school year, 2019.

Transport (Olaf Walter)

For all issues please visit the transport homepage: <https://www.eskar-transport.de/> or contact the transport general secretary Mrs Sanne Optatzy

The PA members in the transport committee are:

Olaf Walter (president),

Clemens Wollfahrt (vice president),

Annabelle Humanes,

Ilka Bauer Monteiro de Paula.

ca 600 ScoolCards are registered, of which 220 in school busses, 380 in the trams

Actual questions/issues/problems:

Some of the busses are very full, can the bus size be increased?

surveillances... tram and bus

Can we install a new bus line to Walldorf?

sometimes busses and/or trams are really delayed, how to avoid and improve this? for the parents/ children, distribute the info via the WhatsApp-groups.

Formal issue: renew of the statute due to legal issue with the finance office in order to maintain the statute as non profit organisation

some numbers for orientation

costs of transport ca 265000 € (~ 1200 € per child and year in the bus)

costs surveying persons and secretary ca 25000 €

income service fee ca 19000 €

income ScoolCards ca 74000 €

support from BaWü ca 167000 €

rest ca 25000 € which is then covered by the town of KA

Holiday Child Day Care (Olaf Walter)

For all issues please visit the homepage: <https://www.esk-eltern.de/de/dienstleistungen/ferienbetreuung/>

It has been decided by the PA that holiday child day care will take place in the ongoing school year during the autumn holidays (already done), the winter holidays, the 2nd week of the Easter holiday and the first two weeks of the summer holidays. Provider are for the small holidays Lenitas and the AWO for the summer holiday camp.

More details will be published on the PA website once when the info is ready.

Interparents (Maggie Guaresimo)

Interparents is an organization that represents all Parents Associations from all of the European Schools. It allows all of the schools to work together to share new ideas and best practices, as well as providing PA's with a voice regarding regulations mandated through the European Council. The IP generally meets 4 times throughout the year in the different European School locations across Europe.

Pedagogical issues:

- The new marking system has been implemented in the secondary schools. The IP is working together to understand how the new marking system will be converted by each of the Member States.

- The current S6 students will be the first class to take the BAC with the new marking system. The deadline for the new BAC questions and the new subject syllabuses is February of 2020. Several subjects are already working with the new syllabuses.
- We will continue to use the system set up by IP in 2016-2017 for drawing attention to issues experienced locally during the BAC exams. This system continued to provide the APEEEs with a more immediate way to seek recourse on such problems from the Office of the Secretary General. Parents and pupils in S7 should keep the possibility of **getting in touch with our Parents Association on any issues with the BAC**, which may arise.

Sustainable Education

The IP has a new working group regarding teaching Sustainability in the European Schools. The WG is looking at the UN development chart on the 17 goals of sustainability as a guideline. Look for more information on this matter in the future as the topic develops.

Financing and resourcing of our schools:

In many of the schools, not least ours, difficulties with recruiting and retaining teachers persisted. The teacher attractiveness policies did pass last year and have been successfully implemented. This should help us take a step in the right direction to recruit and retain qualified teachers.

Inclusiveness and Conflict Resolution

The IP is looking at creating a new WG regarding Inclusiveness and Conflict Resolution. This would be included with the Child Protection Policy and include things like anti-bullying, abuse, emergencies and cyber protection.

IT Working Group

The IT Working Group has been very busy looking at options for BYOD (Bring Your Own Device) in the Secondary. The WG is looking at minimal requirements that devices must have in order to be able to use them at school as well as deciding what types of devices will be used, ie. laptops, tablets, etc. In addition they are discussing important issues such as access to WIFI, training for teachers to successfully teach students using their devices, computer based testing, etc. More information in regards to BYOD is sure to come in the near future.

Other:

IP is represented on a relatively large number of other Working Groups in areas as diverse as Career Guidance/Orientation, BAC Issues, BREXIT, etc.

Conclusion

The PA gladly supports school events such as the Open Day and organizes the Summer Fete, providing pupils, parents, teachers and staff an opportunity to mingle and socialize in an informal atmosphere.

The work of the PA has only been possible through the help and support of parents volunteering their time and effort towards the running of the office and commitment to follow up on issues discussed at the administrative and pedagogical meetings. The generous donations for the PA Cafe and Summer Fete together with the membership fees (50% of ESK families are at present members) makes it possible for the PA to finance various student activities and projects. All parents are therefore urged to become members so that the volunteer work of the Committee can continue effectively.

We foster a good working relationship with the school directors, teachers and staff, keep continuous flow of information and try our utmost to maintain regular communication with the parents.

Thank you

We would like to offer our thanks to everyone from the PA Committee for their hard work and commitment throughout the year. Our heartfelt thanks also go to all the teachers, and staff of the school and to the management for their support, help and involvement and to the parents for their dedication and enthusiasm.

The PA tries its best to achieve their objectives, which is designed to make this an exciting and outstanding school for our children. As always, we hope for your active support.

Karlsruhe, November 2019

Debjani Basu (President)

Eleonor Kutzner (Vice-President)

Brynn Thompson-Renz (Treasurer)

On behalf of the Parents' Association of the European School Karlsruhe