

## MEETING MINUTES

### Primary school Council of the 6th of November 2012

#### **Present :**

Mrs Bhanji, Hungu, Maniraho, Molinié, Waechter et M. Genouilhac elected parent representatives.  
Mrs Crabé, Kentaoui, Bertout, Kinyua, Eyraud, Bousquet, Clotteau et Mr. Viers and Lagouche, teacher representatives for each level  
Mr. Denis Bouclon, headmaster and Mr. Alexis Holtz, director of the primary school and president of the primary school council.

**Excused :** M. Blin, Counselor for cooperation and cultural action , M. Ducasse, inspector of the zone and Mrs Raguin, administrative and financial director.

**Introduction:** The director of the primary school Alexis M. Holtz thanks the parents and teachers for being present. He insists that the parents should not wait for the school council meetings to bring up their issues for the first time. Often, it is better that the issue is addressed and resolved directly with the teacher concerned or the Director.

#### **1. Sporting and cultural activities:**

This year, forty activities are offered to LDD students ranging from Petite Section to Terminale. Overall, children and parents are very satisfied with the activities. If parents have questions about the sports and cultural activities, they can contact Mr. Alfonsi directly who coordinates the activities of the sports and cultural association: ascldd@yahoo.fr.

Please note that Friday, December 21, the last day of school before the Christmas holidays, there will be a Cross Country Race that will involve all students from Petite Section to Terminale and any parents who wish to participate.

#### **2. Rules and regulations of the school:**

The rules were extensively reworked a year ago. They were distributed to all families at the beginning of the year and are available on the LDD website ([www.diderot.ac.ke](http://www.diderot.ac.ke)). It was unanimously adopted without amendments. Moreover, a regulation anti-bullying was added.

#### **3. The school project**

Currently a school project is written for the years 2011 to 2014. The three main areas are:

- The development of language and bilingualism
- The development of science education and mathematics
- The opening to the host country

It is also available on the LDD website.

#### **4. Safety and hygiene**

This question is treated by the administration, teachers and the embassy. Given the upcoming presidential elections, we must be vigilant. But we should not forget petty crime and theft, which tend to increase.

The school has, since the beginning of the year, employed two additional guards and overtime has been added onto some of the schedules of the supervisors.

Surveillance cameras will be soon placed around the school (gates, school premises, ...) and in the playgrounds. The windows of the school have been equipped with an anti-explosion protection. A anti-grenade netting will also be installed on the wall bordering Argwing Kodhek road.

Regarding parking, management responded immediately to the request of the parents about the opening times of the entrance gates. A meeting is scheduled with the security company "Bob Morgan" to emphasise the rules. Parents who have two vehicles must come to claim an additional sticker for the second vehicle. The putting in place of a "speed bump" on the road in front of the school would hopefully slow traffic down and curb risk-taking already practiced widely by matatus. This request was made 4 years ago to the City council but was turned down. Another request will be made.

#### **Playground supervision in the kindergarten:**

Meetings with Kindergarten assistants and all supervisory staff has improved the situation. At every break 5-7 adults are posted at strategic locations in the yard. A person is always present to accompany children wishing to go to the toilet.

**Cleaning toilets Kindergarten:** Ms. Kentaoui does her rounds to the toilets several times a day; the toilets are cleaned thoroughly every evening and checked in the day. Hand towels are replenished during the day. A meeting with the Kindergarten assistants has reminded them of the importance of hygiene and cleanliness in the kindergarten. The headmaster and the director of the primary school also make regular visits to check the cleanliness. This will remain priority throughout the year.

The toilets of the elementary school will systematically be cleaned after each break.

#### **5. School meals**

Everyone finds that the quality of school meals has greatly improved. It is always possible that there might be a problem one day, but so far, many students enjoy the new service.

**Question:** A mother believes that there would not be enough to eat in the cafeteria on Wednesdays and Fridays.

**Answer:** Maybe that day the meal offered was not suitable for children because it was the first time. We will look into it but this is the first time we have heard about this problem. The headmaster saw the canteen officers this morning and has brought this matter to their attention.

Generally, students enjoy meals that are served. A detailed menu will be provided to parents of kindergarten.

#### **6. School transport**

For a month now, "tracking" devices with GPS have been placed in the 9 school buses.

**Question:** Does one really need a supervisor in a bus, especially in the afternoon? Some children are 3 years old?

**Answer:** Upto now, some lines run with only the driver. The transport department is working with the director and the headmaster on this problem. It is planned to add supervisors to the buses.

#### **7. Other issues raised by parents**

##### **a. English lessons:**

**Question:** Sometimes the lessons are not written down in the school books.

**Answer:** This question refers to one particular class and the matter was referred to the teacher.

**Question:** Is it possible to push a little more the "advanced" group?

**Answer:** We'll talk to the English teachers about this. The English teachers have been asked make students sit the CEFR tests from cycle 2. Diagnostic assessments based on the CEFR are conducted three times a year to ensure the smooth progress of each student, one at the beginning of the year, in September, a second at Christmas, and a final one in March. However, it is necessary to take into account both the verbal and written level of the student. For some students there is a gap that justifies the group in which they have been put in.

**Question:** How come the mini MUN has not started? Our students are very motivated to start.

**Answer:** The mini MUN is supervised by secondary school students. We must therefore wait for them to finish their own MUN (January / February). This year, we will try to start earlier, in late November, early December.

##### **b. Trips:**

**Question:** Is it normal to "put pressure" on children for moms to make cakes?

**Answer:** It seems that these words have been exaggerated. The director knows the two classes very well that sell cakes and no teachers put pressure on students.

**Question:** What is the school policy on school trips? How come last year a very interesting trip to England was cancelled because five families refused to participate.

**Answer:** As you can see, the school is very proactive when it comes to school trips and field trips. It is nonetheless not possible to oblige a teacher to do a school/field trip. The director wishes to recall that some teachers are parents, that during their absence output overnight, they have problems for the care of their own children. In addition, a field trip requires a lot of additional work.

Otherwise, the information mentioned about the trip to England is erroneous and the price of the trip was over € 1,300. In addition, the number of families who refused to participate in the trip was 15.

The director and the headmaster would like to thank the teachers for their investment in work and in particular for organizing school trips.

#### **School Trips:**

**Question:** Schedules, organizations, educational goals?

**Answer:** programming? takes place at the beginning of the school year and sometimes teachers are already planning by June (looking into rentals etc ...) organization? the principal, the director, the Inspector of National Education, bursar, transport service; educational goals? Each outing is basically school time outside of the school. It is more a means of educational work before, during and after.

**Question:** Are there plans to organize a school trip CE2 in May or June 2013?

**Answer:** depends on what happens during the presidential elections in Kenya. In addition, an output overnight must be approved by the Inspector of Education in residence in Mauritius and the Embassy. If all goes well, why not?

#### **c. Bilingualism in the class of CP:**

**Question:** Is the Bilingualism schedule in CP relevant for all students when it means compressing the normal French curriculum into less time?

**Answer:** Being on a parity schedule does not mean that we do the program twice. The lessons and activities in both languages are complementary and established according to the different periods taught to students. In addition, in Nairobi we have an extra hour of tuition a week compared to France, or 36 hours over the year.

**Question:** Is it normal that there are students in CP whose level of French is insufficient to follow the French curriculum?

**Answer:** I do not know about this. In general, in the French system a child is not held back a year due to their language level. There are also students who have a little knowledge of English. For those students who are not yet bilingual, we have developed a personalized assistance. In addition, cycle 3 teachers come to help teachers of CP for up to 5 hours a week.

In order to take into account students who are not bilingual, personalized assistance hours are offered. In addition, the presence of a second teacher in the classroom can provide them with help and support.

#### **d. Theft of snacks:**

**Answer:** it can happen, but we try to keep an eye on this and we had already discussed this particular case

#### **e. School supplies:**

**Question:** Will we still have lists of books and equipment to buy?

**Answer:** No, it was purchased by the school. There will be no manual or additional supplies to purchase.

#### **f. Various**

**Question:** Is it normal for a punishment not to be allowed to go to sport? Sport is part of the curriculum.

**Answer:** We had already talked about last year, this will be the agenda of the next school Council meeting but the director can assure you that this example is certainly exceptional because the teachers in the school follow the programs and scrupulously including physical education and sport.

At the end of the school council meeting, parents chose their elected representatives present in two instances:  
Representatives of parents of primary School Council:

- Mr. Genouilhac
- Ms. Molinié, substitute

Parent representative on the Commission's primary calendar:

- Ms. Travers

At 18:35, Mr. Alexis Holtz, Director thanked all the participants in this first school council meeting of the school year and thank them for the rich exchanges. He emphasized that teachers and parents work for the same goal: the success of our students. It is a vector of success.