

School Year 2020-21
School Advisory Board Meeting

Tuesday November 3rd, from 4:49 p.m. to 6:09 p.m. at the School, apartment 5-1-12.

Attending

- School President, Franco Cutrupia
- School Treasurer, Sergio Bertasi
- School Administrator, Giulia Ziggotti
- Educational Coordinator, Annalisa Torrero
- Teacher Representative, Ippolita Gallo
- Teacher Representative, Celeste Grassi
- Parent Representative, Valentina Liberatore
- Parent Representative, Ray Wu

Agenda

- Welcome to the newly elected Board Member for the school year 2020-21
- Update of the School Statute: no references to the Primary School
- Budget closing as at September 30th 2020 (provisional)
- Budget as at June 30th 2021 (forecast)
- Educational activities: report by the Educational Coordinator
- School organisation: report by the School Administrator
- School year 2021-22: preliminary considerations
- Miscellaneous

Discussion and resolutions

The President thanks the newly elected parent representatives, and provides a general outlook about the School. It is a difficult time as Schools must abide by the local government regulations for prevention and control of the epidemic. Those regulations restrict the number of children per classroom/apartment and request the full-time presence of a school nurse whose cost is significant considered the total number of enrolled children.

In the next school year (2021-22), the School must reach the breakeven, and shall raise its tuition fees. Based on comparison with other schools, the options of doubling the tuition fees and having two pricing, for Italian and non-Italian families will be considered.

The President explains the changes to the School Statute (ref. closing of the Primary) and the Board approve the amended version.

The Treasurer presents the School budget and confirms the School has a lot of new expenses related to the prevention of the epidemic, such as the HR cost of the School nurse and the purchase of new equipment. The President observes that the "cash carried forward" is in fact deriving from previous donations to the School and it is not a revenue generated by the School in last years.

The Educational Coordinator (EC) explains that, notwithstanding the impact by the epidemic prevention regulations to the School routine, the teaching staff is keeping its focus on the wellbeing of the children and on the quality of the didactic. The EC reminds parents representatives about the importance of the home learning (done in the past semester and throughout August 17th to Sept.10th): would the School face another suspension, families must necessarily follow the home learning on Seesaw to keep the learning on-going and to build the educating community, with parents and teachers both cooperating for the education of the children. The EC introduces the projects of the School (environmental education, passing of time

and living beings, transparencies, Gianni Rodari birth's centenary, alphabetical codes, Christmas project to be communicated soon).

Teachers representatives confirm the children has proven to be very resilient after so many months at home, and all pupils are very happy when at the School.

The School Administrator (SA) covers the topic of the school staffing, introducing the tasks of the School Nurse. Families will have the chance to schedule a meeting with the School Nurse with all the teaching staff on November 6th during the parent-teacher meeting. The SA confirms the number of pupils enrolled to the School and inform one or two more children might be enrolled during the year. The SA explains the School is working with the lunch supplier Beijing Jinshengfu Food Co. Ltd. to standardise the menu (children's most popular choices) and announces that the School ad-hoc committee for catering affairs will be invited to taste and visit the supplier's venue tentatively in November. The SA confirms no fapiao can be issued to families by the supplier as the company licence does not allow to give it to the final consumers. The SA communicates that no extra-curricular activities can be hosted in the School as no external teacher can enter the premises. The School will reconsider the ECAs in the second semester.

Families asked about the lunch routine. Teachers have explained how they make to create a pleasant atmosphere, as food education and the languages of food have remained part of the school curriculum even if the School is not allowed to have its own on-campus kitchen and chef.

Families asked how to complement activities done during the school hours, and teachers suggested families to start from the daily agenda, and ask children questions about which meaningful moments happened during the school day. Sports and interest activities are also recommended, and teachers will share more about the interests of each child during the upcoming parent-teacher meeting.

The make-up hours will end on February 25th as communicated to families by the School.

Teachers ask parent representatives to remind all families to check Seesaw regularly. As a matter of fact, the School have chosen to move its communication from WeChat to Seesaw as families shared WeChat was not that convenient (conversation very long, difficult to find x documents, etc.). Besides, Seesaw is a digital archive and mirrors the 'piazza' concept, that is the space of encounter and exchange by all the educating community members characteristic of the Reggio Emilia Approach. Ray Wu proposed new ways to attract families to Seesaw.

No other topic was on the agenda.

The President announces the next board meeting will be tentatively scheduled in February 2021, and counts on the teaching staff to keep conversation alive with families about all school matters.

Written by the School Administrator