

School Advisory Board

Friday, March 5th 2021

Apartment 5-1-12

Participants:

- School Holder, Franco Cutrupia, FC
- School Treasurer, Sergio Bertasi, SB (via ZOOM)
- School Administrator, Giulia Zigiotti, GZ
- Educational Coordinator, Celeste Grassi, CG
- Teachers' Representative, Ippolita Gallo, IG
- Parents' Representative, Valentina Liberatore, VL
- Parents' Representative, Ray Wu, RW

Auditors:

- Head of Consular Section and School Superintendent, Luca Fraticelli
- Teacher Mirko Ranieri

Agenda:

- Appointment of the Educational Coordinator
- School denomination and update of the School Statute
- Budget closing forecast as of June 30th 2021
- Budget school year 2021-22 (forecast)
- Tuition fees for the school year 2021-22 and relevant information to families
- Educational activities: report by the Educational Coordinator
- School organisation: report by the School Administrator
- Miscellaneous

Discussions and Resolutions

FC starts the meeting at 4:07 p.m.

FC informs of the appointment of Celeste Grassi as educational coordinator. She is the most qualified teacher in the team, and she has been with the School since its beginning. FC wishes all the best to Celeste for her new position.

FC informs that the School denomination shall be changed as required by the Ambassador. The new name will be "Accredited Italian Kindergarten in Beijing / Scuola Italiana d'Infanzia a Pechino". All the members of the School Advisory Board agree.

Accredited Italian Kindergarten in Beijing

SB presents the **closing forecast as of June 30th 2021**, as per the relevant summary herewith attached. **The loss will amount to 1,830,993 CNY** and will be covered with the carried forward balance originated by the School's donations received by the School in the previous years (totally 7,468,943 CNY). **The School cash balance at the end of June 2021 will be 50,381 CNY, not even enough to cover the severance pay fund for the Chinese staff (187,132 CNY)**. The School finances are obviously in a critical situation. There are no questions.

FC adds that the 'contribution' granted to the School by the Italian Government is based on an auditing process carried out by the Embassy of Italy in Beijing.

SB presents the **2021-22 School Year budget**. He emphasises that while the 2020-21 school year can be considered a transition year after Covid-19, the next school year must be fully operational, and the School must reach the break-even. That **necessarily** requires the **increase of the tuition fees**. There are no comments.

FC informs that he has been in consultation with the School Superintendent Consul Luca Fraticelli and H.E. the Ambassador Luca Ferrari about the amount of the tuition fees for the 2021-22. Taking into due consideration: a) the teaching quality and the services offered by the School – no less than the ones of international Schools in Beijing, and b) the tuition levels of other 'competitors' in relevant market segment, the **final proposal is of CNY 90,000 and of CNY 80,000 for the Italian families**. The assumption is that there will be a good response from the families of the currently enrolled kids and other families, as the prerequisite to reach the 2021-22 break-even appears to be a total of 42 kids.

The School Advisory Board agrees on that **all the families be informed by a letter** and be asked to **reply in writing by March 30th 2021**, confirming whether they will enrol their children for the 2021-22 school year or not. The parents' representatives receive a draft of the letter. The final text is to be agreed upon with the Italian Embassy in the next few days.

FC stresses that their replies are fundamental for the School to take commitments for the next school year, such as closing down or renewing rental and teachers' contracts.

CG expresses gratitude to all the families on behalf of the School team for their support and cooperation during the suspension period. She explains how the LEAD (home learning) was planned at the School in continuous training with the Reggio Children experts and in particular with Paola Cagliari, who joined the “Commissione Nazionale per il Sistema Integrato di educazione e istruzione” and who contributed to the “Orientamenti Pedagogici sui LEAD: legami educative a distanza. Un modo diverso per fare nido e scuola dell'Infanzia”.

CG announces the upcoming parents' meeting on March 18th and 23rd and the one-on-one meeting on March 26th.

IG positively assesses the past home learning result and confirms that the School's activities moved to the houses and are now back to the School.

FC thanks the teachers for their dedication and make reference to the significant salary cut this year and during the suspension.

GZ informs that:

- the credit notes relevant to the suspension period (January 25th to February 26th) have been sent to families. The credit notes will be cleared against re-enrolment or upon June 30th 2021;
- the new classroom (white) has now 6 kids;
- teacher Sabrina Chiara Iurato will start her job with our School on March 22nd. She is already following the teaching planning of the white class and will attend the white class parent meeting on March 18th;
- extra-curricular activities will start from March 15th through the end of the school year. The announcement has been sent by Seesaw to the families;
- teachers' training with Reggio Children continues weekly or bi-weekly by Zoom.

There are no questions nor additional topics to be discussed.

FC closes the meeting at 5:10 p.m.