

## School Advisory Board Meeting Wednesday, July 7<sup>th</sup> 2021 4:00-5:00 pm @Apt 5-1-11

### Attendees:

- School Chairman, Franco Cutrupia
- School Treasurer, Sergio Bertasi
- School Administrator, Giulia Zigiotti
- Educational Coordinator, Celeste Grassi
- Teachers' Representative, Sabrina Chiara Iurato (connected via WeChat)
- Parents' Representative, Valentina Liberatore
- Parents' Representative, Ray Wu

Observer: Head of Consular Section and School Superintendent, Luca Fraticelli

Apologies: Teachers' Representative, Ippolita Gallo

### Agenda:

- Budget closing as of June 30th 2021;
- Budget school year 2021-22 (forecast);
- Educational activities: report by the Educational Coordinator;
- School organisation: report by the School Administrator;
- Miscellaneous.

### Discussion and Resolutions:

Franco Cutrupia (FC) opens the meeting at 4:05 p.m..

He informs that, as approved by the Embassy of Italy according to the Accreditation Decree 4716/2009,

- he will go on managing the School for an additional 3-year term consequently,
- he has appointed the new Advisory Committee members, as per the copy of the letter attached herewith.

In particular, he stresses that Mrs. Sara Marchetta has been appointed as Deputy Chairman. She is a well-known professional figure of the expat community in China, a Resident Partner of Chiomenti Law Firm, the former Deputy Chairman of the China Italy Chamber of Commerce (CICC) and the former Deputy Chairman of the European Chamber of Commerce in China (EUCCC). She will substitute the Chairman when he will not be in Beijing or whenever agreed with him.

Sergio Bertasi (SB) reviews the financial results as of June 30th 2021.

The loss was still very significant (1,209,442 RMB), although it was less than in the preliminary 2020-21 budget forecast, thanks to the increased number of enrolled kids. That loss was covered by the cash balance carried forward from the previous school year (originated by donations and the MAECI contribution). The school fees paid by the families have covered only 52.14% of the costs.

SB looked into the preliminary 2021-22 budget, that is based on the enrollment of 35 children, with possibly 3 more joining in the second semester and other potential families interested. SB stresses that to reach break-even, the School needs to maintain a stick control over its accounts – both receivables and expenses – and find new income initiatives.

Celeste Grassi (CG) confirms that the School, during the 2021-22 school year, will maintain its focus on 'environment and sustainability' according to its three-year planning of the educational offer ("Piano Triennale dell'Offerta Formativa"). CG informs the families the School is working on having longer and more diverse extra-curricular courses to meet the needs of the families, especially those where both parents work. Furthermore, CG shares the School has set the goal of organising a meeting/conference with the parents about the wellbeing of the children and a conference on the Reggio Emilia Approach in China together with Reggio Children. Lastly, GC confirms the School teaching team will have a dedicated meeting with families of children that will go to primary on the 2022-23 school year to understand better the needs of the children in the new school environment.

FC thanks CG and all the teachers for their work, which is the basis of the quality of the School. FC also acknowledges the teachers' commitment, as shown by accepting a salary cut for the 2020-21 and 2021-22 school years.

GZ informs the whole team has been confirmed for the 2021-22 school year. In addition to them, the School is finalising the employment of a second English teacher for the White class. GZ confirms the enrolment forecast as described by SB and that the School is trying to reach out to more potential families to have a break-even budget. The School apartments remain 5-1-11 and 5-1-12. The administration will move to 5-1-11.

Ray Wu (RW) proposes establishing a School Alumni network to maintain contacts with the School community – children and families – for events, initiatives and broader support in terms of financial sponsorship etc... GZ and CG confirm the School will explore how to implement this suggestion.

FC thank the parents' representatives and the School Superintendent.

There are no other questions or remarks.  
FC closes the meeting at 4:45 pm.

Minuted by GZ