

Minutes of the School Advisory Board Meeting

held online (ZOOM) on Monday, 27 June 2022, 5:00 – 6:00 p.m. Beijing time

Participants

- Chairman, Franco Cutrupia
- School Treasurer, Sergio Bertasi
- School Administrator, Giulia Ziggiotti
- Educational Coordinator, Celeste Grassi
- Teachers' Representative, Ippolita Gallo
- Teachers' Representative, Sabrina Chiara Iurato
- Parents' Representative, Alessandra D'Itria
- Parents' Representative, Yan Gu
- Counsellor Rossella Rossi (on behalf of School Superintendent, Counsellor Simone Panfili)

Absentee:

- Deputy Chairman Sara Marchetta had informed she was on a trip and could not participate

Agenda:

- Closure of the School
- Miscellaneous

School Administrator Giulia Ziggiotti GZ opens the meeting at approximately 5 p.m., introduces all participants, and invites School Chairman FC to present the School's situation for the 2022-23 school year.

FC reports that

- to favour the families, the deadline for the payment of the first instalment of the 2022-23 school year was extended from 15 May to 18 June. On that date, 13 children were enrolled. Based on such a number, the budget for the 2022-23 school year is negative for CNY 1,096,845.00, which comes down to CNY 749,488 considering the expected contribution by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation.
- Several options were examined to cut costs. The limits to that are the requirements imposed by the Beijing Municipal Education Commission (such as the use of the school space with compulsory isolation rooms and nurse's room, the school nurse, and additional equipment) as well as the inalienable need to preserve the specific identity of the School and its educational approach. Therefore, not less than 29/30 pupils are necessary to reach break-even. The present situation leaves few options to continue the School activities.
- As this is the Italian Embassy School, the Italian Embassy was always informed and the Ambassador, who has always been very supportive of the School, has tried to find another person who could manage the School.

- He was happy to learn the Ambassador's intention and declared he was ready to cooperate. But unfortunately, the Ambassador's efforts to find a new School manager were so far unsuccessful.
- The Ambassador understands the lack of children does not put the current School management in a position to continue the School activities, but hopes that the School can resume its operations in the future. The authorization by the Chinese authorities shall remain in place for new management to resume the School operations when the situation allows.
- In the meantime, the actions necessary to terminate the current management period will be carried out. Namely, the School will terminate all the pending contractual obligations and settle all the financial issues, not to leave any outstanding problems or debits. Particularly, by 31 July 2022, the School will:
 - a) Return the first instalment of the school fees to the families who paid it;
 - b) Give the severance pay to the staff who are entitled to receive it;
 - c) Settle all the pending bills;
 - d) Terminate the lease contracts with the Sanlitun Diplomatic Resident Compound;
 - e) Terminate the contracts with the various service suppliers;
 - f) Complete, in agreement with the Embassy, all the bureaucratic formalities.
- He feels particularly sad to have to finish his management of the School to which he has dedicated personal commitment for seven years as well as donated over 800.000 euro. He expresses his gratitude to the families for their support and to the teachers and all the school employees for their dedication, professionalism and passion.

Counsellor Rossella Rossi RR says the Embassy is very sorry but understands the cause is the lack of a sufficient number of children. In the time frame, it was difficult to find another school manager. The Embassy intends to keep the school permit and resume the School operations in the future.

Treasurer Sergio Bertasi SB confirms the School looked into many ways to minimize the costs when drafting the budget. Still, no viable solutions were identified as the number of enrolled children is too small to break even. Besides, he personally discussed about the budget of the School with a potential school manager introduced by the Ambassador.

Parents' representative Yan Gu YG acknowledges the problematic situation of the School management and asks for School support to place the children in other schools in Beijing. GZ confirms that the School team will provide children with the documentation necessary for the enrolment move to another school.

Parents' representative Alessandra D'Itria ADI also acknowledges the School difficulty in carrying on the operations and asks for more details on why the School cannot continue with 13 enrolled children. GZ replies that the epidemic

prevention and control requirements (namely, use of the premises space, School nurse, and additional equipment) are a heavy burden and have a high impact on fixed costs. Educational Coordinator Celeste Grassi CG points out that cutting teaching positions to reduce the costs is not feasible as it would lower the quality of the pedagogical-didactical experience and affect the curriculum and consequently, the School identity and tradition would be lost.

Finally, CG and teachers' representative Sabrina Chiara Iurato SCI thank the families for their support and FC for the opportunity to be part of the School project. Likewise, parents' representatives YG and ADI thank the School teachers and all employees for their work and care for their children.

GZ thanks all the participants again for joining the meeting, which was declared closed at 5:55 p.m.

Minutes written by Giulia Ziggiotti and approved by the participants.



Giulia Ziggiotti