

## **INTERPARENTS Meeting at the European School Brussels I, Uccle, 20 April 2009**

INTERPARENTS met at the Brussels I European School on Monday 20 April 2009. Eleven of the thirteen member Parents Associations were represented (apologies from Alicante and Mol). Chair: Christopher Wilkinson, President of Interparents. Interparents was welcomed by Pierre.Choraine, President of the Brussels I Parents Association who outlined the main issues facing them this year: reducing lost school days due to BAC orals, disciplinary proceedings and notably the pilot School Advisory Councils (SAC) project. He reported excellent relations with the school administration with regular monthly or 6 weekly meetings to discuss all issues on a bilateral basis before the SAC. The other two pilot schools, Bergen and Munich, had not had such good experiences with much less involvement and transparency.

Members gave a quick overview of recent meetings and developments. Rotraut Moretto and Ana Gorey had attended the **CAF meeting** on 18-20 March 2009. All the directors and Bursars were there as it was a Budget meeting. The Board of Governors approved the School Administrative Boards' recommendations without change despite the point being made that the Commission's vote was tantamount to a veto. The Annual Report of the Financial Controller was well received as was the ICT annual report. There was a discussion on the PAS agreement being unworkable and all agreed this required review. Regarding Co-financing agreement for the Italian section at Frankfurt, views were divided.

The **European Parliament Hearing** on 19 April 2009 also benefited from the presence of members of the CAF in addition to a high level panel, including the President of Interparents whose speech was well received, and subsequently sent to the Board of Governors. Although nothing much new said, useful to have all the positions stated. It was a good occasion and Mme. Hennicot-Schoepges MEP promised to publish the acts and to ensure that her successors were fully informed..

Christopher and Carine would be attending the **Board of Governors, Stockholm**. Interparents' members went through the agenda item by item. Most urgent was to ensure we did not lose voting rights when decision making moved into Board of Inspectors where parents are not present.

As well as our work preparing for meetings, Interparents is preparing position papers on the major issues. Hilary Crowder presented the **SWALS background document** on behalf of the working group set up following the February Round table comprising of Caroline Hetterschijt (Alicante), Marit Hololei (Brussels II) with very helpful tips and official documents from Carine and Rotraut. Members appreciated all the work on such a complicated issue. It was an invaluable working document but needed to be framed differently before sending it to the SWALS working group.

Another major issue is students with Special Educational Needs, and we welcomed the **Swedish SEN report** on "The Evaluation and Practice of SEN in schools" as it's findings accurately reflected what parents have said. It was a useful document but it was disappointing in that it did not go a step further and make recommendations needed to achieve the SEN aim "for full promotion of the concept of inclusive integration in schools". Follow up was needed.

**Other issues** being looked into are: teacher absences and low replacement rate; the purpose, organisation and cost of voyages scolaires. Next year's calendar was discussed including the best occasion to invite Type II schools for a half day Roundtable. NB the Calendar is being revised in relation to the new European Schools 21009-2020 schedule.

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Rapporteur: Ana Gorey.

N.B. This Webreport is issued for quick information of the member Associations under the responsibility of the Chair. It is not the Minutes of the meeting which will follow in due course after being approved by the participants.