



ETOILE EDUCATION

FINAL REPORT OF THE SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY 7 October 2005 – 7pm

1. Welcome by the President

Leif Berg thanked everyone for coming and apologised for the fact that the meeting had fallen on a very busy week due to the Parliamentary Assembly, the secondary school parent/teacher evening the night before and the departure of Year 6 of the ESK to Italy that night. However, none of this had been foreseeable when the date had been set before the summer. A quorum of 50% of membership + 1 was necessary for any decision-making and he was confident that this was the case.

The agenda was adopted with the inclusion of a further item - the draft report of the Extraordinary General Assembly held on 25 February 2005 - which was adopted forthwith. Leif explained that, although that had been the first General Assembly to bring all members together for the first time, the very first (constitutive) General Assembly had actually been held in July 2004, when the Association had been set up. The General Assembly in February 2005 had been called in order to report on the first six months' work of the Association and to discuss ongoing activities. There would probably not be any need for an Extraordinary General Assembly in the beginning of 2006.

2. Discussion of the Annual Report 2004/2005

Leif commented on the very busy year Etoile Education had experienced and stressed that, for a first year of an association, it had been extremely productive. He was delighted to announce that Etoile Education had just been allocated a seat on the Administrative Board of the European School, Karlsruhe. This was a remarkable achievement in such a short time and of great importance to our membership as this Board is chaired by the Secretary General of the European School Board, Mr. Michael Ryan. Occasionally, high-level representatives from the Commission are also in attendance. Leif had already been invited to attend a Board meeting in December 2004, then in an observer capacity. The next Admin Board meeting was fixed for 10 November 2005 and should be very interesting, especially in view of the fact that Mr. Terry Davis, Secretary General of the Council of Europe, had been invited and was expected to attend.

Leif Berg recalled that the Extraordinary General Assembly in February 2005 had decided that Etoile Education's activity/financial reporting year would run from September to September, thus corresponding to the academic year. An interim version of the Annual Report had already been discussed at the Extraordinary General Assembly and had since been

updated. In his view, it gave a fairly concise overview of all our activities, suitable for the wider public as it gave a broad picture without going into all the details which could be found in the Bureau reports. The Annual Report for 2004/5 was duly adopted by the Assembly.

3. Discussion of the Financial Report 2004/2005

As with the Annual Report, the Financial Report covered the academic year 1st September to 31st August and an interim report had been discussed by the Extraordinary General Assembly. In addition, the Bureau had discussed an updated interim report in July and the final draft version, now before the Assembly, in September and October.

The report was divided up into Operational Costs and Fun and Fundraising Activities and included a financial breakdown of those costs, taking into account developments throughout the year as well as decisions taken by the General Assembly in February 2005 and by the Bureau. There was also a corresponding financial table broken down into three sub-sections: running costs, school fees and transport.

Thomas Markert pointed out that under the new transport cost policy adopted by the Bureau in June 2005, 2% of the transport bill had been set aside in order to cover the association's operational costs. In the Financial Report this sum had been added into sub-section "running costs". He also queried whether it was necessary for the Association to cover after-school supervision, since the school has an after-school care programme of its own ("MOMI").

Leif confirmed that "the 2 % policy" could, if necessary, be highlighted in more detail in future financial reports. The policy had been adopted only in June 2005, whereas the structure of the financial report had been based on the General Assembly decision in February that transport-related costs, incurred in the interests of reducing the total transport costs for the group, should be covered by any surplus of transport funds.

As to whether the association should cover any after-school activities at all, the figures clearly showed that the costs incurred during the first academic year had been in the best interests of the whole group as they had amounted to far less than the cost of an additional bus on Mondays and Wednesdays. He agreed that it might be better to rename the sub-section "transport" as "transport and transport-related costs", keeping the distinction between "pure" transport costs and "transport-related" costs.

With regard to the transport cost policy, Leif pointed out the necessity to ensure a minimum financial basis for the functioning of the association, even though it was run on a voluntary basis. The policy stated that the 2% for operational costs "*will also include as much as possible [of] other transport-related costs such as remuneration of bus monitors as well as after-school care for the younger children on Monday and/or Wednesday afternoons (whenever deemed necessary by the Bureau so as to avoid incurring an unreasonable transportation cost which would arise from the need for a further bus leaving earlier than the ordinary one).*" However, the 2 % certainly were not enough to cover all costs and the surplus we had last year was unlikely to occur again. Leif hoped that the Association would not need to go back to its members to cover any shortfall.

With regard to the Fun and Fundraising activities, Leif thanked those who had donated their time and money. It was clear that some of the activities had done financially better than others. When trying to raise funds we should therefore in the future concentrate more on

those which were the most successful ones. Agenda item 6 would go further into this discussion.

4. Nomination of Bureau members for 2005/6

Leif thanked the Bureau members for all their hard work and effort throughout the year which had been especially challenging as it was the first year of the Association. He explained to the General Assembly that the entire Bureau was standing down but that several of them were prepared to stand again. He felt that this had all the advantages of combining the experience of last year's members and the fresh energy and ideas of the proposed new members.

According to Etoile Education's Statutes, it was for the General Assembly to set the number of members of the Bureau. The number was currently eight, which was most convenient as there were eight nominations.

Kristopher Fain presided over the election of the new Bureau and, referring to the procedure regarding this item (appendix I), read out the nominations and asked the General Assembly:

- if they wished to maintain the current number of eight in the Bureau
- if there were any further nominations for the Bureau
- if anyone had any objections to the proposed nominations

The General Assembly then elected the new Bureau by consensus. A decision was also taken deciding to give the Bureau the power to appoint the various positions of President, Vice-Presidents, Secretary and Treasurer. Leif Berg thanked the Assembly for their confidence and welcomed the new Bureau to take their seat at the table.

5. Questions relating to European School, Karlsruhe, ESK

School

General relations with Mr. Hoyem and European School Board

Leif had already informed the General Assembly of the fact that Etoile Education had been given a seat on the ESK Administrative Board, which also due in part, to the excellent working relationship between the Association, the school and its Director, Mr. Hoyem.

A seat on the board was particularly important in the light of the European Commission's current evaluation of the "smaller schools" (including ESK). Etoile Education had already been invited to a pre-consultation meeting at the school on 11 October 2005. Getting across the importance of the school to the Strasbourg community was one of the challenges ahead.

Creation of a European School in Strasbourg/Kehl or a feeder school

Leif informed the General Assembly of the meeting on 5 July 2005 held at the initiative of the Norwegian Ambassador as a follow-up to the meeting held in October 2004 on this issue. The report of the meeting had been attached to the September Bureau minutes (circulated to all members), including various other relevant documents regarding the development of schooling in Strasbourg and the feasibility study for a European School in Strasbourg.

Another meeting had been foreseen for early October but so far this had not been confirmed. The Assembly held a general discussion on the importance of international/European schooling in Strasbourg and what the exact role of Etoile Education should be in promoting this. Leif Berg said that putting together a strategy would be the first priority of the new Bureau and that any interested members would be invited to take part in a brainstorming session to this end.

Agreement and fees category

Leif had just been informed of the fees for 2005/6 which were 11,110.27€. He said that there had been no progress on the question of categories. Eurocorps were no longer accepted as Category III, although NATO had apparently managed to hold on to their Category IIIa status.

Transport

Current situation / future prospects

A number of new students had joined the bus this year, bringing the total number to 39 children. The times and route remain essentially the same and the *rentrée* had been very smooth. The calculation of the annual fee per seat had been made on the basis of the transport-cost policy adopted by the Bureau in June 2005, as appended to the transport agreements signed between members and Etoile Education.

Bus situation / new bus monitors

A Code of Conduct for Strasbourg-ESK-Strasbourg, approved by the Bureau in June 2005, had been distributed to all members who had also been requested to discuss the matter with their children. The problems on the bus were different from last year and various members of the Bureau had gone with the bus to try to come up with suitable solutions. Assigned seating has resolved many of the problems, but far from all.

Disruptive behaviour is dangerous and distracting for the bus driver and could seriously endanger every one on board. Leif had spoken recently with the driver, Rolf Weißenrieder, who has 36 years experience, to get his latest assessment. He had highlighted the following issues:

- a small minority of children fighting with each other (these had now been separated)
- many children not using their seatbelt (in which case, under German law, no insurance would cover the child)
- children running up and down the aisle before the bus had come to a stop at the school or when arriving in Strasbourg

Two new bus monitors, Marion Markert and Magnus Fein, had been appointed. The bus monitors are primarily there to take care of children who are feeling unwell or to tend to any other particular problem. Bus monitors and parents should contact Leif or Ana Gorey with regard to any recurrent problems.

Leif stressed that the association has the right to impose preventative measures, for example, banning a student from the bus temporarily when necessary. This would be done only after discussion with Transport Committee and the School which, for its part, could consider disciplinary measures.

Kristopher Fain suggested organising a transport safety meeting for the children in order to help them understand the importance of good bus behaviour. The meeting should use a variety of materials, including video footage, and give the children an opportunity to speak about the issue themselves. Everyone agreed that this would be an excellent idea and should take place as soon as possible. A provisional date was fixed (18 November) and the Bureau was asked to take care of the arrangements together with Kristopher, keeping in mind the language constraints.

After-school care

Christina Frink is the Monday afternoon supervisor and Stephanie Sibbus is the Wednesday afternoon supervisor. Leif Berg thanked the school for continuing to allow us to supervise the children as well as providing a room for us to use.

6. Fundraising events for 2006

As can be seen in the Annual and Financial Report, Etoile Education had run quite a number of activities last year and Leif Berg thanked all those involved. He was aware that some members may have felt that this had been rather an “imposition” of work. However, these were voluntary actions and members were in no way obliged to participate.

Some of the activities had done financially better than others, the most successful being the cookie sale. However, it was important to not just see these activities in financial terms. Some of the events, such as the Bonfire Night pancake sale, were an important contribution to the school community and helped raise awareness about the Strasbourg group. However, when trying to raise funds we should in the future concentrate more on those which were the most successful and the Bureau would look into this matter very carefully before endorsing any suggested activity.

The Sponsored Bike Ride had raised approximately 2,500€ for the Bike and Bus Fund which is a completely separate entity. On this point, the General Assembly was asked, and gave its approval, for the use of up to EUR 300 from the Bike and Bus Fund for the ESK School Bike Programme which was in need of extra training equipment.

Several events had been planned at the school in the near future. Any volunteers for these or new ideas were most welcome and should get in touch with Ana Gorey:

Guy Fawkes’ Bonfire Night – Saturday 12 November (400th anniversary)

Christmas –

World Water Day, 22 March 2006

European Day – 6 May (Renovation of water fountain)

Bike for a bus – Sponsored bike ride from Strasbourg to Karlsruhe – 13 May 2006

7. Any other business

Request for membership of IDEA

Referring to the circulated statutes of *International Development of Education in Alsace* (“*IDEA*”), Leif proposed that Etoile Education seek membership thereof, given the partly overlapping activities and common interests of the two associations. The General Assembly agreed.

Admission to US universities on the strength of a European Bac

Daisy Scheske reported that at a class meeting of the secondary school a teacher had stated that the European Bac was actually not recognised in the USA. Leif said he would look into the matter as this was surprising and possibly incorrect information, given the information available on the European Schools’ umbrella website and in other documents.

NB: The ESK headmaster has since confirmed that many former pupils are actually studying in the United States. Admission is obviously dependent not only on the different states but also on the academic institution in question.

8. Date of next General Assembly – September 2006

It was deemed unnecessary to set a date for the next Ordinary General Assembly but it would again be sometime in October once the school year had started in order to have the final number of members, kids on the bus, school fees etc..

The meeting was declared at an end.



ETOILE EDUCATION

BUREAU NOMINATIONS 2005/6 & PROPOSED VOTING PROCEDURE

Etoile Education Association, 19 rue Grossmatt, 67800 Hoenheim, was registered on 31 August 2004 by the *Tribunal d'Instance de Schiltigheim*, Volume 36. Folio n° 37 and published on 9 September 2004 in the newspaper *Ami du Peuple Hebdo*.

The constitutive meeting of *Etoile Education* was held by the founding members on the 27 July 2004, where the statutes were adopted and the members of the Bureau designated according to article 12. These members were as follows:

President: Leif Berg

Vice-Presidents: Madelena GROSSMAN and Valerie DU JARDIN

Secretary: Ana GOREY

Treasurer: Mark GOREY

Members: Gudrun THRASTARDOTTIR, Muriel RICHARDSON, Stan NYSEN

We would like to thank all the members of the Bureau for their hard work and commitment particularly in the first year of our Assosication. Although we are all standing down, there are a few who do not wish to stand for re-election: Valerie DU JARDIN, Mark GOREY, Gudrun THRASTARDOTTIR.

Following a call for candidatures, please find below a list of candidates for the Bureau 2005/6 (in alphabetical order):

Leif Berg
Giovanna FRAGAPANE
Ana GOREY
Madelena GROSSMAN
Stan NYSEN
Muriel RICHARDSON
Astrid SJÖGREN
Inge VLAMYNCK

Any further nominations should reach a member of the Bureau by e-mail by noon, Wednesday, 5 October 2005.

According to Article 12 of the statutes the Bureau can have up to eight members. If further members are nominated, the General Assembly will proceed to a secret vote by ballot.



ETOILE EDUCATION

**2nd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
7 October 2005 – 7pm**

DRAFT ANNOTATED AGENDA

1. Welcome by Leif Berg, President
2. Discussion of the Annual Report 2004/2005
3. Discussion of the Financial Report 2004/2005
4. Nomination of Bureau members for 2005/6
5. Questions relating to European School, Karlsruhe, ESK

School

general relations with Mr. Hoyem and European School Board
creation of a European School in Strasbourg/Kehl or a feeder school
agreement and fees category

Transport

current situation / future prospects
afterschool care or other arrangements
bus situation / new bus monitors

6. Questions relating to Etoile Education
Awareness raising / Media / Membership
Fund
7. Any other business
8. Date of next General Assembly – September 2006



ETOILE EDUCATION

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

7 October 2005 – 7pm

LIST OF PRESENCE

Etoile Education Bureau

President: Leif BERG

Vice-Presidents: Madelena GROSSMAN and Valerie DU JARDIN (excused)

Secretary: Ana GOREY

Treasurer: Mark GOREY

Members: Gudrun THRASTARDOTTIR and Muriel RICHARDSON

Members of Etoile Education

Present

Danny + Inge Baken
Kiera Berg
Merete Bjerregaard
Kristopher Fain
Madelena Grossman
Thomas + Brigitte Markert
James + Murielle Richardson
Daisy Scheske
Astrid Sjogren
Gudrun Thrastardottir

Proxy

Erik + Stina Lundberg
Valerie DU JARDIN
Giovanna Fragapane
Jakob + Alicia Thomsen
Félicia Voltzenlogel

Excused

Mario + Litha Antheunis
Gerda + Dobby Bultinck
Massimo and Carmen Ezzy
Torbjorn +Birgit Frøysnes
Theodoros & Charikleia Kapetaniou
Ivan + Rossitza Koedjikov
Marc + Carmen Hosten
Rachel +Ludwig Kreitz
Stan + Jeannine Nysen
Cees + Elske Paul
Gunther Scheske
Per Sjogren
Alain + AnneMarie Smeets
Werner + Elisa Strobelt