

**Interparents Meeting, 16 January 2009**  
**European School Luxembourg**  
Summary report for the Website.

INTERPARENTS met at the Luxembourg European School on Friday 16 January 2009. All thirteen member Parents Associations were represented. Chair: Christopher Wilkinson, President of Interparents. The meeting had been scheduled to prepare Interparents' positions in the next meeting of the Board of Governors of the European Schools in Brussels, 20-21 January 2009. The meeting was welcomed by Ian Dennis, President of the Luxembourg Parents Association at the beginning of the meeting and at lunchtime by Madame Toula Vassilacou, Director of Luxembourg I. The participants were shown round the Luxembourg II temporary facilities by Mr Paul Schiltz, Director.

The Annual Report was presented. Interparents Delegates participate in many meetings (Board of Governors, associated meetings and working groups). To keep up with the increasing workload, the Management Committee has strengthened Interparents internal working methods. The President's letter to APEEE Presidents, regarding the need for an Interparents Secretariat, was appreciated and their suggestions supported, however more information was needed as to:

- what form this should take (administrative or expert)?
- what additional costs might be involved? What were the budgetary aspects?

Other questions arising included:

- how to enlarge number of representatives in Interparents (but with real mandates)?
- how to increase number of position papers, in good time and addressed to the relevant bodies?
- how we can improve on-line working - Interparents website, e-mail, mailing lists?

The meeting updated and discussed Interparents representation in working groups and committees. Participants underlined the need for timely communication of meeting dates especially if a representative needed to be substituted. Drafts could be commented on by the group and other parents (especially those with specific interests) should be encouraged to participate. The SWALS issue was identified as a priority, a draft paper would be available soon and it would be one of the themes for the Interparents Roundtable, Tuesday 17 February, Brussels.

During preparations for the Board of Governors meeting 20-21 January 2009, several issues came to light that Interparent members are not happy with:

- Rapport de Rentree - why do them if they are not discussed anywhere? Those unhappy with inaccuracies in their school reports should bring this up individually with their management.

- European School Bureau documents should be confidential only if they are dealing with specific personnel decisions.
- We do not always have information e.g. need results of the standard of attainment in intergrated science at the end of the secondary year (SG annual report page 34) and reform of the policy for the appointment of Directors.
- European School Bureau document should reflect Interparents' positions in a balanced and complete manner.
- Cost calculations do not take into account many hidden costs. Cost of inspections only take into account travel not what is truly valuable i.e. their expertise. Member States' contribution to infrastructure is not recorded only seconded teachers. The EU Commission's budget is also contributed from Member States.
- We need to emphasise the added value of our system not only the financial aspects.

Other subjects discussed were: progress on the Reform of the European schools, the van Dijk report on past pupils, Cambridge report on EU Baccalaureate, religious observances and merged classes.

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