



## December 17, 2018 School Council Report

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### School Council of December 17 2018

Present (staff members): Mr. Laurent Bonardi (Chair), Mrs. Julie Dervaux (Vice-Chair), Mrs. Patricia Antonino, Mrs. Rita Bello, Mrs. Laurence Bouba, Mrs. Awa Cisse, Mrs. Cécile Colin, Mr. Aboubakar Coulibaly, Mrs. Antoinette Da Sylva, Mr. Mohamed Diaby, Mrs. Delphine Diallo, Mrs. Marième Diallo, Mr. Lazare Diatta, Mrs. Marie-Bernardette Diasso, Mrs. Adja Dieye, Mrs. Racky Diop, Mrs. Adeline Ferdy, Mrs. Marie-Line Goudiaby, Mrs. Khoredia Gueye, Mrs. Mame Awa Hughes, Mr. Bassirou Ndiaye, Mrs. Patricia Ndiaye, Mrs. Elizabeth Ndiogoye, Mrs. Marie Ndong, Mrs. Fatimata Niang, Mrs. Louise-Marie Sambou, Mrs. Thillo Niang, Mrs. Jenifer Onyam, Mrs. Déliane Sagna, Mr. Ange Santenard, Mrs. Anta Sall, Mrs. Aminata Sene, Mrs. Eliane Sene, Mr. Lamine Sonko, Mrs. Maïmouna Sow, Mr. Youssoufa Sow, Mr. Mamadou Moustapha Thiam, Mr. Ahmed Thiaw, Mr. Cheikhou Thiome

Excused: Mrs. Fatimata Coulibaly

**Parents' representatives:** Mr. Andrew Curry, Mrs. Fatoumata Gueye, Mrs. Nadia Kopogo, Mrs. Hélène de Magny, Mrs. Fatou Sarr, Mrs. Géraldine Tardivel.

Absentees are excused.

The meeting opened at 16.05.

### **AGENDA**

Mr. Bonardi reads the agenda.

1. Internal rules
2. The new school project
3. Educational projects
4. School life
5. Questions from parents' representatives

VOTE: the agenda is accepted unanimously.

### **School rules (Item 1 of the Agenda)**

The existing rules of procedure are presented to the Council in broad outline as a reminder. The position of Vice-chair is created, it is occupied by the Primary School Director. There is no particular observation concerning the rules which are therefore renewed.



## **The new school project (Item 2 of the Agenda)**

Mrs. Dervaux presents 2019-2021 school project axes:

Ø Axis 1: Improve language proficiency

Ø Axis 2: Developing eco-citizen awareness

Ø Axis 3: Strengthen the use of digital technology in teaching and learning

These axes do not jeopardize the continuous development of other aspects but set priorities and a guideline.

**VOTE: The school project is voted unanimously.**

## **Educational projects (Item 3 of the Agenda)**

As every year, many educational projects are developed. A spotlight is put this year on the Digital component, related to the school project. Among the projects that are being developed this year, Mr. Bonardi reminds:

- recurrent projects: countries special days, reading rally (spring)

- AEFÉ projects (classical track): circus project, cinema route, dance project, robotic project

- projects: exchange, field trips, artistic projects

- web-radio project related to AEFÉ

- recycling project, presented by Mrs. Julie Dervaux. As part of our "Ecol-ogie" theme, EAB continues the plastic collection and recycling program in partnership with Proplast.

## **School Life (Item 4 of the Agenda)**

School life is another important element in the life of the school. The school project gives it a fair share by declining the axis on eco-citizenship. SCAC Embassy of France and the association of affiliated schools of Senegal and The Gambia has decided to make the school climate a priority within the network.

There will be punctual actions such as the organization of an anti-bullying day and actions over the long term contributing to the ongoing awareness of students. As such, EAB will be the first school in Africa to join the Better Buddies network, an Australian initiative to foster integration and collaborative aspects between students.

Parents' representatives also stress the importance of school life management.



## Questions from parents' representatives (Item 5 of the Agenda)

1. *The parents raise the difficulties related to the very structure of the Ngor campus, which is small and not suitable to host a school. These difficulties have increased this year, particularly with the increase in the number of the two first grades open in September 2018. To date, the site includes about 85 students. The playground is small, little equipped, without games for children (except a cabin), the canteen is installed in a garage, the classes are small and poorly equipped (nuance) ... During the winter, the playground is flooded after each rain: children cannot go outside during recess and there are also problems with mosquitoes. First grade students do not have access to the library at reading time like the ones on the Corniche Campus or borrow books.*

*The parents therefore wish to emphasize here the obvious differences of comfort and equipment between the Ngor site and that of the Corniche while the tuition fees are identical. Thus, the parents ask the administration what are the immediate solutions (this year) and in the future (other years in particular if increase of the number of classes and thus of pupils) to ensure fairness of supply between the two campuses.*

The Ngor campus today welcomes students from the Pre-Nursery to First grade. Like many schools in Dakar (this was also the case of the kindergarten at EAB Corniche), this is a large house but not a building originally built to be a school. It was the object of the best possible selection but we are well aware of certain limitations. The rooms of Nursery, Preschool and Kindergarten are very spacious. Those of First grade are smaller but we have capped the enrollment at 15 students. The Pre-Kindergarten room on the other hand is smaller. Well obviously, we cannot push the walls and the team did their best to optimize the space. It is the same for the playground. It should be noted that all parents had the opportunity to visit the campus before enrolling their children, transparently. The impact of rainy days is still low on the school year and students cannot go out in the rain, it is rather after the problem arises. However, there are few rainy days and the impact of this problem is therefore limited. Solutions are sought but they must be compatible with the possibilities of the school and the tenant status.

Regarding access to the Library, Ms. Ferdy explains that First grade students in Ngor will visit the Corniche campus to benefit from library slots from January. There are also significant advantages on the Ngor campus: for example, the low number of students allows a special atmosphere, an even more individualized follow-up. The Ngor campus is not intended to accommodate more students. The building of a new campus on the same area should start as early as next year.



*2. Some parents continue to report several issues for meal times and where children could be in good conditions to eat. The representatives appreciate the setting up of the canteen committee for several years, to which 3 of them participate and thanks to whom improvements have already been put in place. Concerning the Ngor site, the meals arrive prepared from the corniche and we would like to have more information about i) the conditions of transport; and ii) the staff dedicated to this transfer in relation to EAB Corniche campus staff (are they the same?), the schedules being the same on the two sites. This raises the question of the number of staff dedicated to watching and helping children during lunch on both sites. Moreover, it was announced in a school council last year the implementation of protections raised in relation to the existing walls of the canteen to secure the place. When are they going to be placed?*

The school is engaged in a process of continuous improvement. As such, the number of supervisors will increase again. All meals are prepared on the Corniche site. Ngor's staff picks it up in coolers at 11am and transports it to EAB Ngor. Mrs. Collé who supervised the canteen of EAB Corniche few years ago is present at EAB Ngor. So there is no loss of staff from a site to the other. The installation of guardrails has been registered and should be done in 2019. It has been postponed for budgetary reasons.

*3. We would also like to continue the momentum of improving the safety of children during recess times, an important moment of relaxation which, for some children, becomes a time of stress and fear.*

*First of all, parents would like the kindergarten yard used since the beginning of the school year to be completed and arranged in a secure and pleasant way. The children are in a concrete playground, with cement walls, without decoration, with only shade, a tarpaulin on one part of the playground and 3 games.*

*On the primary side, the grounding of the goals becomes really important in view of the danger that this represents.*

*Finally, we would like to discuss the management of recess especially at noon when students are concentrated in the second playground, which increases the risk of accidents. The use of leather balls could be discussed in such dense environment, foam balls would already be an inexpensive improvement. A schedule of access to ball games (football, basketball) by level would also allow everyone to play regularly.*



Concerning the kindergarten playground, it is reminded that cement and asphalt are the two coats used in school playgrounds, EAB is not an exception. On the other hand, work will be done to make an extra slab, more even and better leveling. Such work can only be done during school holidays (in December if possible or in the worst case, in February). A very positive point is that the new playground is larger than the old one (where there was a tarpaulin too).

Regarding the management of recess, Ms. Dervaux reminds the rules of operation. It indicates also that the front yard will be used again during the time of the lunchtime break, which will allow a better distribution of students.

The goal cages were secured to the ground but loosened. They will be sealed again.

4. We understand that big recent construction is as expensive as it is useful. However, we would also like to raise the importance of maintenance and renewal of certain materials. In particular, the only copy machine available for teachers is regularly out of order or works poorly (photocopies of poor quality).

The only copy machine, for about 20 classes seems to us little adapted to assure the good courses and evaluations, as was the case during the December evaluations, for example. We ask that teachers be able to benefit from the material needed to work in an optimal atmosphere.

Moreover, it seems important to us to ensure equity in terms of equipment and games between classes, which does not seem to be the case for example with regard to Pre-Kindergarten.

Indeed, the school cannot lead all frontal aspects.

Mr. Bonardi indicates that there is no redistribution of dividends to EAB stakeholders and that all resources are re-invested in the school. The construction has led to both an improvement of facilities and a rationalization of operations.

The renewal of equipment and the acquisition of new equipment are clearly part of priority axes of the policy of the institution. We must also take into account the emergencies that sometimes lead to rethink the expenditure commitment schedule. Regarding photocopies, there is not only one copy machine but a copy machine and a large copy duplicator. Despite inventory management, some parts may compromise the quality of the printing. Both devices allow us to respond largely to the need for copies. On the other hand, our goal is to reduce the use of photocopies; in an ecological and educational perspective (the optimal use of textbooks and gradual staffing of rooms with video projectors will reduce the consumption of photocopies).

5. We would like to congratulate and thank the school management for putting in place protective barriers on the sidewalk that runs along the school, thus freeing up the sidewalk on this side effectively. As in previous years, parents' representatives wish to continue to interact with the school management to develop new ideas to improve the management of vehicles



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parked on the sidewalks in the morning and when leaving school. We think, while continuing to sensitize parents by email and / or postings, to think about the effectiveness of working with teachers for regular road safety awareness of children around the school (drawings, posters, mornings of road safety ...) to hope to have an effect on parents.

The installation of these barriers has required many negotiations because it is a public road. We are pleased to have achieved this, while reminding that if recalcitrant parents saw reason we could invest this money otherwise, in materials for the pupils. Two years ago, in partnership with Total Foundation, 10 classes had benefited from road safety sessions. This could be one of the new actions. Any collaboration of parents' representatives will of course be welcome and appreciated.

*The items of agenda having been covered, Mr. Bonardi thanked the members of the council and closed the meeting at 18:15.*