



Monday December 14 School Council Report

Present (staff members) : Mrs. Hersent, Mrs. Ferdy-Gueye, Mrs. Diasso, Mrs. Cissé Diallo, Mrs. Niang, Mrs. Ndiaye, Mrs. Fontaine, Mrs. Roux, Mrs. Sarr, Mr. Ndiaye, Mr. Santenard, Mr. Diaby, Mrs. Thérèse Diatta, Mrs. Diop, Mrs. Colin, Mrs. Theunis, Mrs. Sène, Mrs. Faye.

Excused: Mrs. Fatima Niang, Mrs. Coulibaly,

Parents representatives: Mrs. Bandolo, Mrs. Bekhouche Garcia, Mrs. Daffé, Mrs. Pardon, Mrs. Sarr, Mr. Uy.

Absent are excused.

The meeting opened at 4:05 p.m.

AGENDA

Mrs. Hersent read out the agenda.

1. Internal regulations
2. Educational projects
3. The equipment
4. School Life
5. Sanitary situation
6. Questions from parents representatives

VOTE: the agenda was unanimously accepted.

Procedure Rules (Item 1 of the Agenda)

Ms. Hersent presented the School Council by-laws.

Mme Pardon asked that the word "business days" be added to the 8-day deadline for sending the convocation and wished to specify in article 4 who decides on the budget in the average part allocated to the school.

Reports are also available on the school's website.

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Pedagogical projects (Item 2 of the agenda)

This year's particular health context has somewhat modified the organization of the projects. School field trips are currently not allowed. The projects are therefore, for the time being, carried out inside the school.

Different projects are being developed:

- Current projects: countries special days, the reading rally, theme days (non-violence day, Handicap day...), mathematics rally, science week, art exhibitions, school penpalling, robotics...
- Annual projects that can bring together several classes:

Circus: PS/MS/GS3/CP/CE2C/CM2B/CE1B3

Dance: PS/GS/CPB/CE1B/CM1B Choir: MS/GS/CE1B/CM2C

Green school/sustainable development: CE2B/CM1C/GS3/CE2B Photography: CE1C

Mosaic: CM2C Pottery: MS

Micro gardening: PS/MS/GS/CE1B Musical alarm clock: MS3

“Papier –maché”: GS3

Equipment (Item 3 of the Agenda)

Due to the Covid 19 pandemic, the deadlines have been revised because some suppliers are not available (for example a supplier in China which has just resumed its activity).

The manufactured equipment:

- End of school year 2019/2020: renewal of tables and chairs of the CE1/CE2/CM1 at the beginning of 2020 school year:
- Purchase of new furniture for the Nursery and 1st Grade classes (6 classes in total): tables, chairs, furniture, curtains, etc.
- Installation of new tables / chairs in MS classrooms
- Painting of Pre K/Kindergarten furniture and installation of new curtains + floor carpets
- Damaged whiteboards have been replaced by new ones.
- The walls of kindergarten playground were repainted in ochre to limit reverberation, plants were added.

To come for this year:

- Computer equipment, Smart boards (4 for this year)

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- Additional furniture in classrooms.

Students Parents ask for an update on the sports equipment available, and in particular the quantity of mats currently present. The observation made by the parents is that the children do not master basic gymnastics skills which are part of the French Ministry of Education curriculum in elementary school. The Corniche Campus currently has 9 carpets for 450 pupils, Ngor has 7 carpets. Mrs. Hersent explains that an order for equipment has been placed for the first part of year 2021. Parents would like the increase in school fees to allow an investment in sports equipment quickly and especially from the beginning of 2021.

School Life (Item 4 of the agenda)

Mrs. Hersent reminds us of the following rules:

- Wearing of the uniform or color code (plain navy blue at the bottom, plain white at the top), of the uniform for PE.

The school goes through a new supplier for the uniforms, and the quality is better. The designs of uniforms were created by students of the middle school; they are more in line with the students' expectations.

Mrs. Pardon feels that the color coding of the new uniforms undermines the logic of color coding: the grey used for P.E. is in addition to the traditional white/blue. With classes having P.E. three times a week, grey becomes more worn than the white and blue that is the original color code for the school. In addition, parents point out that the price of uniforms, especially the mandatory P.E. uniform, is too high. The communication was made at the end of the summer; most parents had already bought white T-shirts. Mrs. Hersent explains that the higher price comes from choosing a supplier with better quality items. Mrs. Pardon says some sizes are no longer available. Due to the cost of purchasing three sports uniforms and the discontinuation of some sizes, she asked that the school review its position on the mandatory wearing of the sports uniform and allow the white and blue color code to be worn during P.E classes.

- dropping off the students on time (8am), and their exit (no later than 3:15pm, and 4:15pm for those who have an extra-curricular activity): the school is responsible for school's opening hours, as recalled in the internal regulations.

The fact that students stay at school after school hours is posing a problem of security because of the pandemic.

Question 4

Questions from Parents Representatives (Item 6 of the Agenda)

1. With school fees increasing by 25% at this critical time of the year, the absence of a nurse's office in Ngor and some teachers having to teach two languages at the same time, do you plan to recruit

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more staff on both campuses, especially faculty? Precisely, for the current teachers, what motivations are given to them in order to retain them, to encourage them to be examples for the children, perhaps towards a "savoir-vivre ensemble" approach or civic education?

The purpose of increasing school fees is to ensure the sustainability of the school and its identity. The school is strengthening its attractiveness to the staff and wants to improve the reception conditions.

The objective is not to increase the number of teachers, unless specific needs arise, but to enhance them. As far as the teaching of both languages by a single teacher is concerned, it is not a question of understaffing according to the management. Rather than hiring two unilingual part-time teachers, the school chose to hire a full-time bilingual teacher. The Principal emphasizes the positive effect for the children of having only one teacher for both languages from a pedagogical point of view.

No school the size of Ngor campus has a nurse's office (space problem). However, the nurse will conduct, as she did at Corniche campus, a medical check-up for each student in Ngor. On the other hand, in the coming weeks, the CSI team will share information about the ongoing construction of a new campus in Ngor in which there will be a nurse's office..

Moral and civic education is an important part of the curriculum. The role of the teacher is to be irreproachable in order to be an example for the students.

Parents want to know if they can attend the board meeting to get information on operating expenses and note a lack of transparency. They do not want their schools to fund new schools such as AIS.

Mrs. Herset explained that the school is not a parent-run school and finances/investment plans are not meant to be public. She recalled that EAB and AIS are two different entities with separate funding/budgets. Mrs. Pardon took note of the management's response but indicated that, given the significant increase in tuition fees, parents would at least like to know the percentage of changes in each budget item between year 2020 and year 2021. Mrs. Herset indicated that she would pass on this request to Mr. Bonardi.

2. What measures does the administration intend to implement to reinforce road safety outside the school in order to :

- prevent the risk of accidents***
- manage the parking problem***
- take more adequate solutions regarding assistance in the crossing of children***
- supervise children dropped off at the gate near the roadway***
- resume school transportation (and on what date?)***

With respect to the safety of children within the school, how is supervision at recess and meals enforced, and are supervisory staff certified in first aid?

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Safety around the school is not the responsibility of EAB, so the school has little solution. The school has the help of the national police, that watches over traffic etc., but asks drivers to park on the sidewalk so as not to obstruct traffic (for example, they have asked the school to remove the barriers protecting the sidewalks). The school can only educate parents through regular messages.

The crossing of students is managed by a guard, who stops cars to let families pass.

The school cannot be responsible for the safety of students left alone in front of the school/side of the road, hence the importance of dropping off students during school hours.

The parents propose the extension of the barriers along the sidewalk; Mrs. Hersent explains that the school cannot act on the public way without the agreement of the town hall, and that the national police has asked that the barriers already installed be removed.

The parents raise the dangerousness of the crossing because the guard stops one line of cars but the second line of cars does not stop. Mrs. Hersent will study the possibility of putting a second person in this position.

The parents propose to put speed bumps, signs indicating the presence of a school, a loop to drop the children in the alley, and give the idea of a joint operation school/parents/national police for a few days to raise awareness among users and indicate free parking places (example the streets of Fenetre Mermoz district in front of the Water Front residence etc.).

School transportation does not seem to be able to resume in January. The director informs that the financing of this service is partly linked to school field trips, which are cancelled due to the health crisis. However, if there were no field trips, the bill would be too high for the parents. After exchange, during which parents issue the wish to have a simulation, the director indicates that this simulation will be requested.

However, on this question, Mrs. Pardon took the floor and explained that she cannot be satisfied with this answer, which she finds shocking, especially since the parents have paid in totality the school fees for 2019 and a significant increase has been made this year, while the school did not have the same expenses (consumables, water, electricity, animation of external speakers), consequently it asked that the Management review its position as of January 2021, especially since the reactivation of school transport would have the effect of relieving traffic jams in the school surroundings.

Mrs. Hersent specifies that she will forward this request to Mr. Bonardi.

3. Many parents, already accustomed to EAB with several new school years, are concerned to see more and more emphasis on financial, administrative and disciplinary issues and less and less on pedagogy, education and the well-being of students:

In this sense, students parents would like to know the schedule of investments, by item (sports equipment, sanitary facilities, school materials, endowment to the pedagogical project of each class, especially since some projects were not carried out last year, etc....) to be made during this year 2020-2021 and the coming school year, given the significant increase in school fees.

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In addition to school fees, parents are regularly asked to contribute to a number of additional expenses: for example, the purchase of a liaison notebook at 1000 F CFA (unnecessary expenditure and waste of paper - Pronote's account); on sportswear, how was the choice of supplier and model of clothing made (excluding color coding, local production, etc.)? ..., what margin is made on prices which are very high and for what purpose?); finally the average shopping basket of school supplies to be purchased at the beginning of the year is far too high, it is necessary for parents' budget especially for our company; that the school works hard to reduce the lists.

The school is transparent as much as it can be, but sales management is a pact of trust with the school. The investment plan is not intended to be public, especially since the projects are subject to variables that force us to review it regularly. The school does not communicate on the budget and its breakdown. After having taken note of this positioning of the school, Mrs. Pardon nevertheless asks that parents be informed of the percentage variations of the large items (purchase of furniture and computer equipment, payroll of teaching and non-teaching staff, etc.).

Mrs. Pardon asked for transparency on the margin made by the school on the sale of sportswear and that this margin be reinvested in the purchase of sports equipment, which is almost non-existent today (the purchase of a stock of mats on both campuses, in particular).

There is an annual project budget, which next year will be broken down by class.

An effort has already been made on the overall price of the supply lists. The English program depends on the Common Core, so it is necessary to purchase from the United States, which increases the price of the textbooks.

The school will continue its efforts to reduce costs/quantities, especially in the supply of bilingual lists with more consultation between the teams.

The liaison notebook is not intended to be replaced by Pronote, but the two tools complement each other. Parents suggested that the purchase of the liaison notebook be included in the tuition fee.

4. How does the school plan to strengthen the enforcement of the Covid policy, with the numbers going up, new restrictions on gathering at the beach and in sports, and noise on a new curfew, given the state of the toilets (hand washing!) and the drifts on masks (denial of access, no spare stock in case of emergencies such as breakage or loss, children without masks even in the company of the headmistress)?

The staff will continue to raise awareness of barrier gestures, ventilating the classrooms at each break. The washrooms will also be equipped with single-use hand dryers.

The teachers must be exemplary about the wearing of masks as they are a model for the students.

Managing the mask is complicated because it is difficult for children to wear it all day long. Teachers and school staff encourage them. The rule is that wearing of masks is mandatory, with the possibility to remove it punctually.



Concerning the forgetting/loss of masks, the school will propose to parents that each child keeps a small stock of masks in class, which would be used to help students who lose or break them during the day.

A teacher also recalls the importance of parents in raising awareness about the wearing of masks.

A parent raised the issue of the toilets in Ngor. She stated that they are dirty, the toilet paper is not accessible to children, and the walls do not have tiles and therefore cannot be cleaned properly. The smell is also very strong and some children refuse to go to the toilet.

Mrs. Hersent explains that following the visit of a delegation of parents, the management and the officer responsible came to see the state of the toilets for themselves. Improvements will be made in January 2021, which Mrs. Ferdy-Gueye completes.

5. How does the school plan to ensure better parent/teacher communication for better monitoring of our children's schooling, given the inconsistencies in the way the school engages parents, such as inconsistent use of Pronote which leads to confusion, lack of communication about the program and long and short-term pedagogical objectives, and the lack of information about the planning of parent/teacher meetings (some classes have had them, others have not yet said anything about them)?

Communication is a crucial aspect, especially in the current context. Mrs. Hersent reminds us that Pronote is regularly informed (83% fill rate over the last two weeks for example). Connection problems may explain why Pronote is not filled on certain days. The school will install the fiber to try to fix these connection problems.

The programs and objectives for the year are presented by the teachers in each class at the beginning of the year. In addition, the teachers are available for discussion through individual appointments. However, it is not possible to give the school curricula or the teachers' plans. In addition, the school booklets include the program competencies for each year.

Teachers are available by email, individual appointments, some by phone. Parents should only do not hesitate to contact them if they need to discuss a specific point.

The parent meetings are not the same between the classical and bilingual tracks. The director proposes that annual scheduled meetings be given at the beginning of the year to clarify the organization.

The agenda being completed, Mrs. Hersent thanked the members of the board and closed the meeting at 5:40 pm.