

Arthur Rimbaud – Minutes of the Primary School Council Meeting 3

Held on Thursday, June 09th 2016

CM2 classroom

Session opens at 18hrs15.

1. Nomination of the secretary for the session: François Marteau (Petite Section Teacher).
2. Agenda of the School Council Meeting 3 approved.
3. Minutes from the Primary School Council Meeting 2 held on Thursday 10/03/2016: approved by vote in show of hands.
4. Primary school life news:

• Teaching news:

- Calendar of the school year 2016-2017 validated by the Inspector of National Education (IEN) for Southern and Eastern Africa / AEFE → circulated to all (parents and staff).

- Schedule of events 3rd term 2015-2016 → circulated to all (parents and staff):

- Monday 20/06/2016, school reports given out to families for Nursery and Elementary from PS to CM2, end of 3rd term and certificates for new common core of skills levels 1 and 2. School reports to be returned to the secretary office in Oysterbay for archival by Thursday 23/06/2016 at the latest.

- Career and education counselling / process: Cycle meetings (1-2-3), talks with the Head of School, commission of appeal (Thursday 25/06/2015, 14hrs30, Cultural affairs of the Embassy of France).

- End of the year show for the Nursery and Elementary School: Friday 24/06/2015.

- From September 2016-2017: new cycles are as follows:

- Cycle 1: PS, MS,GS (Nursery school)

- Cycle 2: CP, CE1, CE2

- Cycle 3: CM1, CM2, 6^{ème}

The cycle 3 now includes the 6^{ème} grade (1st year of Secondary school). A strong tie for cooperation between the 2 levels CM2-6^{ème} will be established between the Primary and Secondary schools teachers.

2015-2016: Link CM2-6^{ème} → on June 17th, the CM2 students will be split into 3 groups so as to follow 3 different lessons (French, Mathematics, History-Geography). An assessment will then be made in class so that the students can share their experience, discuss their initial representations and find replies to their questions about starting Secondary school.

From September 2016, the new curriculums will be implemented for the Primary and Secondary schools with a new common core of knowledge, skills and culture.

The content of the new curriculums and the common core are available on line:

<http://www.education.gouv.fr/>

Also see in different languages – English, Spanish, German – the website

<http://eduscol.education.fr/>

- A. Rimbaud School project: preliminary to writing the project in 2016-2017 according to the schedule of stages implemented from next September.

FOR INFORMATION:

Assessment of the needs of the school:

- the school and its environment (economic and social context)
- the school, its targeted public, the school community around it
- the school itself: its organisation and teaching methods and procedures, various activities, balance of the school year related to the environment, the capacity, the teaching organisation•

Project general content:

- teaching and educational actions undertaken and/or to consider in order to achieve national objectives (school accredited by the French Ministry of Education)
- use of the means allocated to the Primary school (budget of the school)
- students admission and integration
- protection and safety of the children within the school during school hours and extracurricular hours
- public health, hygiene and balance of the school year*
- extracurricular activities

Engaging into and developing the French language is the strong line of the School project. Various discussions and actions have already been carried out and will be developed about this priority line.

- Balance of the school year/school timetables:

A request was made for a timetable such as the one in France, with days cut off by the lunch break so that the students can eat and relax.

That type of organisation like in France is hard to implement outside that French national context. The structures of the school or related to the school (town and city government in France) do not exist here:

- the school has no canteen,
- the employees who, in France, are hired by the city/town governments to be with the children during the lunch hours, lack here.

Reminder:

- No « vie scolaire » (Administrative and Disciplinary matters) on the new campus for only the Primary school (Nursery+Elementary) will be hosted there.

Observation:

- Will the children really relax over lunch under a very hot climate? Also to consider.

- Hygiene, public health:

Toilets are cleaned before and after each break. Their maintenance is now regularly signed by the employees.

Yet their number remains insufficient on the Oysterbay campus; the busy hours during the breaks does not enable the maintenance adapted to the situation. The surrounding adults – teachers, administration, maintenance – must also remind the children of their necessary cooperation in maintaining clean premises for health and hygiene.

- Snack time / fruit: a parent asks about the fruit-snack being cleaned. The fruit are cleaned and disinfected daily before being served to the students in individual bowls. The teachers and parents

representatives in the Primary School Council weigh up the benefits of that moment for the children as prevailing upon the health concern, all the more so than some measures strengthening hygiene have been implemented as soon as September 2015 on this topic.

The Primary School Council unanimously decides not to drop the fruit-snack. Beyond the opportunity to feed healthy food to the children, it is also an opportunity to remind them of hygiene and hands washing before eating.

◆ Teachers turnover and recruitment 2016-2017:

- 3 new positions created (CM2 and 2 recruitment Higher Secondary).
- 9 vacant positions.
- 12 positions to recruit. 11 have already been filled.

◆ Projection of the number of students for 2016-2017: current situation 310 confirmed students for 310 budgeted students. Other contacts being followed.

◆ Security:

The identity cards are implemented on both campuses of Msasani and Oysterbay. As a whole, the users abide by the new procedure with kind and polite cooperation. Nevertheless, some parents wish they could pick up their child even when forgetting the card, and would like a little more flexibility on the situation.

The Primary School Council decides to implement a follow-up book, only for parents (no care-taker), who forget the identity card of their child. Any other person who comes without showing the children's school identity card will not be allowed to pick up the child.

◆ Communication:

- emails / circulation of information: implementation of Pronote (= Administrative and teaching management platform for the Secondary school. Some functionalities can relate and be used for the Primary). Pronote is already in use for the Lower Secondary and will be widened to the Primary school so as to facilitate communication. For the Secondary, timetables, homework, and the calendar of events can be found online on Pronote. For the Primary, you will be able to find the class slots for swimming, EMILE and English. The School's schedule of events is also accessible to all. Access to Pronote is from the French School's website (special tab on Home page).

- The communication committee (Joanna Matos, Estelle Mottier and Iris Tam Tsi) will present during the coming School Council 3 to be held on Tuesday 14/06/2016 a template of Newsletter to test from September 2016.

- Parents representatives, information 2016-2017. For the coming school year 2016-2017, informing parents on the role of parents representatives remains important. Too many parents do not know neither the status nor the role of parents representatives within the French School.

• Operation and investment:

School materials include notebooks, textbooks and all the class material (paint, display and notice boards, globe, ordinateur ...).

New lavatories are wished on the Oyserbay campus. There are currently 12 toilets (6 boys' / 6 girls'). As each break lasts for 15 minutes and that it also includes the snack time, little time is left to students to go to the toilet.

- AES: assessment by the coordinators:

Elise PERRIN, coordinator for the extracurricular activities (AES), notices a few mis constate quelques dysfunctions owing to the absence or even the late-coming of some instructors who do not notify the school, as well as to the weather conditions and the classrooms being little available (some classrooms are used by the Secondary levels and the timetables may change during the school year, according to the cycles defined beforehand).

There is also a lack of French speaking instructors. It makes sense to give a priority to activities taught in French, as quite a number of students do not have access to French language outside school time. The AES coordinators continue to look for French speaking instructors for the extracurricular activities. Some instructors are volunteers to offer these activities.

A request is made about the possible lengthening of some activities.

Lastly, parents suggest a possible annual enrolment for some activities that are almost always chosen and for each term by the students and their families.

To be continued...

The AES will end on Friday, June 17th, as well as supervised study.

Session closes at 20hrs15.