

# **Minutes**

## **Primary School Council 2<sup>nd</sup> term meeting**

### **held on Thursday February 15<sup>th</sup> 2017**

Session opens at 6.00 pm.

1. Pascale Bonnetti and Suzanne Nadeau offered to take notes and to write the minutes. The parents representatives will take their turn for the Third Term.
2. No comment on the agenda or the previous Council minutes: both approved.
3. About the school:
  - **Teaching news**

The head of school introduced the next school calendar, specifying that classes will end on Thursday, July 06th 2017 as Friday, July 07th is a Public holiday in Tanzania (SABA SABA). Public holidays such as Eid and Maulid remain to be determined.

The school calendar for 2017-2018 is not yet published and shall not be circulated until it is validated by both the Inspector for National Education (IEN) and the educative department of the Agency for French Education Abroad.

The events to come for the 2<sup>nd</sup> term were described as follows:

- Carnival day (scheduled on 24/02/17) on the topic : « Colours » will take place in the Oyster Bay campus.
- the Francophonie week (from 17/03/17 to 26/03/17): only the students benefiting from remedial classes of FLScO – French as a school language – will participate in the contest with a specific presentation with their teacher Camille ADISSON. However, Elementary and Secondary classes (who will not be allowed to run) will be able to take part in the celebration finale day performance, by introducing the shows and acting between the various finalist presentations.
- the Week of France (from 02/04/17 to 08/04/2017) will be organised by the Embassy of France .
- the school reports, as well as the parents-teacher meetings and interviews – on April 19th 2017 – will take place just as in the First Term. The parents will also be able to request a meeting with the English teachers. The school reports will have to be signed and returned by April 18th 2017 at the latest.

Following the visits of both the IEN and the teaching counsellor for Foreign Languages, a recognised need was highlighted to deepen the practice of French language, as soon as the Nursery years and in the Elementary years as well. The language policy for the Elementary classes is redefined for the next school year: hours allocated to teaching English in full classes are reviewed for the students already have a good command of this

language (compared with national levels as emphasised by the counsellor); level groups are redefined so as to give priority to the practice of spoken language through multidisciplinary activities.

Therefore, the English hours will be spread/split into 2 hours allocated to EMILE – specific subjects taught in English – in class, and 1 hour of First Foreign Language – language workshops, i.e. English for the non-English speakers and French/FLE (French as a Foreign Language) for the non-French speakers.

Some parents expressed their concerns about these change, raising the worry that the children may not have sufficient time spent on Grammar/Language study for instance, and that written language might be set to the side. Teachers and the head of school, quite the opposite, both underline the importance of reframing this, based on analysing the difficulties faced not systematically yet genuinely, by the non-French speaking students of the School. They remind that, at the French School and furthermore in the network of French Schools abroad, mastering French remains the priority so that the students can, as expected, sit for the exams they aim at, while obviously maintaining performance targets in Foreign Languages – real forces also taken into the account within our network.

- **Human resources**

The head of school gave further details about the turnover among tenure teachers: Katy AKTUNA and possibly Christophe VAILLANT will leave. As for teachers under a local contract: François MARTEAU will leave.

She also specified that requests about internal turnover should be communicated to her by email.

A new position in Elementary classes, cycle 3, will be likely to be created given the number of students. A position of teacher for French / FLE is also to be considered.

- **New Primary campus**

If the campus was ready for September, the last week of class – in July – would be used to prepare moving out following a specific organisation, while the students would go to school normally. Two induction days for the teaching staff would enable the team to prepare the classrooms on the new campus.

- **Security**

A new alarm system was installed on the Oyster Bay campus. The elements to be remembered: a long, continuous alarm → CONFINEMENT on the spot in the classrooms where one is located, students on the football field gather in the study room, those on the basketball field gather in the administration building (through the RAF office door) and/or the library. Discontinuous alarm → fire EVACUATION.

During class time, drills and practices will be planned so that the 2 types of alarm are sure to be correctly identified.

Session ends at 7.30 pm.