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		Transportation committee meeting - Yangpu		


Transportation committee meeting

Meeting minutes

1. Time: Jan. 13, 2020, 1:30pm
2. Present:
 - LFS:
 - Ms. Guitton, Vice Headmaster (Yangpu)
 - Mr. Keller, Director of Primary School (Yangpu)
 - Mr. Péchoux, CEO
 - Ms. Masson-Dellys, COO
 - Ms. Faury, Support Services Manager (Yangpu)
 - Mr. Fröhlig, Support Services Manager (reporting)
 - Parents:
 - Ms. Delpierre, Parents Representative, LFS Board
 - Ms. Grata, Parents Representative (Transportation Committee)
 - Ms. Dubroecq, Parents Representative (Transportation Committee)
 - Ms. Després
3. Absent excused:
 - Parents:
 - Mr. Moniz, Parents Representative (Transportation Committee)
4. Development:

This meeting was held following the start of service of the full bus fleet and arrival on site of DSS at the Yangpu Campus, and the adjustment of timetables between the two schools, communicated lately.

- a. Mr. Péchoux presents the facts:
 - LFS opened in Sept. 2019, without DSS.
 - When DSS students arrived on site, on Jan. 8, 2020, a postponement of departure times at “3pm” amounting to 10 minutes, was due to take place (departure at 3:20pm instead of 3:10pm before). This postponement had been validated internally at the end of the previous school year in May 2019 in Euroboard, but had not been communicated to the parents; it was also not implemented in the primary schedule.
 - The first communication to the parents on Jan. 8 was not adequate and many parents did not understand the delay between the new arrival time of buses at assembly points in the afternoon and those they had experienced since the beginning of the year;
 - At the origin of the lack of information to the parents, on the 10 minutes postponement:
 - o LFS entered on site alone and used their usual school times,
 - o LFS Support Services dealt until very late during Christmas holidays with fleet licensing issues. They also supported our common Bus Manager on that important issue and focused on that operational step to have all the buses on the road the first day at school in January, we assumed a lacked anticipation in communicating with parents about changes at the arrival of DSS;
 - Mr. Péchoux apologizes for the lack of communication and ensuing inadequate message;
 - Mr. Péchoux highlights however the fact that timetables had been set in common, and that both schools made efforts: DSS accepted to finish classes slightly earlier and LFS accepted to adapt in order to reach a middle ground solution. In that respect, **DSS is not constraining LFS, but both schools make an effort, as should be the case on a Eurocampus;**
 - Mr. Péchoux indicates that estimated arrival times will shortly be put on the school website, as to inform parents.

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- For the next school year, discussion within the 2 schools will take place, as to try to align school times of Yangpu on the model of Qingpu, and smoothen communication and processes.
- b. Ms. Grata requests information on the middle ground solution.
Mr. Péchoux explains that the departure time from LFS changed to 3:10pm to 3:20pm, and that it was advanced from 3:30pm to 3:20pm for DSS. Thus, each partner made efforts.
 - c. Ms. Grata indicates that there was a lack of communication on Dec. 18, when the committee met.
Mr. Péchoux explains that:
 - Indeed, the school lacked anticipation on that point;
 - The late arrivals that impacted the bus system since the arrival of DSS would gradually be reduced to 10 minutes, corresponding to the forecast postponement. Indeed, DSS just started school, and LFS and DSS just started using the underground parking lot with the full fleet: a running-in time is necessary;
 - Information is always available in real-time through the bus monitoring app;
 - d. Ms. Dubroeuq indicates that the app has some problems: no reliable registration, registration at 5pm, a.o. The School commits to check and brings improvements on the app, as to make it as reliable as possible.
 - e. Ms. Grata asks what the pupils are supposed to do, between 3:10pm and 3:20pm.
Mr. Keller indicates that the 10 minutes can be used in many ways: e.g. as a recess or relaxation time, or to get ready and use the bathroom. The pupils will be under the supervision of volunteer teachers or kindergarten assistants, and members of Vie Scolaire or members of ASC.
Should there be rain or pollution outside, that time would be spent inside.
 - f. Ms. Dubroeuq asks why the school times between LFS and DSS could not be harmonized.
Mr. Péchoux explains that, as it is the Eurocampus philosophy, both partners try to respect the other's ways of working. Upon deciding about timetables, with 2 historically independent schools coming together, from 2 different educational and cultural backgrounds, it was not possible to set common times.
However, future discussions within the 2 schools will take place, so that a potential harmonization can be done for the next school year.
In the meanwhile, an optimization of the 12:30pm departure on Wednesdays and of the 3.20pm departure on Fridays, when times are also slightly different, is being studied with DSS the same afternoon.
 - g. Ms. Dubroeuq raises additional practical questions, linked to the situation at her stop:
 - Can buses with only LFS pupils or going further leave earlier?
 - Why did some attendants change between the 2019 and 2020 situations?
 Mr. Péchoux answers that:
 - We will work to optimize the system, so that buses that are ready to go can leave earlier, within the possibilities of safety;
 - The second question will be checked internally and answered later.

The Parents Representatives are looking forward to meeting the team again on Jan. 22, during the 2nd Transportation Committee, as to get additional answers and be informed of progress.