

Annual report MR 2024-2025

The participation council (MR) promotes openness and mutual consultation in the school to the best of its ability. The MR, furthermore, aims to engage in constructive discussions and be given the opportunity to advise on decisions beforehand, which means in a timely manner and before decisions are finalized.

The MR consists of 4 staff members and 4 parent members. Following elections, organised during this academic year, we welcomed 1 new staff member from Primary Bilingual Dutch department (PDBD) and 2 new parent members (one for the international department and one for the bilingual department).

The MR organised elections on behalf of GMR and a parent from int dept. was elected as GMR member

The PDBD moved to the Jan Luikenstraat in July/August 2024

This is a list of the most important subjects we discussed this year;

***Subsidy basic skills**

This subsidy was granted before the summer holiday for both departments.

PDBD; BMT (bilingual management team) discussed they need this for a DAL(Dutch as Additional Language) teacher.

Int dept; A staff member will be appointed for the CL(Curriculum Leader) release, so CL's can go into classes.

Citizenship is focussed on global citizenship, connections with local communities. Areas of physical health and mental wellbeing.

More technology curriculum focus for digital literacy, the tools and resources we need.

More staffing for CL release and support. A new Leader for Learning to develop the curriculum.

*A condition from MR to approve the move of the PDBD was to have separate ISE primary **sub-participation councils** and improve communication and collaboration between the MR-PO and the school directorate. An example is to make and follow a year planning and share documentation on time so expectations should be clear for all parties.

The regulations for sub-councils have been proposed to the MR and changes have been made. We will start with 2 sub-councils in the school year 25-26. Both departments will have a subcouncil with 2 staff- and 2 parent members. These sub-councils will operate both independently and in close collaboration with each other. The final decisions (approval and advice) remain still the responsibility of the MR as a whole body, with the sub-councils concentrating on specific schools' details/ matters and advising the MR as a whole on actions to be taken.

***parentfees 24-25 int dept.**

After many discussions, the fees (for academic year 24-25) for international dept. were approved in October, but with conditions for how to approach these topics in the future and to provide clarity on costs and income for the school(s).

The agreement for school year 24/25 was for a raise of 275 euros for the international department.

***voluntary parent contribution PDBD 24-25**

After many discussions was decided (before Nov 1st to avoid a dispute) that the voluntary contribution for PDBD will be 1800 euros for 24-25. A foundation to manage the voluntary contribution will be prepared before the start of the 2025-2026 school year.

***reports int dept**

The aim was for the reports to better fit the school's guiding statements after feedback from parents and staff

The MR checked with VOO and a change in the content of the reports has to be voted on by the MR. When this change was discussed in the MR, we felt it was too late to vote since staff had already started writing the reports.

We agreed that feedback from staff and parents will be collected and shared with the MR. In January, the feedback from staff was positive overall, some challenges were identified, solutions were also discussed. There was very little feedback from parents.

***report cards bilingual dept**

A small change in wording was proposed; changes seemed logical, and the MR approved these changes.

***campus development plans**

In October, it was pointed out that the MR has the right to advise on this information. In November the MR was informed that Financial information was not available yet. The board manager of SILFO is ultimately responsible for the success of the building.

Specific allocation of rooms upstairs in the new building was also not available yet.

In February, a number of MR members were invited to a consultation meeting.?

SILFO is responsible for the extension and has the responsibility towards the municipality to account for the money received. *The MR The MR was not asked to give advice on the new building on campus*

***school guides** were updated and approved with conditions that suggested changes will be used.

***traffic safety on campus**

Gate is constantly open to enter the campus, but for leaving the bar is often closed allowing cars to leave only one by one as there have been problems with speeding.

→ Suggestion to keep mentioning the kiss and ride expectations to parents.

→ Potentially asking neighbourhood police to get involved and inform parents.

parking spots not being clear, this seems to be a financial challenge.

(→ For PDBD 'school zone' signs could be something to look into.)

*on Feb 7th, MR and director together had **training from VOO** (this was condition for the approval of the move of the PDBD last school year) and dinner.

***communication to parents regarding events**

Amount of communication from the school to parents can be overwhelming, via multiple channels.

Newsletter per year group is the main form of specific 'class information' for parents.

***budget;**

It is the first budget report with a split for the two primary departments. There are two separate budgets for the two departments. These were completed with the heads of department and the director. Main driver is student numbers, and is difficult to predict for future years.

Government funding for 2025 is based on student numbers from 2024, but costs are driven by the actual student numbers. A growth in numbers is expected in the coming years, which will also require more staff.

***draft formation plan 2025-2026**

It was agreed that we need to have information beforehand, to be able to get as close to approval as possible by April 15th

It was pointed out that according to the WMS, the information needs to be provided by 1st May, 2025.

Aim is to have the final numbers by the week of the 12th of May but we received the plan for our June meeting. On June 26, the MR approved the Formation report for the next academic year.

***Voluntary parent contribution PDBD 25-26**

A meeting with parents from PDBD, controller and director took place. Proposal for 2450 EUR was accepted. Director was advised to communicate the rationale for this substantial increase as clearly as possible to all parents and to provide a stable prognosis for how the parent contribution amount is expected to evolve over the upcoming years.

In the future, the foundation will also be part of communication with parents to make it clear that the contribution is well spent.

***parent fees int dept.**

On May 6th 2025, the director, controller and parents of int dept had a meeting to discuss the parent fees. An increase of 8 % was proposed and the MR decided to seek advice from a VOO financial specialist.

In June, a letter was sent to parents of int. dept to inform them about the parent fees. It was not clearly mentioned that the MR had NOT approved the fees at that moment; *"Additionally, the MR-PO*

was consulted as part of the decision-making process regarding the increase of the 2025-2026 school fees".

In June the MR gave negative advice to the proposed 8% increase in Int fees, and raised additional questions regarding the increase proposed.

At this moment, the MR is still consulting with the board about these fees.

***holiday schedule**

The study days were (too) late communicated to the MR and the MR did not approve these days before they were communicated to the parents and staff already.

On June 26, the MR approved the updated version (7 instead of 8 short weeks), following adjustments done based on initial MR advice.

***PDB foundation (trust fund) for voluntary parental contribution;**

The director asked a notary to create the documentation, which the director then proposed to the MR. The main lines of the proposal are according to MR expectations, but the MR needs to consult the VOO because we have questions about the roles and responsibilities of the Trustees and the legal status of this foundation.

This is the [summary of approvals](#) summary of approvals

Approved minutes of our meetings can be found on the ISE website.

The MR members take their role seriously and put a lot of effort in discussing all these topics with fact-based arguments and following the correct procedures according to the WMS.

Thank you for the confidence you have placed in us

MR-PO 2024-2025