



## ESRM Culture Committee, 07.10.2025

### PARTICIPANTS

#### **School Management:**

Tom Zijlstra, Daniella Schmitt, Marcus Adams

#### **Primary School:**

Chanelle Boeldt, Yvette Müller, Adam Wilson, Susan Mackenzie-Ford, Ashley Evans-Southall, Ester Costa

#### **Secondary School:**

Christy Chambers, Marisa Vetter, Okkert Havenga, David Haupt, Ivana Savic, Theodora Kiriakidou, Kornelia Harskuti

#### **Parents' Association:**

Janina Wiebols, Tim Uhle

#### **Student Representatives:**

Doga Ersin, Eva Gutu, Greta Schmitt

**Minutes:** Parents

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## MINUTES

### 1. FOLLOW-UP FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

- No additions/comments to the approved minutes.
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## 2. PRIMARY SCHOOL

### A) MUSIC LESSONS & AFTERSCHOOL MUSIC – UPDATE

- Detailed overview of music lessons in different year groups was presented.
- Approximately **120 students** participate in the choir – a great success. Sincere thanks expressed.
- The **P3–P5 choir** consists of **80 students**; rehearsals take place in the Aula.



- Idea raised: The school could **purchase instruments** and lend them to students.
- Recorder Ensemble currently has **~10 students**.

### PROJECTS / EVENTS

- **“The Opera Returns”** – performance for PP–P5 on **7 January 2026**.
- A new **outdoor/primary performance stage** was purchased last academic year; excellent usability.
- A Poetry Slam for P3 to P5 will take place in January, the Support Association/ESRM-Friends offer to sponsor prizes for the participants

**The PowerPoint presentation is distributed alongside these minutes.**

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### F) PRIMARY LIBRARY – UPDATE (S. MACKENZIE-FORD, E. COSTA)

- The library was **reorganized over the summer**; CDs removed and a new reading program introduced.
  - **SORA App** is available for Primary. Currently, however, all books are visible regardless of age rating – a weakness. Ideally access should be **age-restricted by login**.
  - Weekly library time has been extended to **45 minutes**.
  - Author readings by **Björn Berenz** are planned (PP–P5).
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### G) EUROPEAN HOURS, CULTURAL EVENTS & AOB – PLANNING 2025/2026

- Theatre group **“Grüne Soße”** will return with **Karlsson vom Dach** (P3–P5).
  - A play for Lower Primary is still being evaluated.
  - **Talk for Write** continues to show very quick and effective results for language acquisition.
  - A broader **EU-Hours update** will follow in the coming months.
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### 3. SECONDARY SCHOOL

#### A) DEVELOPMENTS IN MUSIC

*(Presentation attached to these minutes.)*

- Outstanding musical performance acknowledged; parents expressed great appreciation.

#### *SECONDARY MUSIC ACTIVITIES*

##### 1. **Rock Band – P. Duggan**

- Auditions ongoing (max. 10–12 students).
- Ensemble for guitar, bass, drums, or voice with interest in rock music.
- Students not selected are referred to the **Big Band** or **Choir**.

##### 2. **Big Band (16 students) & Choir (13 students) – E. Turner**

- Beginners are welcome.
- Members are required to perform at designated school events.
- Students learn fundamental instrumental skills and experience a variety of musical genres.

#### *EVENTS 2025/2026*

- IB Assembly – MYP4 Music Class Band (2 songs)
  - **Winter Concert – 11 December**
    - S1 & S2 performances
    - Big Band, Rock Band, Choir
  - Christmas Chaos
  - November Vernissage – background music
  - Planned **Pre-Bac Concert (S7)** – very high musical level expected
  - MEC Ceremonies – performances TBD
  - May Vernissage
  - Summer Fête
  - BAC Proclamation
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#### B) DEVELOPMENTS IN ART

*(Presentation attached.)*

- **S1:** Line & Van Gogh
- **S2:** Form & Still Life
- **S3:** Facial Proportions
- **S4:** Landscape (two large art groups this year)
- **S5:** Micro World (cooperation with Science Department)



- **S6:** Gesture Drawing & Structures
- **S7:** BAC Theme – **Reflections**
- Secondary School Dance supported by the **BAT BALL decoration** (charity: NABU Bat Conservation).

### *S6 ART TRIP TO PARIS (OCTOBER)*

- 16 students
  - Highlight: **Sketching in the Louvre**
  - Last Tickets for sold-out **John Singer Sargent** exhibition at Musée d'Orsay
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### C) DEVELOPMENTS IN LANGUAGES – I. SAVIC

- S1 Reading Competition
  - S2 Excursion to the Anne Frank House
  - S4 Application Training
  - S5 Literature Project – students select books; parents request better use of the existing library stock
  - S6/S7 Theatre Visit in Kaiserslautern: **Maria Stuart**
  - **25 September – European Day of Languages**
  - Writing Fest: likely reduced to a **biannual** event
  - Clubs: Debating Club, TEDx, etc.
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### D) LIBRARY – UPDATE

- Expansion into a **Learning Resource Centre (LRC)** planned:
  1. Stronger focus on **learning**, not only book lending; more workshops and lessons to take place in the LRC.
  2. Acquisition of **18 PCs** and **1 teaching board**.
  3. Increased overall space.
  4. Numerous new classroom books purchased.
  5. Magazines removed; DVD/CD shelves cleared for space.
  6. European Day of Languages activities implemented.
  7. **“Take a Book / Leave a Book”** shelf installed.

### *PLANNED AUTHOR VISITS*

1. **15 October 2025** – Garbine Salaverria (S6/S7)
2. **19 May 2026** – Abi Daré (S5/S6 – DP1)



## IDEAS & INITIATIVES

- Book donations in **all European languages** to showcase the school's diversity; parents offer support.
  - Students could participate in a **Library Duty Program** (Primary & Secondary).
  - Increased promotion of the **SORA app**; could also be used during tutor period.
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## E) HISTORY DEPARTMENT – D. HAUPT

- S7 History Trip to **Berlin**: multiple museum visits and excellent workshops.
  - S6 Trip to **Cologne** planned for November.
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## F) MATH DEPARTMENT – M. VETTER

- Math Competition took place – **high/university level**.
  - Math Olympiad, Pangea, and Kangaroo contests will be held again.
  - **High Flyer Course** begins today (7 October).
  - S1–S3: Robotics challenges.
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## POINTS RAISED BY STUDENTS

- Desire for **more activities**.
  - **Summer Fest 2026**
    - Proposal: a **separate school dance for S5–S7**.
  - Redesign of the **Student Lounge** (new furniture and artwork) – **The Parents' Association / Förderverein offers support**.
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## 4. POINTS FROM THE PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

### PRIMARY

- Sincere thanks and praise to the Primary Choir Directors.
- Proposal: **Sponsoring a professional audio/video recording** of choir performances (via the Support Association/ESRM-Friends).



## SECONDARY

- Great appreciation for the exceptional Musical Performance.
  - Parents request further theatre projects; Parents' Association and Support Association/ESRM-Friends offer support.
    - School will consider feasibility for academic year **2026/2027**.
  - Question: Are **in-house theatre performances** possible again?
    - Currently none planned for Secondary.
  - Question: Could Lower Secondary attend theatre performances externally?
    - Under school review.
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## AFTERNOON ACTIVITIES

1. All clubs are taking place; response from students was **very positive**.
  2. Parents request earlier communication of club offerings.
    - School explains that due to timetable and course changes, finalisation is only possible at the **beginning of October**; September remains a planning phase.
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## SECONDARY LIBRARY – ADDITIONAL PARENT FEEDBACK

1. Parents express gratitude for the **revised book lists**; feedback is mostly positive.
  2. Update of book lists for **2026/2027**:
    - Ms. Kirikadou will coordinate with the Parents' Association.
  3. Status of LRC expansion and potential parent support:
    - Planning is ongoing (see Secondary minutes above).
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## 5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS (AOB)

- **School Events**
  - Brainstorming: How to ensure **broader student participation** in events such as the Winter Concert and Summer Fest?
  - Student Representatives and the Parents' Association will jointly develop ideas to increase engagement from students (especially in Secondary) and parents. in