

Meeting Minutes

Event: JFKS Berlin - Parent Council Meeting		
Date: February 26th 2026	Place: Berlin; JFKS	Time : 18.30 – 20.30
Date of invitation: February 16th 2026	Agenda: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Welcome 2. Approval of the agenda 3. Approval of the prior minutes 4. Student council report 5. ES report 6. HS report 7. Teacher report 8. Spotlight: Implementation of the new language program <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Implementation in ES b. Continuation in HS in 2026/7 c. Q&A 9. Committee Panel - Q&A 10. Introduction to Belonging Dialog 11. Miscellaneous and announcements 	
Chairperson : J. Müller/C. De Vivanco	Meeting Minutes: A. Kesselhaut / B. Sun	Anzahl der Teilnehmenden: 78

English Version		Annexes
No.	Summary	Comment
1.	Welcome PCB attending: L. von Schweinitz, H. Broad, N. Reggelin, B. Sun, H. Kölling-Orb, J. Bespolka J. Müller, C. de Vivanco	
2.	Approval of agenda: Approved	
3.	Approval of minutes of previous meeting: Approved	
4.	Student Council report: no reps present	
5.	Elementary School Report – A. Ecke <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A therapy dog program is currently being introduced to selected classes. Frau Beate Neumann holds all the required documentation and certifications. The dog may attend classes only after parents have provided written permission. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Wandertage (school excursion days) are directly tied to the curriculum and have a clear pedagogical purpose; they are planned and prepared in advance. 	
6.	<p>High School Report – E. Hale</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● March 26th-27th there will be no regular instruction in HS (7-11) due to 5. PK Exams for Abitur. Exceptions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Trips of the Religion classes are scheduled for those days ○ March 26th: 10th-grade exam, require attendance ○ 9th-grade (Classes A–D): drug prevention programs require attendance ● 12th grade Spirit Week is scheduled before the Easter break. ● 8th-grade ski trip begins on March 1st. ● 9th graders will begin two-week work placements (Praktikum) March 2nd. 	
7.	<p>Teacher Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Thanks were extended to the community for their participation in Courage Week, the potato activity, and the school musical. ● An important upcoming event was announced: on Saturday, March 7th, the school will host the Odyssey of the Mind competition. ● The next school play will be a bilingual production of A Midsummer Night's Dream. 	
8.	<p>Spotlight on Language Program</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Presentation ES by Mr. Bollig and Ms. Gothe: slide deck attached ● Presentation HS by Ms. Hale: slide deck attached 	ES LINK
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Q: How can parents keep track of which teachers are working with their child, given the increased number of teachers involved in the new system? ● A: The new system requires more flexibility from all parties. Since Differentiated Instruction (DIFF) classes meet for only 2-3 hrs per week, parents should direct their questions to the main German or English class teacher, who serves as the liaison. ● Q: Who should parents contact regarding differentiated homework — the main teacher or the DIFF teacher? ● A: When in doubt, contact the main class teacher. ● Q: Do students know which DIFF level group they are in? ● A: Teachers try to avoid making the different DIFF levels apparent to students. Groups can change based on ongoing assessments, which can be confusing, but this flexible approach is considered more effective for student development. ● Q: What is the goal regarding double mother-tongue development? ● A: The goal is for every student to achieve double mother-tongue proficiency in both English and German. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Q: Does learning two languages simultaneously slow down development in each language? ● A: Research shows this is not the case. Children generally catch up. Learning both languages simultaneously is beneficial and carries no long-term disadvantage. While students often have a dominant language, both languages become strong over time. German and English share many similarities in reading and writing, which creates useful overlap in the learning process. ● Q: How is the success and effectiveness of this program being measured? ● A: Success is measured through student and teacher feedback, test scores (not the U.S.-style standardized tests), and by tracking growth through continuous assessments and adjusting instruction to each student's needs accordingly. ● The program is strongly research-based, particularly at the ES level. Research on bilingual programs at the HS level is more limited, as most schools do not continue bilingual programs into the upper grades. JFKS is considered a unique institution ("Unikat") because of its mission to teach academic-level vocabulary in two languages simultaneously. ● Q: How can parents provide feedback or raise concerns? ● A: Parents are encouraged to reach out directly to teachers. Note: A structured feedback process is not yet in place. A feedback survey towards the end of this school year was discussed. ● Q: What were the biggest obstacles in implementing the new program? ● A: The greatest challenge was determining the right way to differentiate instruction for each student while maintaining the same overall goals. This was a complex problem to solve. ● Team teaching also initially caused concern among teachers due to the significant change it represented. However, it has since proven to be a major success, improving both the quality of teaching and the working environment for educators. 	
	<p>Committee Panel</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Verein invites all members to their meeting on March 18th. The entire Verein Board will be up for election. Please attend and vote. 	
	<p>Any other business & announcements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Parent Initiative on Cyberbullying: update presentation; see slide deck ● Stadtradeln Initiative in May/June: presentation, see attached slide deck; call for organizers, contact tobias.zeller@gmail.com 	<p>Cyberbullying LINK</p> <p>Stadtradeln LINK</p>