

MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY ASSEMBLY 9.11.23

AFA ESCUELA PAZ CASALES VACARIZAS

Persons attending:

AFA BOARD: Anna Rodríguez, Núria Pérez, Àlex Rullán, Neus Albiac, Mariona Canongia

FAMILIES: 68 persons

Start time 19h

End time 20.45h

Place: Sala SUM Escola Pau Casals Vacarisses

AGENDA:

1. SCHOOL RESPONSES TO SEXUAL MISCONDUCT BETWEEN CHILDREN.

- Presentation of the members of the board of the Association of Families of Pupils (AFA) of the Pau Casals School in Vacarisses and information on the work philosophy of the current board: participatory, open and accessible both by the management team (ED) and, of course, by the families. Apart from the board, the AFA is made up of around thirty people who work actively and selflessly, bringing enthusiasm, commitment and desire to build together a better school for our children.
- The purpose of the meeting is contextualised: in mid-September of this academic year 2023, a family of the school informs the board of the AFA and the representatives of the families of the School Council, of a serious situation related to the passive attitude of the ED to the detection of inappropriate sexual behaviour between children within the school. At this point, **special emphasis** is made to stress that the aim of the assembly is to highlight the poor MANAGEMENT of the school in the situation detected, and in no case to give details of specific facts, nor courses, nor anything that could give concrete information, aiming to preserve the welfare of children and their families.
- A summary is made of the malpractice of the management team in the face of the risky behaviour that the affected family alerts at three points in time: February 2023, May 2023 and September 2023, it is in September 2023 when the family decides to inform the educational inspection because the management team does not respond. The Board of the AFA, the representatives of the family sector of the School Council and the Councillor for Education of the City Council are aware of the situation on 1 October because the affected family summons them to a meeting.
- A summary is given of the School Council held on 3 October (the first of the school year).

2023-2024): From the families and board sector of the AFA, we asked for the ED on: explanations as to what actions had been taken by the ED in relation to the case, among others, on

This point shows that the representatives of the teachers' sector, and the teaching staff in general, were not aware of the situation. It was a very tough and complicated council. Both family representatives and AFA representatives showed concern, indignation and discomfort. The management team justified the inaction due to the complicated start to the school year: lack of administrative staff, lack of candles, change of canteen company, change of teachers (up to nine new teachers), meetings at the start of the school year, problems with families regarding school vouchers, etc.

The families sector + AFA representatives consider that all these issues are important, but they do not justify the non-activation of the violence protocol with the USAV (support unit for students in situations of violence). We reiterate that the first thing that should have been done was to activate ALL and EVERY one of the existing detection and protection mechanisms, and if the situation was less serious, to deactivate them.

- **As a consequence, the families sector of the School Council + AFA representatives formally request the resignation of the Management Team, for NEGLIGENCE, AS THE MAXIMUM RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE SCHOOL. At that moment the School Council is over and the families leave.**

- There is a summary of the extraordinary school council of 11 October: The ED begins the Extraordinary Council by giving an account of all the actions they have taken, and they say that they have activated all the protocols under the supervision of the inspectorate: these protocols were activated between 4 and 10 October. Let's remember that the start of all this was in January 2023. Actions and protocols activated are:
 - Communication of the facts to the EAP (Educational Guidance and Counselling Team) and to the educational inspectorate, with permanent supervision and monitoring of the cases detected.
 - Activation of the violence protocol with the USAV (student support unit) in situations of violence)
 - Contact with the EFE (Functional Teams of Experts) for the attention to sexual violence and serious maltreatment of children and young people in the field of health).
 - Coordination with the Fundació Juvanteny, AIDA project, to care for children and their families in this type of situation at risk of vulnerability.

 - Planning of specialist workshops for families and canteen monitoring.
 - Continue with prevention for all pupils in the school with the project sexAFIN, affective-sexual education, and continuous training for teachers.
 - Training of the COCOBE referent (in Coeducation, Coexistence and Well-being) in the Violence-Free Schools Plan.
 - Coordination with Social Services
 - Other internal school measures: classroom delegates, extreme vigilance in playgrounds and dining areas, welfare committee and student council, etc.

The ED state that they are willing to continue working, and ask for a vote of confidence, in order to repair the damage caused. The team of teachers also ask for a vote of confidence in them and in the ED, and state that from the last council to the present, things in the school have changed.

Both the representatives of the families and the AFA explain the seriousness of the situation and reiterate the demand for the resignation of the ED, as those most responsible for the situation. Listening to the team of teachers who explain the difficulty that would represent the resignation of the ED with the course started (and seeing that the main affected would be our children), both representatives of the families and the AFA, we yield and a concession is made to the ED so that the resignation becomes effective at the end of the course (not ending their mandate that they have until the end of 2025), and that this course 23/24 are committed to work to get a new team of relief. In addition, we ask and we need to change interlocutors, to continue working with confidence.

IN CONCLUSION:

The AFA BOARD explains that the reasons that have led to convene the extraordinary assembly are:

- Willingness to continue to be clear and transparent with the families and we consider that it was necessary to REPORT the facts and actions carried out by the AFA.
- To be accountable to families for why we have acted with the utmost discretion as a board.
- To report whether the representatives of the commissions that make up the AFA were informed of what was happening, always with the utmost care and guaranteeing the NECESSARY anonymity of the families and children affected.
- That they have worked closely with the representatives of the coexistence commission, a commission that has also ensured the activation of the necessary protocols from its work areas, and is monitoring the corresponding follow-up.

VERY IMPORTANT: A message of reassurance is being conveyed because, as of today, it IS being done in a responsible manner, under the supervision and exhaustive monitoring of the Inspectorate.

The Board of AFA is in direct contact with INSPECCIÓN, and we know that the Education Department of the City Council is also in direct contact with them.

FINALLY:the AFA board also reports that:

- currently relations with DE are at a standstill (WE ARE NOT HOLDING MONTHLY FOLLOW-UP MEETINGS),
- that we at the AFA continue to work for the welfare of our children and families,
- that all the commissions are in place, but that there are issues that we are not addressing because relations with the ED are broken.
- And that we are waiting to know what the ED's intention is regarding its future.

2. QUESTIONS AND REQUESTS:

The floor is given to the families in attendance, and by way of summary, various contributions are made, thanking the AFA board for its management in relation to the case, dissatisfaction is expressed with the current management team, and doubts and questions are raised:

- What is the role and position of inspection?

Although she does not express her opinion on the management of the case and is cautious, the inspector is very aware of the situation, very present and involved in the improvement of the management of the school, she has spoken to all the agents involved, and is carrying out an exhaustive control. The day after the assembly, the president of the AFA will inform the inspector of how the assembly went (people attending, concerns of the families, etc.).

- What are the next steps and actions?

An extraordinary school council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 14th November, in which they will reiterate the request for the resignation of the current management team at the end of the school year, and that during this school year they will work to prepare for the replacement of a new management team. The opinion of the families is one of discontent and dissatisfaction with the management team, and they want to put pressure on them to resign, but always in a non-violent manner.

- Concerns are raised such as the latest messages from the management team received through Diantia (e.g. receipt 31/10).
- Necessity due to high lunchroom ratios which make it difficult to supervise children properly.
- Compilation of ideas to carry out in the event that the ED does not resign: ask for advice from the Federation of Associations of Families of Pupils of Catalonia, escalate the situation to higher levels of inspection, among others.

3. AGREEMENTS REACHED AT THE ASSEMBLY:

1. Signatures will be collected from families to support the petition for the resignation of the management team to be presented to the School Council on 14/11/23, (the collection of signatures will be done through a virtual platform that will be managed by the communication commission).
2. An extraordinary assembly will be called to inform families of the School Council meeting of 14/11/23.
3. The minutes of the assembly will be published so that families who were unable to attend will be aware of the information passed on and the agreements made.

Vacarisses, 9 November 2023
Minutes taken: Mariona Canongia, Secretary of the AFA