

## **OPENING STATEMENT BY THE PARENTS' ASSOCIATIONS**

School Board Meeting of 2nd February 2026

Madam Headteacher,  
Ladies and Gentlemen Members of the School Board,

On behalf of the parents' associations, we wish to express our deep concern regarding the alarming financial situation threatening our establishment and, more broadly, the entire network of French education abroad.

### **A context of structural crisis**

The crisis facing the AEFE is not cyclical: it results from political decisions that have led to a deficit of 70 million euros, a direct consequence of:

- The reduction in State subsidies amounting to 63 million euros
- The increase in civil pension costs for resident and seconded staff of 66 million euros

This year, our lycée has already had to draw on its reserve funds to limit the increase in school fees to 2%. This palliative solution is not sustainable.

### **An imminent threat for next year**

The AEFE announced at its Board of Directors meeting on 18th December 2025 that the contribution of directly managed establishments (EGD) to the cost of civil pensions will amount to 50% from the next academic year, after 35% for 2026.

Faced with this announcement, we find ourselves in complete uncertainty and we question:

- What will be the real extent of the increase in school fees next year and in the years to come (school fees have increased by 106% from 2014 to 2025, 27% in 2025 alone)?
- Will the reserve funds, already called upon this year, be sufficient?
- What concrete measures does the establishment envisage to absorb this financial shock?
- How many families will have to give up enrolling their children in our lycée?

### **Our position of principle: the State cannot withdraw from its obligations**

As representatives of families, we firmly assert that parents cannot and must not substitute themselves for the obligations of the French State.

French education abroad is a public service and a pillar of France's soft power diplomacy. The pensions of seconded civil servants fall under the responsibility of the State as employer, not of families who choose French education for their children.

We categorically refuse that the bill for the State's withdrawal be transferred to families, at the risk of:

- Making French education financially inaccessible to a growing number of families.
- Transforming our network into an elitist system reserved for the wealthiest (French or international).
- Compromising the social diversity that enriches our establishments.
- Weakening the influence of Francophonie throughout the world.

## Our demands

We solemnly request:

### At establishment level:

- Complete transparency regarding financial projections (revenue and charges/expenditure) for next year.
- The presentation of a detailed action plan to address the increase in pension contributions.
- The exploration of all avenues for savings that do not impact educational quality.
- Respect for the principles of democratic participation and close consultation with parent representatives before any decision.

### At AEFÉ and French State level:

- A rebasing of the public service subsidy (SCSP) paid to the AEFÉ in order to take into account uncompensated additional costs since 2009.
- The restoration of subsidies to a level allowing normal operation of the network or proposals for short and long-term solutions, a clear vision.
- Full assumption by the State of the cost of pensions for its civil servants through alternative solutions that will prevent any further increase.
- A moratorium on the transfer of the pension burden to establishments.
- A structural reform of AEFÉ funding guaranteeing its sustainability.

## Our commitment

The parents' associations undertake to:

- Mobilise families on these crucial issues.
- Coordinate their action with other parent associations in the network.
- Challenge the French authorities, including parliamentarians and the ministry.
- Support all efforts by the establishment to alert the AEFE and the government.

We request that this statement be recorded in the minutes of the School Board Meeting and we inform the Committee members that it will be officially transmitted to the AEFE and the relevant departments of the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of National Education, the Finance Committee, as well as to the Embassy, our Members of Parliament and Senators for French citizens abroad.

The future of French education abroad is at stake today. We count on the mobilisation of all actors in our educational community.

London, February 2nd, 2026

APL COMMITTEE

CIPL trustees