

NODB

Belgian

Press release

Following

The handing over of a petition

On Tuesday, August 30th at 11h00

To the minister of education,

Mr. Pascal Smet

To get more supporting jobs

For the school heads

In primary education

Dear madam, sir,

On Tuesday, August 30th at 11h00 the representatives of the seven Flemish school leaders associations for primary schools will hand over a petition at the cabinet to the minister of education, Minister Pascal Smet, in order to get more supporting jobs for the school heads in primary schools.

Already in 2004 was one of the priority demands of the NODB for the legislation period 2004-2009: “**Primary education is asking an administrative and a pedagogical-didactical framework, equal to the ones in lower secondary schools.**”

In 2009, after 5 years of lobbying, we can conclude as follows:

- For the administrative framework, the administrative coworkers got a better statute and a raise of salary.

- The integrated measures for care displayed extra hours at school level and also the number of 'care' schools increased.
- Due to the 'kindergarten-participation', the nursery school got more breathing space: extra hours for care, second-line support and a new organization for the 'starting pupils'.
- A system for short period replacement was introduced and implemented.
- On the level of school communities, the number of 'stimuli-points' was increased and there was a beginning of hours for 'mentorship' (in the mean time ceased already due to cuts in the budget)

We acknowledge that during this past legislation there were good efforts, there still are many needs in primary education. Therefore we wrote a new list of demands for the legislation 2009-2014, where the prime priority is:

"The school heads of primary schools demand a sufficient support framework in order to cope with the present and future assignments from the Flemish, federal and other governments in a most qualitative way."

As there are:

- **No specific promises** to have a better support framework in the collective working agreement IX
- **No specific propositions** in the **policy letter** of the minister of education Mr. Pascal Smet

the primary school leaders signed a **petition** to persuade the minister to work on their **priority need**, of which the accountancy court reported in 2010 that it is **absolutely irresponsible** to have 3 to 4 times less support framework in primary schools as to the secondary schools.

We quote from the report of the accountancy court: **'pedagogical and administrative support in primary and secondary schools (June 010).'**

'Despite a firm growth in primary education, still the secondary education gets 3 to 4 times more support per student in comparison to primary education. The majority of the primary schools confirms they still receive not enough supporting staff. A number of tasks, now done by the school leaders or teachers, could be done by the supporting staff.'

We hope that you will bring the delivery of this petition in the media.

Sincere greetings,

Lieven Verkest,

Spokesman

For following school leaders organizations:

- Coordinators association Steiner schools
- DCBaO: School leaders Catholic primary schools
- DCB: school leaders Catholic special primary schools
- DIBUO: school leaders school leaders special state schools
- DBSG: school leaders primary schools cities and communities
- VIRBO: school leaders school leaders primary state schools
- ODVB : independent school leaders Flemish primary schools