

Minutes from the European School Copenhagen School Board Meeting

Date: June 7th 2016
Time: 16.30-18.00 hrs
Venue: At Skolen i Sydhavnen, 1st floor, the room next to the library.
Members: Jonas Christoffersen, Poul Toftdahl, Caroline Warner, Henriette Vollmers-Hansen, Joel Samaha, Rasmus Hornecker, Hanne Schmidt.
Excuses: Hans Bryuninckx, Anette Holst
Minutes: Liv Gunnarsen

Agenda:

1) Approval of the agenda (decision)

The agenda was approved.

2) Minutes from board meeting 14-04-2016 (decision)

The minutes were approved.

3) Orientation (information)

Admission to nursery classes for the school year 2016/17 and information about the process for revising the admission criteria.

Hanne informed about the admission process. She informed that the school has received around 300 applications, most of them were applications for the nursery classes. Hanne showed statistics on the admissions to nursery, on how many had been admitted and the sex and nationality of the admitted pupils. Hanne further informed that the school received two formal complaints about the admission process. The complaints have also been seen by Jonas, the municipality and the mayor. The issue of the complaints was that the applicants were not invited for a screening even though they fit the admission criteria. Hanne explained that the school does not have the capacity to screen everybody, since so many of the applicants fit the criteria. Therefore the school has put forward a request to the municipality to change the admission process;

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either through narrowing the admission criteria, or by getting more resources for screenings, or creating an entity that pre-screens the applications. Hanne informed that the management had already prepared a draft for a new formulation of the admission criteria, which they had sent to the municipality.

After a discussion it was concluded that Hanne will send the new draft criteria to the board for comments. And that the criteria and process should be clearly communicated at the webpage and the website should for now include an update on the current situation. And it was further concluded that a random pick, between applicants who match the criteria could be considered as a part of the admission process in the future.

New appointments.

Hanne informed that the management has hired new staff, but also that two of the teachers will be leaving. One teacher in the Danish section, one teacher in the English section and the Danish nursery teacher. Hanne informed that she will write a letter with this information to the parents after the meeting. Hanne said that the school is able to cover for the teachers leaving with the existing staff, including the four newly hired teachers. The current pedagogue in the Danish nursery will take over from the nursery teacher. The new middle manager, Helle Bjerre Degn, will start on June 13 and this means that Jens, will be able to go back to full time teaching.

Henriette and Caroline commented that they were sad to hear that the teachers in the Danish and English section were leaving as they had very positive impressions of them both.

Henriette asked about how music would be covered in the next school year. And Hanne answered Sankt Annæ is working on being able to cover the music classes at ESCPH.

Security in relation to the removal of the fence towards the harbour.

Hanne informed that she had a meeting with the municipality, SIS and architects about the fence between the playground and the harbour and that SIS and ESCPH look upon the safety situation differently. She had stated the school's concerns and the municipality had opened for a possibility of looking into a fence for the ESCPH pupils, but in this case there might be different rules during KKFO hours.

It was concluded that the board continues to support the school's position and the continued dialogue with the municipality.



Henriette brought up the issue of whether there would be a fence around the new school building at Carlsberg.

Hanne informed that an architect from the municipality would come to the school and talk about the new building and then they would probably get more information.

Poul suggested that Hanne visited Ørestad school before the meeting with the architect to see their solutions with playgrounds on the roofs.

4) Holiday plan for the school year 2017/18 (decision)

The holiday plan had already been adopted by the campus board, but there was a small change for ESCPH. Because Skt. Annæ will have a day off because of elections, ESCPH will have a day off on the day before Constitution Day - the 4th of June 2017.

The holiday plan was adopted by the board.

5) Hearing about organisation of the after school care at the European School Copenhagen (decision)

Hanne informed that the municipality had called a hearing about the organisation of the future after school care at the European School. The hearing concerns whether the school wants the after school care to be organised as a KKFO or an after school daycare. The difference between the two is primarily in the organisation and management, where a KKFO is under the school management and an after school daycare has its own management.

Hanne informed that the municipality suggests the school to organise the afterschool care as a KKFO and the management supports this position. This will give an opportunity to promote the European School profile both in the school and the KKFO. This would also be in line with the European School system which has a tradition for a more integrated after school care.

Jonas commented that it should be the central argument from the school that it is important for the international profile of the school.

The board supported the position of the management to choose a KKFO as the organization of the future after school care for ESCPH. Jonas, Hanne and Anette will write about the school's position to the municipality.



5) Follow up on the ESCPH results of the national examination of the wellbeing of pupils (information)

Hanne informed the board about the results from the national examination on the wellbeing of pupils. Hanne informed about some issues concerning the social wellbeing and noise that the school was attentive to. She also informed the board about the initiatives the school will take next year to improve the wellbeing of the pupils.

Rasmus commented that he was attentive to the fact that some numbers in the investigation was high, but that it was not his experience as a teacher that there were any wellbeing issues in general at the school.

The board took note of the information and is happy with the way the school is handling the issue.

6) Board meetings in the school year 2016/17 (decision)

At the campus meeting it was agreed to move the last meeting next year which was supposed to be on June 1st. The meeting will be in May instead and the date will be announced later.

The board agreed to the dates.

7) Miscellaneous

Hanne informed that there is a groundbreaking ceremony on Thursday the 10th of June for the new school building. Most of the board will attend, as will mayors from the municipality and the director of Carlsberg Byen. Four of the pupils from primary 2nd has been selected to take part in the ceremony and on Friday the whole school will celebrate the groundbreaking at an assembly and Carlsberg will sponsor ice creams for the whole school.