

## Minutes for the European School Copenhagen School Board Meeting

Date: October 29th 2015  
Time: 16.30-18.00 hrs  
Venue: At Skolen i Sydhavnen, 1st floor, the room next to the library.  
Members: Jonas Christoffersen, Hans Bryuninckx, Poul Toftdahl, Caroline Warner, Henriette Wollmers-Hansen, Joel Samaha, Rasmus Hornecker, Anette Holst, Hanne Schmidt.  
Excuses:  
Minutes: Liv Gunnarsen

### Agenda:

#### 1) The agenda was approved.

The members of the board presented themselves.

#### 2) The minutes from board meeting 12-05-2015 was approved

#### 3) Accreditation as a European School

Anette Holst informed that the European School Copenhagen had received its formal accreditation from the European Schools system. The accreditation lasts for three years until the 31st of august 2018. At that time the school will need to renew the agreement and accreditation.

**The board takes note of the information with appreciation.**

#### 4) Status on the beginning of the school year, the new premises at SIS, and hiring of new staff

Hanne Schmidt informed the board on the beginning of the school year, the new premises and the hiring of new staff:

- The School now has 144 children in grades 0.-2. in two language sections, Danish and English.
- The school now employs 10 teachers, 2 of them are part-time French and German language teachers. Five of the teachers are new. The school has three pedagogues assigned to the school, who are officially employed by the SIS KKFO. It is a very dedicated group of teachers and pedagogues, and we feel very privileged to have such a good team. We started with an intensive intro program for all staff introducing the European School System and the European School Copenhagen.
- The school has moved into the new school building with SIS.



- The canteen started in October. The canteen is good and offers the children good and healthy food everyday.
- The school is taking active part in the European Schools network. Staff from the school has attended:
  - The management meeting in Varese (Hanne Schmidt and Anette Holst attended)
  - The in-service training Intermath (Joel Samaha attended)
  - The Associated European Schools Network meeting in Talinn (Hanne Schmidt, Jens Jeppesen og Greta Lempel attended) Greta Lempel attended as parents representative and the Parents Association in the Associated European Schools Network decided to form a board, where Greta is now the secretary.
- The school has organised several school activities already this year. The school celebrated the European Language Day and Halloween. Also some of the parents organised a collection of clothes and toys for refugees that was delivered for refugee children in time for the celebration of Eid.
- The school has become an ambassador school for Red Barnet.

Hans Bryuninckx asked, if the school was planning to organise something for Earth Day, considering that EEA is the anchoring institution for the school. He said that he has employees that might be able to help.

Hanne Schmidt said that there was a theme week planned in the spring and it might be relevant for that. She said that the school will contact the agency.

Henriette Wollmers-Hansen commented on the presented information about the start of the school year. She said that as a parent she is very happy about the new facilities and in awe of the new teachers. She is very impressed and feel that the school in its second year is settling in well.

Jonas Christoffersen asked Joel Samaha about his experience of coming to this school. Joel Samaha said, he thought the European School Copenhagen was a good blend, with a scandinavian approach where the children are more a part of deciding what happens in the school, but still with high professional standards.

Jonas Christoffersen asked Rasmus Hornecker how he thought the new staff was settling in. Rasmus answered that he thought there was a good blend among the teachers with different cultural and pedagogical backgrounds. They have good academic discussions.

**The board took note of all the information.**

### 5) Rehousing of the European School Copenhagen

Anette Holst informed about the rehousing of the European School Copenhagen:

- The BUU discussed the rehousing of the school on a meeting on August 26th. Because of a delay in the process with the new school building on Carlsberg and because SIS is growing faster than expected, the school

will need to be rehoused for approximately 16 months in 2017/18. The different scenarios for the rehousing discussed at the meeting was:

- Providing temporary housing close to SIS.
- Providing temporary housing close to Sankt Annæ.
- Rehouse the school at Skolen ved Strandboulevarden.
- Both the European School Copenhagen Board and the parents from the European School Copenhagen sent letters to the politicians in Copenhagen municipality advocating against the third scenario, concerning rehousing at Skolen ved Strandboulevarden.
- The municipality has reserved 7,2 million kr. on the 2016 budget, which is consistent with the first - and preferred - solution of rehousing the school close to SIS. However the municipality needs to find a ground for the temporary housing and they are looking for that at the moment.

Henriette Wollmers-Hansen asked if there was any news about the new building at Carlsberg.

Anette informed that two proposals for a new school has been presented to her and Hanne Schmidt. They are still confidential and there is a committee that will decide which proposal is picked. On November 18th it will be public.

Hans Bryuninckx asked if Anette Holst and Hanne Schmidt are involved in the decision.

Anette informed that they are not involved in the decision, but that they were invited to give practical feedback on the proposals.

Hans Bryuninckx commented on the information about the rehousing, that the school should be vigilant on the quality of the temporary buildings. It should be a decent solution.

**The board took note of the information.**

### **6) Strategic focus points for the European School Copenhagen school year 2015/16**

Hanne Schmidt presented the strategic focus points for the European School Copenhagen 2015/16:

1. European School Identity - Values and traditions
2. European school Identity - Staff knowledge of the European School System and cooperation between language sections.
3. European School Identity - External communication
4. Development of the teachers professional competences - Visible learning
5. To challenge all students to the best of their ability - ICT

As a comment to the point about external communication Hans Bryuninckx mentioned that the EEA would appreciate another visit, where staff from the school could present the school to the employees at EEA.

Rasmus Hornecker answered a question about what visible learning is. He explained that it is based on the research of John Hattie The concept is that the



pupils need to know what they have to learn and get feedback. It makes the pupils happy when the learning goals are clear and they know what is expected of them.

As a comment to the evaluation of the different focus points Hans Bryuninckx suggested that the school decided on a method to evaluate with pupils, parents and teachers, e.g. a focus group or a questionnaire. It could be of good use for the next audit and for the school.

Jonas Christoffersen suggested that the management involved the parents in continuing work with the focus points.

Anette Holst informed, that they would involve parents and teachers more going forward and begin the process of formulating the focus points for next year already in the spring.

Hans Bryuninckx commented on the a paragraph under the strategic point five - ICT. It says that the pupils should become confident users of ICT. Hans Bryuninckx suggested that the school also teach the pupils about the dangers of ICT.

**The school board adopts the paper as it is. The board encourages the school to establish dialogue between the school and parents where relevant. And also to put a flag on the learning environment next year.**

## 7) Presentation of new logo

Anette Holst presented the new logos for Sankt Annæ and the European School Copenhagen. The two existing logos didn't work well together and they wanted the logos to better show that the schools are one organisation.

**The board took note of the information.**

## 8) The national examination of the well-being of pupils - the results for the European School Copenhagen

Liv Gunnarsen presented the results from the national examination on the well being of the pupils.

Hanne Schmidt commented that only the Danish classes answered the questionnaire because it was in Danish.

Caroline Warner commented that some of the pupils in the English section could answer the questions even though they were in Danish.

Jonas Christoffersen commented that there were some results that the school could be attentive to. E.g. the number of children who has headaches and who feel alone. These could be areas for attention. He also suggested that we could do our own examination in the English classes.



**The board took note of the information.**

**9) The vacation plan 2016/17 was adopted**

**10) Miscellaneous**

Hans Bryuninckx asked, if the dates of the coming board meetings could be sent out again.

Henriette Wollmers-Hansen told that the parents experienced problems with the KKFO. She explained that the parents does not feel welcome at the KKFO and that this is a problem that has been developing. Many of the parents are not happy with the KKFO and the fact that there are floors at the KKFO where the ESCPH children can't go. She knows that the KKFO is not under the management of ESCPH, but she asked if the board could do something to solve the problem.

Caroline Warner agreed that there was a problem and emphasised the importance because the parents don't have any other choice of KKFO.

Jonas Christoffersen acknowledged the wish from the parents to discuss the problems with the KKFO. He suggested that the KKFO was put on the agenda for the next board meeting.

He suggested that the parents council could discuss ideas for what could be done before the next board meeting.

**The board agreed to put the issue on the agenda for the next board meeting.**