



Minutes from the European School Copenhagen School Board Meeting

Date: Tuesday 9 June 2020
Time: 18:00 – 20:00
Venue: The Staff Lounge at ESCPH (2nd floor)
Members: Jonas Christoffersen, Hans Bruyninckx, Christen Bagger, Rikke Karlsson, Caroline Warner, Suzanne Hampson, Rasmus Hornecker, Tim Ford, Anette Holst, Julie Rørdam Thom, Shireen Noor Rasool Elahi Panah, Neeni Lomborg Rasool (alternate board member)
Guests: Helle Bjerre Degn
Excuses: Eskil Berg Kappel, Dwaj Jethani
Minutes: Stine Hvitved Leather

Minutes:

1. Approval of the agenda (decision) – 2 mins.

1.1 Annex – Agenda European School Board meeting 09.06.2020

Decision:

- The Board approved the agenda and decided that EB conversion could be discussed under AOB.

2. Approval of the minutes from the last meeting (decision) – 1 min.

2.1 Annex – Minutes from the European School Board meeting 23.04.2020

Decision:

- The Board approved the minutes.

3. Information regarding the election of staff representatives to the Board – 5 mins.

New staff representatives have been elected to the Board in 2020-21. They are Rasmus Hornecker, Tim Ford and Stine Hvitved Leather.

4. Evaluation of the strategic focus points 2019-20 (decision) – 20 mins.

4.1 Annex – Strategic focus points 2019-20_Eval 4 June 2020

Comment: The school's management will provide an evaluation of the strategic focus points 2019/20.

Helle and Julie presented key points from the evaluation of the Strategic Focus Points 2019-20. In summary, a lot was achieved despite the Coronavirus-lockdown.

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1) Team collaboration, sparring and knowledge sharing

- The meeting plan was evaluated and adjusted as planned. Next year, there will be further room for professional development and knowledge sharing.
- A Pedagogical Development Group was established to help develop and meet next year's focus points.
- There will more focus on the structure of secondary collaboration and knowledge sharing across the language sections as well as subject coordinators and the use of observations.

2) Harmonisation and assessment

- In Primary, assessments have already been developed in Maths and L1 and the focus now is therefore on harmonisation across the language sections.
- There is more work to be done in Secondary. Tim will coordinate and look at tests in Brussels for inspiration.
- Stine will resend the presentation from the last meeting re. assessments.

3) Funding and organisation of Upper Secondary

- The school is developing policies for Upper Secondary and getting the school set up on the communications platform Lectio.
- Recruitment is in progress. The new teachers have been invited to a meeting before the summer holiday for an opportunity to meet before school start.
- The school will open three classes (2 Danish and 1 English). There are currently 20 students in each of the Danish classes and 12 in the English class. The school is advertising for more students. Admission is based on the student's qualifications. Cat A students (children of EU institution staff) are still entitled to admission.
- Some students will need upskilling in some of the languages.

4) Communications

- Aula has been rolled out to all parents. In the coming year, the aim is to get parents to be more active on Aula, check their information, etc.
- The communications policy was approved and will be presented by the class teacher and Council Parents at the parents meetings in September.
- Next year, there will be greater focus on the Student Councils as many of the meetings were cancelled this year due to Coronavirus.

The Board took note of the progress made by the school. It was mentioned that the focus points could be less detailed next year and evaluation measures clarified further.

5. Meeting plan 2020/21 (decision) - 5 mins.

5.1 Annex - Draft ESCPH Meeting plan 2020/21

Comment: Proposed meeting plan for 2020/21 for decision by the Board.



Decisions:

- *The Board approved the Board meeting plan for 2020-21 and decided to extend the meetings in 2020-21 to two hours.*
- *The next audit is expected to be in November. SHL will plan any required meetings with members of the Board.*

6. Plans for the 2020 annual school meeting (decision) - 10 mins.

Comment: The Board should decide on a date and discuss ideas for the 2020 annual school meeting.

The Board discussed various ideas for the programme, including theme-based workshops on digital strategy and coding, harmonisation and assessments, collaboration between the pedagogues/teachers in the school, well-being and Rights Respecting Schools. It was also suggested that parents might be interested in a tour of the school.

It was considered important to try and increase attendance, perhaps by holding the annual school meeting on the same day as the parents meetings.

Decision:

- The Board decided that the meeting should be held in September and that the programme should be as follows:
 - Start with class meetings
 - Presentation on overall issues of interest - what is going on at the school
 - Theme-based workshops

7. Proposal for new IT strategy in S1-S4 (decision) - 15 mins.

7.1 Annex - Draft Digital strategy S1-S4

Comment: Proposal to purchase laptops for students in S1-S4 for decision by the Board.

Julie presented a proposal for a new 1:1 IT strategy in S1-S4. The aim is to develop the students' digital skills as well as their digital awareness. As part of the strategy, it is proposed that the school will buy loan computers to all students in S1-S4. The computers will be paid for by the school's establishment account until 2024. Primary will still use the computers available at school.

Tim explained that a 1:1 IT strategy is already in place in many other schools and that the school has the required skillset to build on the strategy.

It was emphasised that legible handwriting and analogue learning is as important as before.

Christen raised the need to focus on digital awareness in Primary as well and it was suggested that the school's approach to IT and digital awareness should be a topic at the annual school meeting.



Neeni added that UNICEF can help with guidelines about digital safety/awareness.

Decision:

- *The Board approved the digital education strategy for Secondary 1-4, including the procurement of loan computers for all students in S1-S4.*

8. Smoke-free school policy (decision) – 10 mins.

8.1 Annex – Draft Smoke-Free School Policy

Comment: Draft policy has been discussed in the Parents Council and must now be approved by the Board.

JRT explained that a few recent episodes at the school had necessitated clarity regarding the rules around smoking. A policy has therefore been drafted based on the Municipality's rules regarding smoking in schools.

The no-smoking rules have been discussed in a previous Secondary Parents Council meeting and the Student Council will also be given the opportunity to review and offer their comments to the policy.

Decision:

- *The policy was approved by the Board with the following change: 'All forms of tobacco...' will be changed to 'All forms of tobacco and nicotine containing substances'.*

9. Various information - 20 mins.

- COVID-19 update

Julie and Helle provided an update regarding teaching during and after the coronavirus lockdown.

In Secondary, all teachers are in at school offering "emergency teaching". The feedback from the teachers suggests that the students enjoy being outside more and the plan is to see if we can maintain that more when the weather is nice.

Caroline requested resources from the L2 teachers to parents/students, so they can keep up their level over the summer. JRT will speak to the teachers.

In Primary, the children have been calmer and there have been fewer conflicts between the children due to extra resources, smaller class groups, and designated play areas. The staff have discussed which initiatives they would like to continue going forward, and these include: Dividing the class into smaller groups where possible; parents saying goodbye outside the school; being outside more; and having more structured play time during the breaks.

Rasmus added that collaboration between the staff groups and with parents has been positive.



Suzanne explained that because there had been a focus on the core subjects in the emergency teaching, and because the children have greater energy and wellbeing, the students do not have a lot of catching up to do. The only areas that need some extra attention are guided reading with the small children and group work as these have been more difficult to do.

- Admissions status

HBD and JRT updated the Board on admissions to the school:

- The new Danish Nursery class is full, and the English and French Nursery classes are in the process of being filled.
- As EEA are planning to take on new staff, the school is reserving a spot in each class until after the summer holiday, where the classes will be filled to 28.
- The new Secondary 1 FR/DK "parrot" class is filling up.
- Screening is in progress for "rolling admission", where there are vacant spaces.
- Insufficient language proficiency is sometimes a barrier to entry in the older classes. The applicants simply can't meet the L2 requirement.
- Screening is also in progress for Upper Secondary. The candidates are strong, but a few may still need language support.

RK mentioned that it was important to ensure collaboration between the L2 and Human Science teachers to ensure they meet the standards.

Neeni added that the school should ensure that the campaign to attract new students/applicants next year reflects the diversity of the student body.

- Upper secondary planning

Partly covered under point 4. An introduction programme is being developed for the new S5 students and the allocation of the teachers' hours is nearly complete.

The names of the class teachers in 2020-21 will be sent to parents before the summer holiday.

- Information from the staff

Rasmus informed the Board that communication had improved both before and under Covid-19, and Tim added that the lockdown had also had some positive effects, e.g. in relation to the use of ICT/Teams.

- Information from the students

Shireen informed the Board that the Secondary students had found the distance learning a little stressful to begin with, however following the introduction of 0365 Teams it had improved.



10. AOB – 5 mins.

- EB grading scale conversion

The parent representatives expressed concern that the Ministry of Research will not be changing the EB conversion. There is an important meeting of the ES Board of Governors in October and the parents have therefore written a letter to the Municipality to bring attention to their concerns. As the Ministry consider the conversion to be fair, it will require pinpointing exactly where the calculations are flawed.

It was discussed how the school needs to communicate the value of the EB beyond the grades.

AH informed the Board that the SAG and ESCPH will be able to separate in the next year or two and this will be an opportunity for the school to celebrate and make a “big noise” to attract new students.

Decisions:

- *It was decided to discuss next steps regarding the EB Conversion at the next Board meeting.*
- *Christen will forward the letter to the Municipality to the Board members.*
- *Caroline will share information from the UK regarding the EB for inspiration.*

The meeting was concluded.

Approved by the Board of the European School Copenhagen on 23rd Sep 2020