



Minutes from the European School Copenhagen School Board Meeting

Date:	Tuesday 15 December 2020
Time:	16:30 – 18:30
Venue:	The meeting was held on Microsoft Teams
Members:	Jonas Christoffersen, Søren Nielsen, Christen Bagger, Rikke Karlsson, Caroline Warner, Eskil Berg Kappel, Rasmus Hornecker, Tim Ford, Stine Hvitved Leather, Anette Holst, Julie Rørdam Thom, Dwaj Prakash Jethani, Alice Malmberg
Guests:	Helle Bjerre Degn, Hella Helvig Jensen
Excuses:	Hans Bruyninckx
Minutes:	Stine Hvitved Leather

0. Welcome new Upper Secondary student representative on the Board.

The Board welcomed Alice Malmberg, student in S5EN and Co-President of the Upper Secondary Student Council.

1. Approval of the agenda (decision) – 1 min.

- 1.1 Annex – Agenda European School Board meeting 15.12.2020

The agenda was approved.

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

- 2.1 Annex - Minutes ESCPH Board meeting 23.09.2020_Aproved
13.11.2020

Comment: The minutes from the last Board meeting have been approved via email on 13 November 2020.

Decision:

- The minutes were approved.

3. Policy for changing languages (decision) - 10 mins.

- 3.1 Annex – Changing languages

Helle Degn explained that the school has received requests from parents, who wish to change their children's L2. The European Schools generally take the position that a change of language can only be justified in exceptional cases and requires approval from the school's management. ESCPH shares this position. L2 is a very important subject as the students are taught the language from Primary and later in Secondary will be taught some of their subjects in their L2. This means that they need to have a very high proficiency in their L2 and that they can end up with a gap if they change L2.

Minutes ESCPH Board meeting 15122020_Aproved 20210119



The European Schools already have a language policy and the paper is therefore intended to clarify the process, including the role of the L2 Committee.

Rikke Karlsson suggested that the paper should be discussed in the Parents Council before adoption and that parents should be represented on the L2 Committee. There was agreement to discuss the paper in the PC but not to include parents in the L2 Committee. Decisions in the L2 Committee should be made based on pedagogical assessment and by the management. Only the parents involved in the case should be heard.

Decision:

- The Board decided that the policy should clearly state the concerns about changing languages at the top of the document.
- The Board also decided that the policy should be discussed in the Parents Councils before final approval at the next Board meeting.

4. Updated policies for Upper Secondary, including new anti-bullying and harassment policy (decision) - 15 mins.

4.1. Annex - Upper Secondary Study Rules and Code of Conduct - 11122020

Julie Thom explained that the Upper Secondary Study Rules have been revised based on the input received at the last Board meeting and subsequent feedback from staff and students.

It was mentioned that the Wellbeing Council referred to in Annex 4 has not yet been formed but has been discussed with the Student Council, who agree it would be good to have.

Annex 7 regarding special educational needs has been revised because it was not possible to obtain a blanket dispensation on special arrangements for Dyslexia in the EB exams. ESCPH must follow the European Schools' regulations and apply for special arrangements for each student based on their individual special education needs.

Decision:

- The Board approved the revised policies.

5. Budget for the Upper Secondary department 2021 (decision) - 15 mins.

5.1. Annex - 6627 budget 2021

Jonas Christoffersen explained that normally the ESCPH Board would approve the budget and submit it to the Campus Board for approval, but this time the budget has already been approved by the Campus Board.



Hella Helvig Jensen explained that the budget is based on grants from the Municipality and the Ministry for Education and is based on the following assumptions in 2021:

- Three new S5 classes will be established in August (budget for 83 students in the financial year 2021)
- There will be additional expenses associated with salaries for teachers starting in August as well as a few more admin costs.
- An "allocation key" for splitting shared costs between the departments set at 11% to Upper Secondary; 89% to Primary and Lower Secondary.

In total the school expects a small surplus of DKK 16000.

Søren Nielsen enquired about the EA contribution in the budget. Anette Holst explained that the EEA contribution is made to the Municipality and the Municipality ensures that the school gets the same funding irrespective of how many students there are from the EEA.

Decision:

- The Board approved the budget.

6. Audit feedback (information) - 10 mins.

Julie Thom updated the Board on the recent audit of the school. The inspectors were impressed with the school's strong and independent students and dedicated teachers. The audit was conducted virtually and went really well but would still have been a different experience if they had been able to visit in person. The format was different to previous audits as this time the inspectors only wanted to speak to the management, teachers, coordinators, student counsellor, support team and students.

The inspectors made two key comments about:

- L3: There was some concern about the way the school has organised L3 Danish for the French SWALS students in the Danish section despite the school's explanation that the level of L3 Danish for the French SWALS is higher because a high proficiency in Danish is a prerequisite for following the other subjects, which are taught in Danish. The French SWALS are offered Danish as L3 so they can later apply for a Danish university. As the level in L3 Danish differs, there are two L3 Danish groups, one where the level is higher than the curriculum and another where the level is more average. When the French classes move up from Primary and we can create a fully French section, this will no longer be an issue.
- European specificity: The inspectors felt the school should have done more to show the European specificity. It was a shame that the inspectors were not able to see the many European displays from the students, but the school



recognises that more needs to be done in this area. See also item 7. regarding the school's focus on the European dimension.

RK enquired if there had been any concerns about English being the main language spoken at the school and L2 not being used as much in European Hours. Julie said the inspectors did not raise questions about the use of English over French or German per se, but they did say that the school should do more to develop the European specificity for example through the use of L2 in the appropriate lessons.

Decision:

- The board received the information and was pleased that the audit was successful.

7. Strategic focus points 2020/21 - European Dimension (information and discussion) - 30 mins.

7.1. Annex - Focus Point 4b The European Dimension

Helle Degn presented the school's initiatives to date to further the European dimension at the school, including the school's collaboration project with the European Schools in Helsinki and Tallinn. Joint sessions are planned for the teachers regarding green classrooms and science-based learning and there will also be activities for the students on Europe Day. Julie added that the school is in contact with EEA about ways to collaborate on environment/science projects.

The Board members discussed what it means to be European and a European School. Rikke Karlsson suggested that art would be a good subject to explore the European dimension and Caroline Warner mentioned that there are also many interesting European science projects the school could look at. Finally, it was suggested that the Pedagogical Development Group could look at building on the European Hours.

Decision:

- The board concluded that the work is well underway and that the matter must be kept under attention.

8. Proposal to separate SAG and ESCPH (information) - 10 mins.

8.1. Annex - Brev til børne- og ungdomsborgmesteren 27112020

Anette Holst informed the Board that the Minister of Education wants to postpone the [bill](#) on the separation of SAG and ESCPH as she has linked it to a question of student admission to the upper secondary school.

As we see it, the two issues are not connected. ESCPH is a European School and is not competing for students with other Danish gymnasiums as in a few years' time, the upper secondary will take students from below.



Anette has met with the Municipality, and the Mayor for Children and Youth has written a letter to the Minister to try and resolve the matter, so we are hopeful that the bill will soon be considered again.

Decision:

- It was decided to ask the Municipality if preparations for the separation of SAG and ESCPH could continue even if the bill is delayed.

9. Update regarding admissions in 2021, including the rules for admission of siblings (information) - 10 mins.

9.1. [Annex - Admission criteria and process](#)

Helle Degn explained the rules for admission of siblings.

As stated in the admissions policy, all sibling applicants are invited to a screening. If they meet the criteria for admission, they are given priority of admission within their admission category. The criteria have been set by the Municipality and the school screens for language, academic level, etc.

This school year there were 8 sibling applicants in the Danish section and 8 sibling applicants in the English section, who were not admitted.

Christen Bagger said he understood that there had to be academic criteria for admission but is concerned that the admission categories make it very hard for siblings to get admission. He encouraged the Board to take a position on the issue and communicate the concerns to the Municipality.

Anette Holst explained that there had been a lot of discussion about this three years ago, when the parents wanted a sibling guarantee, but this was dismissed by the politicians in Copenhagen, who were concerned that this would change the international composition of the school.

Decision:

- The Board decided to discuss the concerns about the admissions policy at a relevant point in time.

10. Various updates and information - 15 mins.

- Status on the Dossier of Conformity for S6-S7

The Board of Governors of the European Schools have approved the school's Dossier of Conformity for S6 and S7.

- Covid-19



Julie Thom: All students from S1-S5 are currently being taught at home via Teams. The students are taught virtually in each subject, which means the teachers have more meetings with the students. The aim is to make it more like a normal school day and ensure the wellbeing of the students.

Since the Secondary classes went home, one teacher has tested positive but has not had contact with any of the students. Everyone has still been encouraged to get tested, however. In total, there have only been three Covid cases in Lower Secondary and one in Upper Secondary.

Helle Degn: In Primary, only the P5 students are being home schooled. Since last Friday six classes have been sent home due to Coronavirus cases.

Rikke Karlsson and Caroline Warner commended the school on the preparations and communications regarding Covid-19.

Rikke Karlsson mentioned that the P5 students were not having that much contact with the teachers and Helle Degn said she would look into it if it continued after Christmas.

- New staff/recruitment

There has been a second round of interviews for the new Head of Lower Secondary and the school expects to be able to announce a name soon.

Teacher Dan Haldager has left the school and cover has been arranged for the New Year.

Rikke Karlsson noted that the school should keep in mind that the best time to recruit teachers from France is in January.

- Information from the staff

Rasmus Hornecker said the atmosphere among teachers is good and the audit went well. Tim Ford added that as everyone now has more experience with online teaching it is now a more effective tool.

- Information from the students

Alice and Dwaj both said that the online teaching in Secondary is going well.

The B tests two weeks ago was a new experience for everyone in S5. Alice said the teachers had been really quick at giving feedback which was good.

JRT explained that the teachers are working with a growth mindset and that the school brought a consultant in to talk to the teachers and students about this. Rikke Karlsson said this had been really good.



Decision:

- The board took note of the information.

11. AOB - 3 mins.

- o Annual report from the Board

Rikke Karlsson asked if it would be possible for the Board to send out a yearly report or newsletter. Jonas Christoffersen said the annual school meeting is intended to provide an annual update but suggested this could be discussed further. Julie suggested that this could be part of the Year in Review/Årsskrift planned from the school later in the year.

- External member on the Board

Rikke Karlsson asked if there was any news about a third external member on the Board. Anette Holst said she was in dialogue with the Municipality and two candidates had been approached, but both had declined so the search for a candidate continues.

- Minutes

Eskil requested that the minutes be issued sooner after the meetings. Jonas Christoffersen replied that he would try to speed up the process.

Approved by the Board via email on 19th January 2021