



## Minutes of the European School Copenhagen School Board Meeting

<b>Date:</b>	Thursday 7 April 2022
<b>Time:</b>	16:30 – 18:30
<b>Meeting room:</b>	Staff lounge, 2 <sup>nd</sup> floor
<b>Members:</b>	Jonas Christoffersen (Chair), Søren Nielsen (EEA), Rikke Karlsson (Parent Rep), Caroline Warner (Parent Rep), Eskil Berg Kappel (Parent Rep), Rasmus Hornecker (Staff Rep), Johan Lindell (Staff Rep), Stine Hvitved Leather (Staff Rep), Muskan Asim (Student Rep), Sebastian Leiholt (Student Rep), Anette Holst (Director), Julie Rørdam Thom (Deputy Director)
<b>Guests:</b>	Helle Bjerre Degn (Head of Primary), Hella Helvig Jensen (Head of Administration), Octave Marozeau (Student Rep - Deputy), Susanne Thielscher (L2 German teacher)
<b>Excuses:</b>	Hans Bruyninckx (Deputy Chair), Christen Bagger (Parent Rep)
<b>Minutes:</b>	Stine Hvitved Leather

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

- 1.1 Annex – Agenda European School Board meeting 07042022

Julie Thom explained that the board had not received the updated version of the proposed objectives/strategy document (annex 5.1.). Therefore, meeting point 5 will be postponed for the board meeting in June.

#### Decision:

- Meeting point 5 was postponed for the next board meeting. With that change, the board approved the agenda.

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

- 2.1. Annex - Minutes European School Board meeting 24022022

#### Decision:

- The Board approved the minutes of the meeting on 24 February 2022.

### 3. German language as a focus in the European School Copenhagen (information) – 15 mins.

At the last board meeting, there were concerns that fewer students would choose German as L2 if the Host Country Language (Danish) was introduced as L2. It was therefore decided to do more to promote German in the school.

L2 teacher Susanne Thielscher gave a presentation on the efforts to get the school approved as a DSD (Deutsches Sprachdiplom) school. DSD is an official German language diploma certifying the level of German proficiency in schools around the world.

Annex 8.1. Draft Minutes European School Board meeting 07042022



As a DSD school, ESCPH students would be able to take a DSD test to certify their language competencies at the B1 level (DSD 1 exam) or B2/C1 level (DSD 2 exam) of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages. The DSD 2 diploma along with a national school leaving certificate allow foreign students to apply for university in Germany. The DSD programme would also give ESCPH access to a big network of teachers and students and resources.

Currently, there are only seven DSD schools in Denmark. We will know in June if we can apply, and the approval might take a year or longer.

Rikke Karlsson was concerned that the DSD network would replace the L2 European School network and that there would be additional tests in primary. It was explained that being a DSD school is an additional quality stamp and it is not a case of one network over the other. The tests will be voluntary and can be done in a relaxed way. The teachers already conduct tests to see where the students are.

Søren Nielsen said that EEA would endorse the DSD programme based on the additional resources provided and if it can help attract German speaking applicants as German is an important language in the EU.

#### Decision

- The Board thanked Susanne for the update, which was considered a good way to help promote German in the school.

#### **4. Strategic focus points 2021/22 – Administration (information and discussion) – 20 mins.**

- 4.1. Annex – Strategic Focus Points 2021-22 Approved 09062021

The administrative community at ESCPH and SAG will continue after the two schools are separated. Hella Helvig Jensen, Head of the Administration for Sankt Annæ Gymnasium and European School Copenhagen, gave a brief update on the initiatives to enhance harmonisation, collaboration, and quality in the administration. This includes the implementation of employee absence/sickness conversations, which has had a renewed focus after Corona. Absenteeism is average.

Rikke Karlsson suggested that information and photos of the administrative staff be shared with parents, so they know who to contact.

#### **5. New overall objectives/strategy document 2022-2025 (decision) – 5 mins.**

- 5.1. Annex – Strategy and Overall Objectives 2022-2025

#### Decision:

- This agenda item was postponed for the June meeting.



## **6. Election of parent representatives to the Board (decision) – 15 mins.**

### 6.1. Annex - Timeline action plan board election March 2022

It is time to elect four parent representatives to the board. Julie Thom presented the proposed election plan, which follows the general plan and timeframe for school board elections in the City of Copenhagen.

Parent representatives are normally elected for a four-year term, but if SAG and ESCPH separate earlier, it may be necessary to hold a new election.

#### Decision:

- The Board approved the plan for election of parent representatives to the board.
- The student election will be presented at the board meeting on 9 June.

## **7. 2021 accounts for Upper Secondary (decision) – 10 mins.**

### 7.1. Annex - Årsrapport 2021\_ESCPH Upper Secondary

Hella Helvig Jensen presented the 2021 accounts for upper secondary. The accounts have already been approved by the Campus Board subject to approval by the board of the European School Copenhagen.

#### Key points:

- The auditors had no comments.
- ESCPH posted a profit of 874,259 kroner.
- It was difficult to manage expenses and income in 2021, both due to Corona and because the upper secondary is a new department.
- The school has equity of 1,97 million kroner, which is quite good for a new school.

#### Decision:

- The management report and accounts were approved by the board.

## **8. Conversion of the EB marking scale (information) – 20 mins.**

The Board discussed the recent information meeting with the Ministry of Higher Education and Science (UFM) on the conversion of the EB marking scale.

The parent representatives and student representatives still have concerns about the conversion. The board believes it is important that the conversion is as fair as possible. It is also important that discussions regarding the conversion does not dominate the narrative about the school, as this does not help the students.

#### Decision:



- The parent representatives will continue discussions regarding the conversion with parents in other European Schools and will keep the board updated.
- Julie Thom will inform Kate Obeid (Områdechef VVK in the Children & Youth Administration) of the recent discussions and concerns.
- Julie Thom will approach UVM to see if they will meet with management and parent representatives regarding comparison of the quality of the STX and EB education.

## 9. Various updates and information – 20 mins.

### Information from management

- Admissions update – New nursery classes: Screenings have been completed for nursery and admission letters were sent out Tuesday morning. The screening process now involves both an academic and a social/pedagogical evaluation to get a holistic picture of the child. As in previous years there are siblings who have not been admitted because they were in a lower admission category or they did not meet the language, academic or school readiness criteria.
- Admissions update – New S1 class: We have tried to create a French S1 class but have not had enough qualified applicants and will therefore create a DK/FR combination class again this year.
- Admissions update – New S5 classes: We have had 65 applications to date (30 internal and 35 external), which is more than the previous year.
- Study trips/exchange programme: The ES exchange programme is back up and running. We plan to participate next year with possibilities for exchange in S4 (3-4 weeks) and S5 (1 semester). We have a contact in one of the Brussels schools. They will send a Danish S4 class next year and we will send our S4 classes to Brussels.
- CCTV: We are installing surveillance cameras in the school due to problems with graffiti in the staircases.
- Fastelavn costumes: In advance of future Fastelavn events, we plan to send out a reminder to dress appropriately.
- Bac preparations: We recently met with the Bac office to understand the exam plans.
- New staff/recruitment: Madelaine Kirk has been appointed new Deputy Head of Secondary. Hans Bolvinkel is now officially Deputy Head of Upper Secondary/Bac Coordinator. Søren Nielsen enquired about staff turnover. Some classes have been affected but it is not a general problem. However, the school is aware of it and will try to avoid in the future.
- Børnesundhedsprofil: Health survey conducted among S1-S4 students in the Danish section showed high levels of stress. It has been an opportunity to speak about B tests and we have received a lot of valuable feedback. It was raised that many students in the other language sections speak Danish and could have responded to the survey as well.

### Information from the staff

- Staff are happy that Madelaine Kirk has been appointed as new deputy head of secondary.
- The recent S6 study trip to Athens was a great success.
- We are hiring a lot of new staff in the upper secondary for the new classes next school year.



- There have also been staff changes in the administration and renovation of the reception is underway.

#### Information from the students

- An anti-bullying policy has been developed for lower secondary.
- The lower secondary students have decided to have a party and will organise a bake sale to finance the event.
- S6 had an incredible study trip to Athens.
- After Easter there will be an election for upper secondary student council president and vice president.
- The upper secondary student council is trying to get the students to take more ownership and organise the social initiatives and activities
- There is a strategic seminar planned in upper secondary on 6 May to look more closely at the school values.
- The upper secondary department now has its own Instagram account like other upper secondary schools/gymnasier. Another IG account will be created for the whole school.

#### **10. AOB – 3 mins.**

##### Investigation of sexual harassment at Sankt Annæ Gymnasium

Anette Holst gave an update on the legal investigation into reports of sexual harassment at Sankt Annæ Gymnasium (SAG) made by former students. The report has now been published and there has been a lot of interest from the media.

39 former students approached the lawyers and told of experiences they had at SAG. Nine of the students experienced sexual harassment first-hand. The rest were witnesses, who experienced a sexualized environment and language. The accounts do not mention any current employees and all the reports of inappropriate conduct date back 20-40 years ago.

SAG is committed to ensuring this never happens again. During the last year, the school has been working with the student council, parents and staff to ensure everyone knows where to go if they have any concerns.