



Minutes of the European School Copenhagen School Board Meeting

Date: Tuesday 31 March 2020
Time: 17:00 – 18:00
Venue: Video call via Microsoft Teams
Members: Jonas Christoffersen, Hans Bruyninckx, Christen Bagger, Rikke Karlsson, Eskil Berg Kappel, Caroline Warner, Suzanne Hampson, Rasmus Hornecker, Tim Ford, Anette Holst, Julie Rørdam Thom, Dwaj Prakash Jethani, Shireen Noor Rasool Elahi Panah
Guests: Mette Sophie Skærlund
Excuses:
Minutes: Stine Hvitved Leather

Minutes:

0. Welcome to new deputy director Julie Rørdam Thom – 2 mins.

New deputy director and head of secondary Julie Rørdam Thom (JRT) introduced herself to the Board.

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

1.1 Annex – Agenda European School Board meeting 31.03.2020

The agenda was approved.

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

2.1 Annex – Minutes from the European School Board meeting 07.11.2019

The minutes were approved.

3. Strategic focus point 3: Funding and organisation of lower and upper secondary (discussion) – 40 mins.

3.1 Annex – Strategic focus points 2019-20

3.2 Annex – Up Sec Board Presentation_26.03.2020

MSS, AH og JRT presented a slide deck on the preparations and planning for upper secondary, which included a status on admissions and the funding and organisation of studies (see Annex 3.2.).

The Board discussed the following:

Admissions: Various members of the Board offered to help enlist applicants for upper secondary via contacts and social media.

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S5 trip: RK asked why the trip is going to Berlin rather than a place with a European School. JRT/AH explained that the trip is mostly about the new students getting to know each other but agreed it would be good to visit a European School, e.g. in S6.

Environment/sustainability projects: HB said that the EEA would be happy to support the teaching with expertise regarding sustainability/ environmental issues. JRT said she would arrange a meeting.

Study guidance for upper secondary: EBK asked how the school would prepare students for their subject choices. Information will be provided to the new S5 students and parents before and at a meeting in May, and MSS will invite students and parents in S3 to a separate meeting regarding subject choices for S4. The most important thing that the new S5 students must decide right now is what level of maths they wish to take. [Eksamenshåndbogen](#) lists the requirements for the different university courses in Denmark. The entry requirements for higher education in other countries will differ.

Decisions:

- *Management will arrange for a representative from Studievalg København to come along to the meeting for the new S5 students and parents in May.*
- *The school will find or educate a person to be able to offer careers/study guidance.*

Subjects taught in the L2: RK said she would have liked for the new ES language policy to have been shared with the Board and enquired what language the creative subjects would be taught in. AH explained that it will depend on the teachers available. They may be taught in English, German or French, but most likely English. The creative subjects and religion are not exam subjects.

L4 options: RK asked why the school had decided to offer Spanish as L4 and CB suggested that the Board should have been informed. AH explained that the dossier, which was part of the application to establish the European School Copenhagen, committed the school to offering French, German, Spanish or Italian, and the school had decided to start off by offering Spanish, French, Danish, German and English as L4. The Board can also decide to offer a non-European language (e.g. Chinese) as L5 if there is enough interest and funding, but the mark in L5 does not count towards the GPA.

The Board took note that the parents and students would have liked to have been involved in the decision about L4 and would like to be consulted in any future process.

Budget: AH explained that because the school may only be able to establish two S5 classes in 2020/21, the Municipality may decide to reduce their funding.



4. Conversion of the new EB grading scale to the Danish scale (decision) - 10 mins.

- 4.1 Annex - Background on the conversion of the new EB scale to Danish grading scale 10.03.2020
- 4.2 Annex - Email from EEB1 parents 23.01.2020

A meeting has been set up with the Ministry of Higher Education and Science (UFM) and the Ministry of Education (UVM) on 15 April 2020 to discuss conversion of the new EB grade point average to the Danish 7-point grading scale.

Parents from EEB1 in Brussels have written to the Board of the European School Copenhagen as well as the Municipality of Copenhagen because they want to ensure that EB graduates are on the same terms as Danish graduates with similar qualifications when they seek admission to university in Denmark. Some of the parent representatives have also been contacted by parents, who are considering applying for admission to ESCPH, but are concerned about the grade conversion.

The Board discussed which points they should put forward at the meeting in order to secure a fair conversion. The conversion mathematics are complex, but it is a fact that ES students do not get the A bonus, which is awarded to other Danish students. It was also added that the EB students' GPA should be compared with the results of Danish STX graduates rather than the results of all upper secondary students in DK as STX is the upper secondary education most comparable to the EB. The EB also has a higher pass mark.

Decisions:

- *The Board decided to convey all of the above concerns at the meeting and to exert its influence to ensure that the EB conversion is fair and that as a minimum EB students are awarded the A bonus on a par with other Danish students.*
- *It was decided to schedule a pre-meeting between the Board representatives (JC, JRT, MSS, CB and RK) to discuss the key points.*
- *The school's management will determine if the meeting will still go ahead or has been postponed due to COVID-19.*

5. AOB - 5 mins.

There were no further points discussed. The meeting was concluded.

Approved by the Board of the European School Copenhagen on 23 April 2020