



## Agenda ESCPH Board Meeting

Date: Thursday 20 June 2024  
Time: 16:30-18:30  
Venue: 214, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, European School Copenhagen  
Members: Kira Peter-Hansen (MEP and External Member), Andreas Manville (EEA and External Member), Margo Rachat (ESCPH Parent), Stéphanie Horion (ESCPH Parent), Laure Conte (ESCPH Parent), Johan Lindell (ESCPH Staff), Blanka Erös (ESCPH Student), Dakshayini Manoghna Potluri (ESCPH Student), Julie Rørdam Thom (Director ESCPH)  
Guests: Helle Bjerre Degn (Head of Primary)  
Apologies: Laura Rosenvinge (Copenhagen City Council), Tinne Hoff Kjeldsen (External Member), Rasmus Hornecker (ESCPH Staff), Christen Bagger (ESCPH Parent)  
Minutes: Helene Kristensen

### ESCPH Board Meeting

#### Agenda:

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

Annex 1.1 - Agenda ESCPH Board Meeting 20240620

Kira Peter-Hansen opened the board meeting, and thanked Julie Rørdam Thom for her hard work and dedication to the school on behalf of the board, as this will be her last meeting as Director of ESCPH.

#### Decision:

- The agenda was approved by the board.

**2. Approval of the minutes of the ESCPH board meeting 18 April 2024 (decision) – 1 min.**

Annex 2.1 - Draft ESCPH Board Meeting Minutes 20240418

#### Decision:

- The minutes were approved by the board.

**3. School holiday plan 2025/2026 (decision) – 5 mins.**

Annex 3.1 - ESCPH holiday plan 2025-2026

Annex 3.2 - ESCPH holiday plan 2025-2026 calendar

Purpose: The proposed holiday plan for the school year 2025/2026 must be approved by the board.



Julie Rørdam Thom presented the holiday plan for 2025/2026. This year, the pedagogical day in November has been set aside in order to make a full Christmas holiday.

**Decision:**

- The school holiday plan for 2025/2026 was approved by the board.

**4. Board meeting dates in 2024/2025 (decision) – 5 mins.**

Annex 4.1 – ESCPH meeting plan 2024-2025

Purpose: The proposed meeting dates for 2024/2025 must be approved by the board.

Julie Rørdam Thom presented the board meeting dates for 2024/2025.

**Decision:**

- The board meeting dates for 2024/2025 were approved by the board.

**5. Evaluation of strategic focus points 2023/2024 (presentation) – 20 mins.**

Annex 5.1 – Strategic focus points 2023-2024

Annex 5.2 – Strategic focus points 2023-2024 evaluation

Purpose: Management will present the evaluation of the strategic focus points 2023/2024.

Julie Rørdam Thom presented the evaluation of the strategic focus points for 2023/2024.

**ESCPH aims for continuous progression in all students' learning:**

- Professional development awareness among staff has been an aim in across departments and the policy has been presented at several staff meetings and in MUS.
- There is a continuous focus on students' absence in all departments.
- There is a great collaboration between pedagogues and teachers and 84% of respondents recognize that this has been focused on.
- In Lower Secondary, there is still a wish to focus on teachers to make frames and expectations for B-tests clearer.

**ESCPH whole school environment is a continuous focus point:**

- Only 13 respondents feel like they have done collaboration across departments regularly.
- Colleague teaching observations in same or similar subject to one's own receive good feedback.
- Teachers and pedagogues appreciate activities across departments such as Christmas Craft Day and Sustainability Day.
- Knowledge of other departments could be higher.
- The transition between P5 and S1 works well.
- 96% of staff rate Primary and Lower Secondary work afternoon beneficial (either very or little), which is positive.



### **ESCPH should be an environmentally sustainable school with green initiatives:**

- 74% of the respondents feel strongly or somewhat that ESCPH is a sustainable school, compared to only 37% of the respondents in March 2023. This is positive, but there is still room for improvement.
- 26% do not agree, and mention paper and food waste as problematic.
- S5 students participated in Climate Action Day which is a recurring annual event.
- The EEA collaboration has been strengthened.

### **European School Copenhagen is a European School in its own right:**

- The whole school has celebrated Europe Day and European Day of Languages in Primary and Lower Secondary.
- Audit in the autumn of 2023 underlined that ESCPH has a strong European profile, which is positive as the recurring feedback for the past ten years has been that we were not European enough.
- MUN in Upper Secondary. We will work on doing Model European Parliament.

### **Continuous development of the Upper Secondary:**

- We have been working on recruitment of our own S4 students with Upper Secondary students visiting S3 and S4 classes, parent's meeting with S3 and S4 parents, and by inviting S4 students to Taster Days and Orientation Evening.
- It is a continuous focus points to improve the physical environment.
- Teachers have worked on motivational teaching and 17 out of 23 have been on excursions or invited external speakers to their classes.
- We have attracted more external applicants this year for the new S5, and it is improving every year.

## **6. Strategic focus points 2024/2025 (discussion) - 40 mins.**

Annex 6.1 – Strategic focus points 2024-2025

Purpose: Management will present the new strategic focus points for 2024-2025. This will be followed by a discussion of the new strategic focus points.

Julie Rørdam Thom presented the first draft of the strategic focus points for 2024/2025. The strategic focus points have been shortened even more this year to make the points as well as the aims and actions clearer. After a brief introduction, the board worked on feedback in groups.

The notes from the groups have been shared with management and will be implemented in the formulation of the new strategic focus points.

## **7. Bac report 2023 (orientation) - 15 mins.**

Annex 7.1 – European Baccalaureate session 2023

Julie Rørdam Thom presented the report on the European Baccalaureate 2023. The report shows the average for all European Schools. The results of the oral exams are not part of the report. In 2023, ESCPH only had 42 EB candidates which means that each student's performance had a large impact on the overall average.



The marks in art at ESCPH were well above average, while Physics, Biology and Chemistry were around the average of other European Schools. The average mark in Mathematics at ESCPH was a bit lower compared to other European Schools. The school is supporting Mathematics with homework cafés and other initiatives.

It is difficult to obtain higher marks in Mathematics, Chemistry and Physics in the ES system compared to other subjects, as the exam needs to be perfect to obtain a 10. This has, of course, been pointed out to the European Schools.

The average for students with special educational needs is well above the average of other European Schools. This means that students with special arrangements achieved the same average mark as students with no special arrangements, and this is something we can be proud of.

#### **8. Approved Audit report 2023 (orientation) – 5 mins.**

Annex 8.1 - 2023-11-D-18-en-3 Audit Report European School of Copenhagen (DK) Accreditation Renewal N S7

Julie Rørdam Thom presented the Audit report for 2023 that has now been approved by the Board of Governors.

#### **9. Updated Dossier of Conformity (orientation) – 10 mins.**

Annex 9.1 - 2023-09-D-38-en-3 Dossier of Conformity N-S5 European School Copenhagen (ESCPH)

Julie Rørdam Thom presented ESCPH's updated Dossier of Conformity for N to S5 that has now been approved by the Board of Governors. The Dossier of Conformity has an updated format, and we were therefore asked to update our Dossier for N-S5.

The Dossier has been edited and the language has been lightened and made clearer, as it was very heavy before. We have received good feedback from the European Schools.

#### **10. Various updates and information – 10 mins.**

##### **• Information from students**

##### Lower Secondary

- The Lower Secondary student council have been focused on developing a space for Lower Secondary students to relax and study, and more specifically in the library area. The student council have also spoken to teachers about what can be done, and, in the process, the administration has now contacted an architect that can help.

##### Upper Secondary

- The S7's have had their last day of school and are busy doing their Bac exams. Only the oral exams are left, and they begin tomorrow.
- Some students received the wrong B-tests which had to be re-done.
- The S5's have now done their second round of B-tests, and there has been good feedback on this.
- The S5's have also done their work experience which has been successful.



- Upper Secondary have had their last party. It was a reminder that it should be planned more in advance for next year.

- **Information from staff**

#### Upper Secondary

- It has been an intense exam period for the teachers with plenty of preparations to see to.
- The teachers have focused on doing projects and excursions in different subjects, e.g. mathematics and architecture in the city, and this has been a huge success with the students.
- The S5's have been on a biology camp in Kongelunds Fortet.

- **Information from management**

#### Primary and Lower Secondary

- We are close to the end of the school year which means a lot planning for next school year.
- From next school year, Primary and Lower Secondary will be combined to create a stronger structure and a much better coherence between the departments.
- We are also currently spending time on hiring a new Director.

#### Upper Secondary

- We have, again, experienced extremely late changes on how to mark students in their subjects. The changes are for the benefit of the students, but it is a concern that changes come in so late. The school has directed concern to the European Schools regarding this.

Julie Rørdam Thom thanked the board for their work and support during her last meeting as Director, and pointed out that ESCPH is in a very good place. She also thanked the dedicated staff and the dedicated and inclusive student body here.

### **11. AOB – 5 mins.**

Nothing for AOB.