

Minutes ESCPH Board Meeting

Date: Thursday 11 December 2025
Time: 17:00 – 17:45
Venue: 214, 2nd Floor, European School Copenhagen
Members: Kira Peter-Hansen (MEP and External Member), Tinne Hoff Kjeldsen (External Member), Laura Rosenvinge (Copenhagen City Council and External Member), Margo Rachat (ESCPH Parent), Stéphanie Horion (ESCPH Parent), Laure Conte (ESCPH Parent), Christen Bagger (ESCPH Parent), Johan Lindell (ESCPH Staff), Rasmus Hornecker (ESCPH Staff), Helene Kristensen (ESCPH Staff), Eva Hatting (ESCPH Student), Rosa Bukowy-Duving (ESCPH Student), Øzkan Güler (Director ESCPH)
Guests: Helle Bjerre Degn (Deputy Director), Hella Helvig Jensen (Head of Administration), Frank Edelmann Christensen,
Apologies: Andreas Manville (EEA and External Member)
Minutes: Helene Kristensen

ESCPH Board Meeting

Agenda:

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

Annex 1.1 - Agenda ESCPH Board Meeting 20251211

Kira Peter-Hansen welcomed the board to the meeting and introduced board consultant Frank Edelmann Christensen. The board did a round of introductions.

Decision:

- The board approved the agenda.

2. Approval of the minutes of the ESCPH board meeting 25 September 2025 (decision) – 1 min.

Annex 2.1 - Draft ESCPH Board Meeting Minutes 20250925

Decision:

- The board approved the minutes.

3. Budget for Upper Secondary 2026 (decision) - 15 min.

Annex 3.1 - Budget for Upper Secondary 2026 DA

Purpose: Hella Helvig Jensen will present the 2026 budget for Upper Secondary for approval by the board.

Hella Helvig Jensen presented the 2026 budget for Upper Secondary.

Key points:

- The Finance Act for 2026 has already been passed in the Danish Parliament so we have been able to take that into account.
- We expect to enroll 62 students in August 2026 in the new Secondary 5 classes.
- The budget for SPS is additional funds as it is covered 1:1.
- The distribution key for allocation of common expenses has been changed to 18/82 now. 18% for the Upper Secondary and 82% for Primary and Secondary.
- The budget for student activities has decreased because the tendency has been that the funds have not been used.
- The budget for 2026 is tight.

In 2024, GL and AC negotiated a 3.34% increase in pensions through the collective agreement with KL that we will see the full effect of this year. This causes a rise in teaching costs that the state does not cover, as it is the municipality and KL that have overseen these negotiations. This year, we will receive a DKK215,000 grant to cover the expenses. The grant is not part of the budget, so it gives the otherwise tight budget a bit of room. The Child and Youth Administration expect this problem to be solved in the upcoming collective agreement negotiations.

The board raised the question of what will happen if we admit less students than expected in August 2026. Hella Helvig Jensen answered that the school has liquidity and the Upper Secondary had an equity of DKK2.8 million by the end of 2024. This is enough to cover activities to attract more students or to cover a potential deficit.

Stéphanie Horion asked if we can cut down on the fees for the board. Hella Helvig Jensen answered that this fee is determined by the law.

Johan Lindell inquired about funds for local pay agreements. Hella Helvig Jensen answered that there are funds for this in the salary budget.

Decision:

- The board approved the 2026 budget for Upper Secondary.

4. Overall objectives 2026-2029 (presentation) – 15 min.

Annex 4.1 – Overall objectives 2026-2029

Purpose: Özkan Güleriyüz will present the new overall objectives shaped by the board's input from the meeting on 25 September 2025.

Kira Peter-Hansen introduced the item for overall objectives for 2026-2029 and reminded the board that it was decided to keep the overall objectives for 4 years instead of 3 years.

Øzkan Güleriyüz presented the new overall objectives for 2026-2029, reflecting the board's input from the meeting on 25 September 2025. The objectives aim to balance the school's high academic standards with an increased focus on well-being. A significant addition is the new objective to position the school as the best international institution, with an emphasis on local anchoring.

- The board voiced support for the focus on well-being but highlighted the need to maintain high academic standards.
- Some board members felt that local anchoring overshadowed the school's international reputation and should be removed if not actively pursued. Others argued for its importance in bridging the school's identity with the local environment, especially in improving admissions in Upper Secondary.
- There was a suggestion to add resilience explicitly within the objectives, coupled alongside the well-being of the students.
- Discussions highlighted the need to clarify terms like sustainability and well-being to ensure the values are communicated effectively and that there are not too many points under one heading.
- Some felt the school's European identity was weighed too heavily over international aspects, suggesting more balanced representation. There was agreement on recognizing the school's role as an international community, celebrating its diversity.

The overall objectives will be adjusted with the board's further input and will be presented again at the next meeting in February.

5. Various updates and information – 10 mins.

• Information from students

Upper Secondary

The Student Council had a successful meeting with CoSEEA in Tallinn. There are currently exams and B-tests. The students have plenty of social events; study cafés, Christmas café, and a school party. Excitement among students about upcoming European School events, for example EuroSports.

Videographer Jacob Malling has shot an advertisement video for the school, where he has been interviewing students and showcasing the social life.

Secondary

The students in Secondary recently sat their B-tests. The Student Council are looking at how the B-tests are done because it has been quite stressful for students. The Student Council is also trying to do more social activities.



- **Information from staff**

Primary and Secondary

Overall, the teachers have had a nice and quiet start to the school year.

Upper Secondary

The teachers are currently busy with B-tests and marking – and preparing students for pre-Bacs. Maths teachers are doing Maths-hygge with pizza and revision.

There is a concern among staff regarding the low number of S5 students. The teachers are talking to management about this.

Administration

The recent P0 orientation evening was really successful, with approximately 500 people attending.

- **Information from management**

Øzkan Gülerüz informed the board that the school is proposing to become more independent. Management have decided to continue separating from Sankt Annæ Gymnasium administratively. The school will become more independent and work closer with the municipality.

6. AOB – 5 mins.

There was nothing for AOB.