

Agenda ESCPH Board Meeting

Date: Thursday 25 September 2025
Time: 16:30-18:00
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), Andreas Manville (EEA 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), Özkan Güleriyüz (Director ESCPH)
Guests: Helle Bjerre Degn (Deputy Director)
Apologies:
Minutes: Helene Kristensen

ESCPH Board Meeting

Agenda:

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

Annex 1.1 - Agenda ESCPH Board Meeting 20250925

2. Approval of the minutes of the ESCPH board meeting 12 June 2025 (decision) – 1 min.

Annex 2.1 - Draft ESCPH Board Meeting Minutes 20250612

3. L2 Danish (decision) – 15 min.

Annex 3.1 – L2 Danish proposal version 2

Purpose: Özkan Güleriyüz will present the updated version of management's L2 proposal that contains details regarding Danish lessons that the board has requested. The board decides on the proposal.

4. Overall objectives (discussion) – 25 min.

Annex 4.1 – Establishing new overall objectives

Purpose: The current overall objectives run until the end of 2025. Therefore, the board will discuss their inputs for new overall objectives.



5. Upper Secondary (discussion) – 20 min.

Purpose: Øzkan Güleriyüz will update the board on the current situation in the Upper Secondary.

6. Various updates and information – 10 mins.

- Information from students
- Information from staff
- Information from management
 - Update on swimming lessons

7. AOB – 5 mins.



Agenda ESCPH Board Meeting

Date: Thursday 12 June 2025
Time: 16:30-18:00
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), Andreas Manville (EEA and External Member), Margo Rachat (ESCPH Parent), Stéphanie Horion (ESCPH Parent), Laure Conte (ESCPH Parent), Rasmus Hornecker (ESCPH Staff), Helene Kristensen (ESCPH Staff), Muskan Asim (ESCPH Student), Saanvi Parija (ESCPH Student), Özkan Güleriyüz (Director ESCPH)
Guests: Helle Bjerre Degn (Deputy Director), Eva Hatting (ESCPH Student)
Apologies: Christen Bagger (ESCPH Parent), Signe Severinsen (ESCPH Staff)
Minutes: Helene Kristensen

ESCPH Board Meeting

Agenda:

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

Annex 1.1 - Agenda ESCPH Board Meeting 20250612

Kira Peter-Hansen welcomed the board to the last meeting of the school year.

All board members were invited to introduce themselves, as Upper Secondary Student Council deputy chairperson, Eva Hatting, attended the meeting.

Decision:

The board approved the agenda.

2. Approval of the minutes of the ESCPH board meeting 20 February 2025 (decision) – 1 min.

Annex 2.1 - Draft ESCPH Board Meeting Minutes 20250410

Decision:

The board approved the minutes.

3. Holiday plan 2026/2027 (decision) – 5 min.

Annex 3.1 – ESCPH holiday plan 2026-2027

Annex 3.2 - Visual_ESCPH holiday plan 2026-2027

Purpose: The board needs to approve the proposed holiday plan for the school year 2026/2027.

Øzkan Güleriyüz presented the proposed holiday plan for the school year 2026/2027. 1st of May and 5th of June fall on the weekend in 2027, giving us extra flexibility. The proposal is to instead take an earlier Christmas holiday and close the school on 18th of December and to close the school on 20th of November for a long weekend.

The days have been placed during the winter months as springtime already holds most holidays throughout the year, and because much of the school's end-of-year preparation also takes place during the spring.

Decision:

The board approved the holiday plan.

4. Board meeting dates 2025/2026 (decision) – 5 min.

Annex 4.1 – ESCPH board meeting dates 2025-2026

Purpose: The board needs to approve the proposed meeting dates for the school year 2025/2026.

Øzkan Güleriyüz presented the proposed meeting dates for the board for next school year. They have been decided with considerations to budgeting and to the attendance of the board's chairperson.

Decision:

The board approved the meeting dates for 2025/2026.

5. Screen use principles (decision) – 5 mins.

Annex 5.1 – Screen use principles

Purpose: The board needs to decide on the proposal of new principles of screen use.

Øzkan Güleriyüz presented the proposed screen use principles for the school. The municipality requires that the school's board must approve the school's principles for screen use.

The principles reflect that we want our teachers to have professional flexibility to make decisions about screen use.

Screen use principles do not cover or replace policies on phone use at school.

Decision:

The board approved the screen use principles. The principles will be added to our digital awareness policy and A-Z guide.

6. L2 Danish (information) - 15 min.

Annex 6.1 – L2 Danish – Proposal for the board

Purpose: The board will be informed on management's proposal that addresses the issues of the implementation of L2 Danish.

Øzkan Gülerüz presented management's proposal that addresses the issues of the implementation of L2 Danish.

The proposal addresses what management considers to be the 3 central problems:

- There is a significant risk of our school turning into a bilingual school and that L2 German and L2 French will disappear. This compromises with our mindset of being a multilingual and European School.
- L2 Danish was not incorporated in the original plan for European School Copenhagen and thus is not financed by the municipality. The absence of dedicated financial support means that the school allocates internal resources to support L2 Danish.
- L2 Danish does not live up to parents' expectations. Most students' Danish level is already higher than the level the L2 curriculum offers.

The proposal:

- Management recommend that L2 Danish will no longer be offered as an option for new P1 students from the school year 2026/2027. The established L2 Danish classes from P1-P4 will continue as planned to the end of Secondary.
- As an alternative, the school will provide afternoon Danish lessons tailored to the students' respective competence levels.

The board agreed on the importance of keeping the multilingual profile of the school. Concerns were raised, however, about the lack of consistency regarding L2 Danish if the school takes away the option. The board also agreed that clear communication from the board/management to parents is key in this situation. Management made it clear that L3 Danish will, of course, still be offered and emphasized that L3 Danish is sufficient for admission to Danish universities.

The board requested a detailed plan of the implementation of the proposal and of the structure of the alternative Danish lessons.

The board will make the final decision regarding L2 Danish at the next meeting to ensure having clarity prior to opening for new Nursery admissions in November.

7. Swimming lessons (information) – 5 mins.

Purpose: Management will inform the board on the school's future plans regarding swimming lessons.

Management have considered the school's swimming lessons while doing allocation of hours, as they make up 40% of a teacher position. The pool is currently far away, meaning that the classes spend more time on transport to the pool than on the swimming lesson itself. Furthermore, the swimming lessons stem from our previous location at Skolen in Sydhavnen which is next to the water.

Swimming lessons are not mandatory in the European School system's curriculum or in the municipality of Copenhagen who consequently do not finance our swimming lessons.

Management therefore would like to cancel swimming lessons from the 2026/2027 school year.

8. Midway evaluation of strategic focus points for 2024-2026 (presentation) – 20 mins.

Annex 8.1 – Strategic focus points 2024-2026

Purpose: Øzkan Güleriyüz will present the midway evaluation of the strategic focus points for 2024-2026.

Øzkan Güleriyüz presented the midway evaluation of the 2024-2026 strategic focus points. Last year, it was decided that the strategic focus points last for two years instead of one.

The midway evaluation has been conducted among staff. The survey results indicate a generally positive outlook. Staff observe that the school has a strong emphasis on student well-being.

Areas for growth

- Increased focus on sustainability.
- More time for collaboration and planning across subjects.
- Professional development and support.
- Improving survey methodology.

It was commented that the strategic focus points should be more accessible to staff and students, so they become a whole school collaboration and not just a focus on board meetings.

The board discussed the upcoming Danish EU presidency from 1st of July as a great opportunity to put the school on the map.

9. Various updates and information – 15 mins.

Information from students

Upper Secondary

- The Upper Secondary Student Council has delegated more specific roles to its members in the hope that it will encourage more active participation.
- Collaboration with CoSEEA is still going well.
- Pushing for clearer framework for A-mark grading in the JTC (Joint Teaching Committee).
- Collaboration with DGS (Danske Gymnasieelevers Sammenslutning) on a national level. The Student Council now has a representative on the DGS Board, ensuring representation of the EB.

Secondary

- The Secondary Student Council are ready to elect the next president and vice president.

Information from staff

Primary/Secondary

- All teachers are busy with the end of the school year and looking forward to the upcoming summer holiday.

Information from management

Øzkan Güleriyüz presented this year's admission statistics for the Upper Secondary

Numbers as of 2 June 2025	2024	2025
Applicants from outside Optagelse.dk (typically from abroad)	58	54
Applicants from Optagelse.dk	50	35
Students admitted from outside Optagelse.dk	15	9
Students admitted from Optagelse.dk	39	24
Students admitted from S4	21	13
Total students admitted	75	46



The school is working with attracting students to the Upper Secondary. There are many angles in focus, including marketing strategy and strengthening the connection between Secondary and Upper Secondary.

Øzkan Güleriyüz informed the board that the results of TU25, the Municipality of Copenhagen's staff well-being survey, have been released. The different departments are working with the results now.

Øzkan Güleriyüz informed the board that management have decided to cancel the annual school meeting from next school year. Instead, management want to invite parents to a number of themed coffee mornings in the hopes of better attendance and more relevance to the parents.

A seminar with a consultant for the board is still in the works for after the summer holidays.

10. AOB – 5 mins.

The board thanked Muskan and Saanvi for all their work and the student perspectives they have brought to the meetings.



Addressing the issues of L2 Danish

Problem assessment

There is a significant risk that L2 German and L2 French will disappear from European School Copenhagen soon as a direct consequence of the implementation of L2 Danish. This compromises European School Copenhagen's commitment to the multilingual mission and educational principles of the European Schools.

L2 Danish was not incorporated in the original plan for the European School Copenhagen and thus is not financed by the municipality. The absence of dedicated financial support means that the school must allocate internal resources to support L2 Danish, potentially leading to cutbacks in other initiatives. These financial limitations can contribute to negative impacts on the school's quality of education.

Meanwhile, it is also evident that parents' expectations of L2 Danish teaching do not match the level and progression of the L2 Danish curriculum that is offered by the European School System, leading to dissatisfaction among parents. L2 instructors can differentiate to some extent but are bound by the L2 progression offered in the European School curriculum.

Proposal

Management recommend that L2 Danish will no longer be offered as an option for new P0 students from the school year 2026/2027. The established L2 Danish classes from P1-P4 will continue as planned to the end of Secondary.

As an alternative, the school will provide afternoon Danish lessons tailored to the students' respective competence levels.

We propose four different Danish classes of 45 min. taught by our L2 Danish teacher. We will offer the following Danish lessons:

- P2-P3 level 1
- P2-P3 level 2
- P4-P5 level 1
- P4-P5 level 2

We aim to schedule the classes after ordinary lessons. We have the students' schedule in mind, so they are still able to attend the Danish lessons we plan to offer.

By implementing these proposals, it is the hope of management that we will be reestablished as a true European School with a focus on English, French, and German as L2 languages. At the same time, we will be able to comply better with parents' expectations for Danish learning.

Background

In 2023, European School Copenhagen started offering L2 Danish to P1 students for the first time to accommodate the wish of a large group of parents.

The number of students choosing L2 Danish in 2023 – 31 in total – resulted unexpectedly in the need for two separate classes, making it unsustainable regarding teaching budget and classroom space.

Unfortunately, the addition of L2 Danish has led to a significant decline in enrollments for L2 German and L2 French. These classes have been maintained despite having student numbers below the minimum threshold of 7.

The implementation of L2 Danish has brought up challenges:

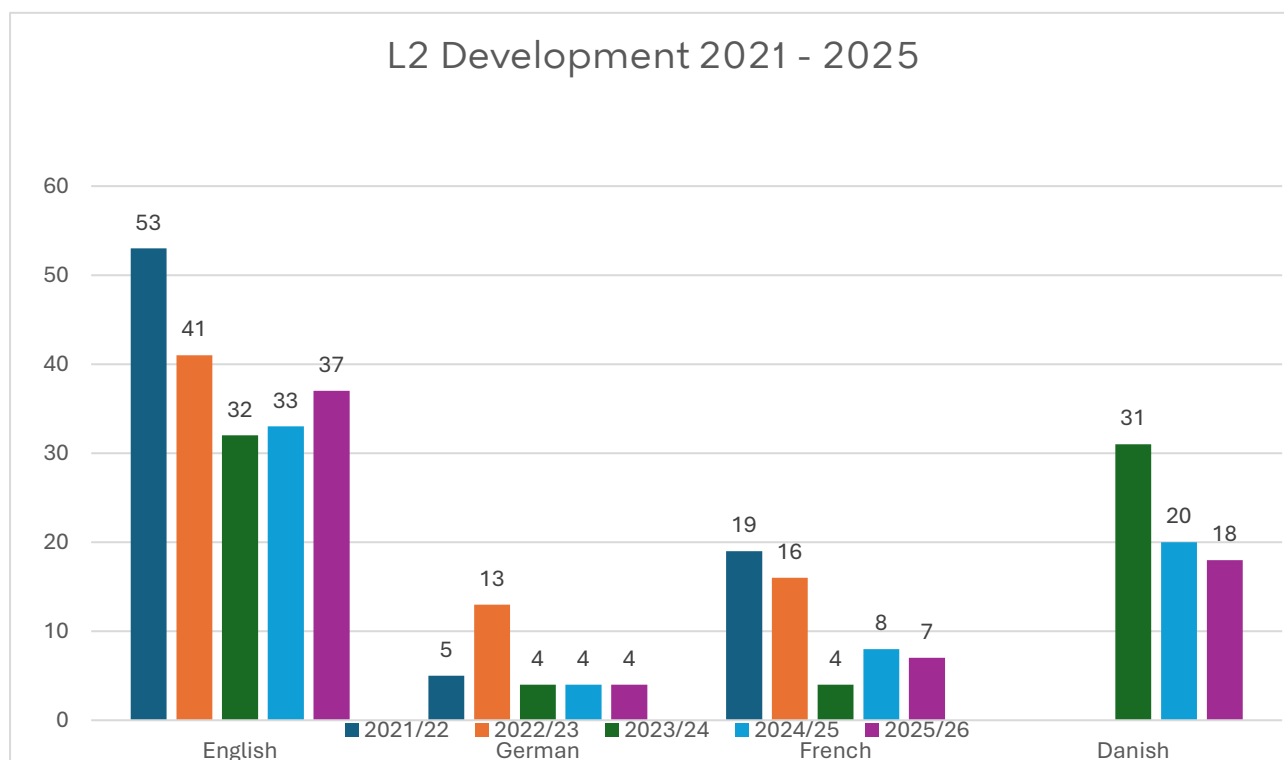
- The significant drop in students choosing L2 German and L2 French.
- The lack of dedicated financial resources from the municipality.
- The predominant shift toward an almost entirely Danish/English curriculum is inconsistent with the mission of the European Schools.
- Complaints have been raised with the Parents Council, with parents expressing disappointment with the language level of L2 Danish classes.

School management first addressed the problem in 2024, by deciding that students already speaking L2 Danish fluently could choose another L2 language and still be allowed to change to L2 Danish in S1. This initiative was implemented to encourage more students to choose L2 German and L2 French again.

Unfortunately, this strategy has proved to be insufficient in addressing the challenges the school is facing.

To re-address these challenges, we must reassess offering L2 Danish. By introducing Danish lessons in the afternoons suited to the language proficiency levels of students, the school can better meet what parents are looking for. This strategy will also help ensure that German and French will remain as L2 languages and help the European School Copenhagen stay true to its mission of promoting the multilingual and multicultural education that comes with it.

Statistics



Establishing new Overall Objectives

Board meeting 25 September 2025

The purpose of the discussion is to lay the foundation for new overall objectives that will guide our organization. As we have successfully navigated through our current objectives from 2022-2025, it is time to reevaluate and refine these objectives to ensure they continue to align with the evolving needs and aims of our school community.

Discussion points for new overall objectives

1. **Duration:** Should we extend the overall objectives' duration from three to four years to align with our strategic focus points that are now renewed every two years?
2. **Brainstorm and reflection:** The board will brainstorm and discuss inputs for new overall objectives.

Process

Management will use the board's input to write a proposal of the new overall objectives that will be presented at the board meeting on 11 December 2025.

2022-2025 overall objectives

1. High academic standards for all students

ESCPH is committed to fostering high academic standards across all student levels. We aim to cultivate students' personal, social, and academic development, preparing them for subsequent educational stages. Our emphasis on wellbeing as a foundation for academic progression ensures students are 'ready to learn.' Collaboration among staff and management across departments is crucial to creating an engaging learning community.

2. Sustainable growth with high professional standards

Our focus on sustainable growth underpins optimal learning conditions for students, encompassing economic, environmental, and wellbeing sustainability for all organizational members. Continuous development requires balancing our pioneering spirit, creativity, and energy with structures and processes that maintain high professional standards. Staff involvement is key to developing sustainable solutions.

3. Strengthening European specificity, local anchoring, and global responsibility

As a European School, ESCPH emphasizes learning European languages, history, and culture within its educational framework. We recognize the necessity of preparing students as global citizens, fostering relationships with other European and international schools, parents, and local partners to reinforce our identity.