

ER-HS 16.10.2012, 16.10 hrs

Anwesend:

Minutewriter: A. Slootweg

The minutes of the ER-HS from 12.06.12 and the agenda were approved.

Mr. Ensing reported that the start of the school year had been very smooth.

Ms. Presacco leaves the school at the end of this school year and Mr. Ensing said that he was glad that her successor is already known, it will be Ms. Pavliciková who, at present, is director of the kindergarten and primary at the ES Karlsruhe. This should result in a smooth transition.

There were some problems with secondments with teachers arriving very late but all teaching posts are now filled.

Ms. Bertolino left the school at the end of the last year and has been replaced by Ms. Antonia Bonetti, who is now Paedagogical advisor in the senior school.

Mr. Dekker has started at the beginning of the beginning of the school year as a pilot project as “Sozialpaedagoge”. He has started by identifying problems in the school system in providing a safe and supportive climate, and to categorize the available resources to help with personal problems. He has made a flying start and the school is making an effort to try and get the project continued.

The provisional report of the whole school inspection is now available. The report is very positive and holds no surprises. Some ideas for improvement were noted such as improvement of differentiation in teaching, forward planning, European dimension and transition from GS to HS. Of these points the school management was already aware and in fact the next pedagogical day will focus on differentiation (there will be 2 pedagogical days).

There is a Spanish section in the KG as from the beginning of the school year. The school management is not unwilling to consider extending it to other cycles of the school and the parents will receive a survey to gather their opinion. The school cannot predict if the Spanish section will be expanded since this is a decision takes in Brussels.

At the beginning of this school year there was new security firm which was the result of a new tender for services. This caused some problems at the beginning of the school year, especially guarding the entry to the green container, which problem has now been solved.

The city of Munich is exploring the advantages of international tuition and has been in contact with the ESM. The city is considering providing further international school possibilities.

Due to the space problems a further container with classrooms has become necessary. It will be a lilac container and will be placed on the sports field on the left seen from the school bus stop going to the school. This new container will be mainly for the GS but may also be used for KG. Construction will start in 2013 and will be ready for the school year 2014-15.

There were problems with the construction of the new website. The school had to change to another company. It is hoped that the new website will be ready after the Christmas holidays.

The new website will facilitate the new communication structure. The website will be in English and German but the school will try to make sure that most of the documents will also be available in French.

New Smartboards have arrived. The school wishes to provide one for all classrooms. They are highly appreciated by both staff and pupils and provide improved teaching possibilities.

The school wishes to organize a EU-day but this year on a Saturday (03/05/13). The school is asking for parents who are willing to help organize the event. New charity actions will be organized, especially for the school in Congo where a teacher who taught at the ESM teaches. The actions will be better announced to parents beforehand to avoid un-clarities.

Brussels has declared that when external experts, paid for by the parents, come into the school to help support SEN pupils a tripartite contract should be drawn up. This is new in the system introduced by Brussels and parents will be asked to sign such agreements.

The pupil representative asked what the school means by increasing the European dimension?

The school replied that in history there can be more focus on the revolutions in Europe, and to put into context the influence on for example agriculture in the home country, where students can learn from each other.

Library.

The school wants to develop the library. The intention is to create a multi media center, with working stations with learning software eg. maths, languages etc. Possibly also new books and media. Pupils are specifically asked to provide input.

The school has finished the plans on the experimental middle management, and staff have been recruited for this function by means of a selection procedure. These staff will have reduced teaching hours. The role is to assist the management in coordination and to help teachers and promote best practice, the implementation of teaching methods and new syllabus and differentiation.

The middle management structure has been instated.

For the languages the middle manager is Mr. Lacey : teachers want to share good ideas and cooperate so that the different language teachers can profit from each other. For example exporting the drama activities from the English section to other sections.

The middle manager for the literary subjects (history, geography, philosophy...) is Ms. Nykiel. She has as responsibility coordination of travel/trips and to improve the communication between the different areas.

For the science subjects the middle manager is Ms. Karow.

Learning support and SEN is coordinated by Ms. Lutkemeier.

For educational matters and administration the function of middle manager has been given to Mr. Stie.

The names will be published on the website with a description of the responsibilities to aid communication.

Classrooms.

Although space is at a premium due to the large number of pupils and teachers, the school has tried as much as possible to avoid teachers having to change rooms, and so give them their own rooms. The rooms can then be decorated to reflect the subject and also teaching material can be left in the rooms. The system is not perfect but the school will try to improve on it, although there are limits also due to the architecture of the building with rooms of very differing size.

Class-trips

During the school year there are many large ("Landschulheim", year 6HS study trips, THIMUN) as well as many smaller trips (berlin, IT etc.). The school management, in line with increasing the European dimension of the school would like to arrange that each pupil gets at least one opportunity to go to a European institution which administers the EU: ESM meets Europe. There was Brian-storming but no concrete plans were realized. All participants to the ER-HS were in principle positive to the proposal . The parties agreed that such a trip is not sensible before year 5HS. Ideal would be in year 7 since it fits in best with the syllabus. The timing has to be carefully considered.

Class representatives

This year a class representative has been elected for each class for years 1 to 5HS (with the exception of two classes for which there were no volunteers). These reps will be important in helping the class teachers and also aid in organizing the EU-day.

Electronic games

The school stated that a ban on electronic games cannot be enforced, since many telephones also allow games to be played and parents would not like phones to be confiscated. The school tries to dissuade pupils from playing such games, and the school offers sport and games in the "Freistundenraum". The school agreed that the Aula should be supervised. The school stated that maybe there could be information on the info-screens.

Photocopies

There are pupils who do not have access to a computer and/or internet at home and moodle cannot therefore completely replace photocopies. It was then argued that maybe such should be set as requirement (for example in the international school every pupils has to buy a school laptop). The school stated that many colleagues use moodle but that not all are equally comfortable using it. Presently the school is attempting to improve and provide for digital classroom in that there is a whiteboard in each class. Books, when they have to be bought by the parents should be used. If books, which have been bought, are not used during the course of the year Mr. Hrovath requests that he be informed thereof.

Questions of the parents as requested in preparation of this meeting will be given in written form before the next meeting.