

Minutes of the educational council 21.01.2019

Participants

Direction: Mr. Ensing, Mr Hrovath

Teacher's representatives: Mr. Haslinger, Mr. Bettley, Ms. Heyraud, Ms. Bressan, Mr. Cobelens, Ms. Papakosta, Mr. Wladmüller, Mr. Riser

Parent's representatives: Mr. Metz, Ms. Haider, Mr. Robinson, Ms. Ellis, Mr. Leuridan, Ms. Fradeani, Ms. Frank

Other: Mr. Salvat (Erziehungsberater), Mr. Ramani (Chief of Security and Safety), Ms. Segerer-Schwarz (School Psychologist)

Student's representatives: none present

1. UMWELTSCHULE

“Umweltschule” is a certification for school which are ecologically conscious. Mr Hrovath repeated that the school has now received its second star (out of three) and that the school has made it its goal to achieve the third start as well. The first two stars are relatively easy to obtain, but the third one may take a while longer. This requires that the whole school community is involved. Mr. Waldmüller, who is guiding the project together with Mr. Messeygnac, presented the actions which have been taken and are planned. The garbage separation has been optimised and now the Eco Club is considering what actions can be undertaken to reduce the garbage produced in the cafeteria. Furthermore some actions have been undertaken to reduce energy usage (e.g. automatic switch off of computer screens)
Mid February, an Eco week will be held, which will have as theme “Plastics”. For this week, the school is inviting external experts.

2. SECURITY, DRUGS AND ALCOHOL

The director presented Mr. Ramani, who started on 01 January as safety and security officer. Mr. Ramani stated that the school invests mainly in prevention. This consists of security personnel circulating in the school, the supervision of the playground by teachers, information campaigns. The school devised an approach spread over the whole secondary curriculum to cover different themes, ranging from bullying to drug awareness (legal and illegal). In cases of abuse at school, the school contacts the parents and deals with the case in different ways. Apart from punitive measures (including contacting the police if needed), the school also offers support via the school psychologist.

Mr. Hrovath stated that also the students and parents have a role to play by informing the school with precise information if they have

any knowledge of cases. Mr. Ramani stated that this could also be by informing where something happens so that those places can be monitored more carefully.

Mr. Salvet presented proposed changes to the smoking policy, covering junior students, grown up students and personnel. The school has a non-smoking policy. Parents pointed out that personnel regularly smokes just off the school premises on places where lots of students pass. This visibility functions as bad examples. Parents asked whether it would not be possible to have a smoking zone somewhere where the students do not pass. This would avoid any example function.

3. LGBT/GENDER POLICY

Ms. Segerer-Schwarz presented an initiative which will start this year on the topic of LGBTQ. S5 students will have a project week on with as theme “respect”. This will include a dedicated session on the topic. The school will be supported in this by “Aufklärungsprojekt München”.

4. NEW MARKING SYSTEM

The parents’ representatives presented a list with observations concerning the implementation of the new marking system. The observations were based on the results of the S5 Semester tests and November reports.

The discussion centered on the following main points:

- Marking is not harmonised
- Overall marks are lower
- Recognition in the national systems

The German authorities have updated the “Umrechnungstabelle”, which is used to calculate the equivalent German mark. With the new table, the equivalent German mark will be lower than with the old table. Mr. Hrovath announced that Denmark also published a new conversion table, also to the detriment of the European baccalaureat. The parents stated that this fact, together with the lower marks given under the new marking system will have disastrous consequences for the options available to our students after graduating.

In the UK (where about 30% of European school alumni study), universities have the freedom to set the marks they require individually. Here as well, there is no sign that account will be taken of the consequences of the new marking system. In the UK (as in Switzerland) S5 marks are taken into account when deciding on admission. With the current state of affairs, only very few students will still have access to good universities.

The school realised that this is a serious issue and clearly stated that they do not wish that our students have any disadvantage because of the new marking system.

Based on the information provided by the parents' representatives, the school will discuss with middle management how to address the issues and improve the implementation of the system.