



Byens Steinerskole
Waldorf International School Copenhagen

General Assembly for Byens Steiner Skole / Waldorf International School Copenhagen September 30th 2020

Minutes

Place: Byens Steinerskole, Tomsgårdsvej 28 i København NV

1. Welcome, election of chair (Jari Due Jessen) and secretary (Morten Øyen)

The general assembly should have been held in the spring, but due to the covid-19 outbreak, the board has repeatedly seen itself forced to postpone until the general assembly could take place with physical attendance as well as in presence of the supervisor.

2. Presentation of the report by the pedagogical supervisor

It is determined by the current legislation that free schools must have a supervisor observing the teaching, talking to the pupils and teachers and monitoring that the school "meets the requirements" of a primary school.

Every school year, the supervisor gives their report to the Ministry of Education before it is made accessible on the school's website.

Annelise Dahlbæk (AD) is the supervisor of Byens Steiner Skole/ WISC, as well as for Frederik Barfods Skole. AD holds a master's degree of pedagogy in music and general pedagogy, and has taught in pedagogy and psychology at The Royal Danish Academy of Music and has held a lecturer position at the teacher's education program at Zahle.

The supervisor gave her report for this part of the year.

AD spoke about what it means to be a supervisor and described what it had been like to be at Byens Steiner School in the first year as well as during covid in the spring.

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Covid presented us with some new challenges - for the teaching as well as for the possibility of observing the teaching. It still has not yet been possible to observe all the subjects. AD however experienced the school's management of the covid-related challenges - including outside classes - and found it to be very professional.

AD has observed the teaching of a number of subjects, including the main subjects and music classes and describes a teaching method marked by variation. This was found in teachers' engagement, in their approach to the children as well as in their preparation for the classes.

AD describes that she has observed classes being taught in a way that to an impressive extent provides the pupils with a good overview as well as stimulates their senses.

In the near future AD will hold a presentation on differentiated and pupil-inclusive teaching for the teachers, which is a subject she has written books on.

3. Management's report, report by school principal Frederikke Larsson (FL)

In the near future, the entire report from FL can be read on the website.

FL described a very eventful first year for the school.

In August 2019, Byens Steinerskole started at Nyelandsgaarden in Frederiksberg with about 58 students when we started. With a very committed group of teachers, after a great deal of work from parents and teachers to get the premises ready for the start of school.

The first part was marked by creating relationships, because everyone came from different places. The theme in the beginning was to "work with our hands". New students arrived, others turned out not to join us.

After a short time, a burning need for a kindergarden appeared. Vibeke and Peter were hired to help in Fritidshjemmet (activity club) and do the pedagogical preparation to open a kindergarden. This started in February 2020 with about 21 kindergarden children.

There is an increasing need and we will therefore expand the kindergarden to about 45 children, with about 12-15 international children when we move to Otto Busses Vej.

The fall of 2019 was also spent figuring out what seasonal festivities we want and how they should be celebrated. Among other things, we introduced a new seasonal festivity day under the auspices of Steiner: UN Day, which was in line with the desire to become a human rights school, which we have become in 2020.

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At the beginning of 2020, the board and school principal Jan Magnussen decided to build the management team. Since March, daily management has consisted of Frederikke Larsson and from April also Stine Guldmann.

Corona hit and presented a lot of challenges. Outdoor school in style. The lease was terminated prematurely when Frederiksberg Municipality needed the premises and could not find another solution. Meaning we moved the teaching to Grønholt.

That experience strengthened us in the belief that our city children should also have some soil under their nails for it does something magical. We also wanted to be a green school from the start. The collaboration with Grønholt starts up again after the autumn holidays.

When the school year ended, we were almost 90 students.

When we were told during the summer holidays that we could not be on Otto Busses Vej after the summer holidays, a lot of work went into finding a new roof over our heads. In quick time, the agreement on Tomsgårdsvej landed, which is where we are now.

The city's Steinerskole today has 117 students and new good and committed teachers have joined. In addition, there is the kindergarten, which is still on Nyelandsgaarden, but asap is moving with the school.

The activity club now consists of a new group of teacher students after the collaboration with Tom has ended. There are weekly pedagogical collaboration meetings with the employees in the after-school club. Anne Katrine has become our food mother, it started at Nyelandsgaarden, and we have rented a kitchen trolley for her on Tomsgårdsvej.

Going forward, the school will try to make digital newsletters to better give an impression of what is going on at the school, now that corona is making normal activity and the general feeling with the school more challenging for parents.

4. Report of the Board of Directors

The entire report of the Board of Directors can be read on the website in the near future.

Board member Jakob Bo Clausmarch gave a report on the work of the board.

The board's work in the first year and a half has been a lot of firefighting and problem solving. Especially with the location of the school, which takes up a lot of space. Work still needs to be done on what the management should look like and a more formal



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long-term strategy for the school. However, we would already like to announce now that we will look at the articles of association again and at some point propose amendments to the articles of association. Amendments to the articles of association must be adopted by the general meeting.

It has so far been a bit like inventing things on the go, so we hope new guidance will come along - hopefully some who are better than us at formalities. It has a high priority how the management should be designed and the school should be run in the future. Therefore, there will also be a discussion about changes to the school's articles of association. The board wants the work that was started for the autumn party to get parents involved in various committees to be rolled out and that you as a parent can in this way have a say without sitting on the board.

Comments from parents:

There were questions about whether the board lacks any special competencies, for example in finance and management. Frederikke Larsson noted that it is also important for a school with a special pedagogical point of view to have a structure for the board that provides the board, not only includes parents at the school, but also has some form of strong pedagogical or anthroposophical ballast.

The board needs to be better at making minutes that are also available to parents.

5. All those already sitting on the board were not up for election.

It consists of:

Board member Alma Oliveros - parent of Kalle 1. Kl. and Linus 2/3 at

Jakob Bo Claumarch - parent of Charlie 4 p.m. And Kaya 5/6 at.

Catharina Thiel Sandholdt - parent of Vera 1kl. And Anna in the school's kindergarten Lærkelunden.

Morten Øyen Jensen - parent of two future children at the school

Hanna Helena Bjarnø - parent of two future children at the school

Newly elected to the board were:

Jari Due Jessen - parents of Smilla, 4th grade and Aviaya 5th / 6th. class

Nikhil Thakur parent of Aaryav 2./3. International

Rajesh Veluswamy parent of Keshav 1. International

Thomas Vestergaard parent of Mackenzi 4th grade

Martine Noring Goehring parent of Jefferson 2./3. class

In addition, two parents reported to support the management's work in other ways:

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Katrine Borg Albertsen (Asbjørn 1st grade + Ebbe Lærkelunden) would like to be part of a group that works with how the school can be ambitious and can achieve high academic levels in all subjects.

Trine Østergaard (Zoe 2./3. International) with her skills and experience would like to help support the board in getting structure about the work and create new working groups.

The new and larger board will be convened and have its first meeting immediately after the fall break.

6. Status of location

Board member Catharina Thiel Sandholdt gave the status on the school's location.

The building permit to set up the school on Otto Busses Vej has still not arrived. The City of Copenhagen has been given everything they need, and they should give permission soon.

What has specifically drawn out the construction case is that the weather conditions on Otto Busses Vej must be approved for soft road users, ie. children, and DSB, which owns the entire area, has taken a long time to submit a sufficient plan that the City of Copenhagen could approve.

The board announces as soon as it is in session - and the construction work can begin! It will take about 10 weeks from the approval until we can move in.

It is the board's assessment that we can not move the whole school over a weekend. Therefore, it is most realistic that the school moves during the Christmas holidays to Otto Busses Vej and the new chapter there really begins on the first school day of the new year.

That it has turned out this way was extremely frustrating. Not least because we have been ready for a long time to move, and in that way it has been out of our hands.

We have also learned that being dependent on others can be incredibly frustrating and draining.

It is our dream - and has been for a long time - that Byens Steinerskole will be located on Otto Busses Vej in the new exciting, creative and green area. In collaboration with BaneGaarden and Søren Ejlertsen. In fact, we also believe that we fit in perfectly.

We must also acknowledge that it is hard for all of us when we do not have security about our location.

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We experienced this the hard way this summer, when the schedule for Otto Busses Vej crumbled. We managed to have a temporary lease agreement with Copenhagen's VUC for premises close to Nørreport, but the City of Copenhagen would not approve them - it would require a new building application and it would take many months. Premises on Lindevangs Allé 8-12 (close to Nyelandsvej) also became unavailable just when the contract was to be signed.

A long story short: then Tomsgårdsvej in the Northwest was the only option we had for a building that the City of Copenhagen would so quickly approve because it had been approved for small school children before. It was a last chance option.

This situation we never want to be in again!

The ground on Otto Busse's road, we only have an agreement with DSB until 2024 - time passes and then we are not guaranteed to be able to stay. It depends on how the grand plan for the whole area develops.

With the speed with which the school is growing, we will be running into space problems on the current site at some point, so something must also happen in the long run. Either on Otto Busses Vej or somewhere else.

Therefore, we also have a dialogue with the owners of the building in Frederiksberg on Lindevangs Allé 8-12, which VUC Frederiksberg previously owned. It is a building in which we can grow into a fully developed school with 12 grade levels and a kindergarten, and where we can make a much longer lease.

It is almost impossible to find the perfect building for a brand new free school in Copenhagen, which can be approved, where you can stay and develop, and which is otherwise affordable so you can still run the school we want .

The dream is that we can be on Otto Busses Vej forever, but the reality is that we must also look realistically that we may not be able to have that dream.

The status of the placement gave rise to a number of comments and questions from parents.

Several parents made it clear that they are ready to address the politicians or media if needed. And that it is important that we are present in all activities and processes around the future of Jernbanebyen.



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Overall, it was a great wish from those present that the parents become more informed about the process and want more transparency about what is happening and what the status is for the placement.

There was criticism from the board for not having previously said that the school cannot move during the fall break, but only later.

There was also praise for the openness that was in turn now.

There was also a discussion about whether the school should eventually work after owning its own building, and therefore not rent as we do now.

Brief remark from the Board of Directors:

The board agrees that there should be more transparency about what is happening and what the status is with the location. It has not been good enough.

Similarly, we think it would be good to have an “activist group” that can work to ensure that we are visible in the debate about the future of Jernbanebyen. We decide asap how such a group could be organized and work.

This supports the desire for increased parental involvement through committee work.

7. Finally

According to Byens Steinerskole's articles of association, the next general meeting will be held in the period 1 March to 30 April.