

Minutes - General Assembly

at Byens Steinerskole

April 21st 2022

1. Welcome, election of chairperson and rapporteur

Sebastian Rottmair: Chairperson,
Caroline Boutrup: rapporteur.

2. Report of the School Board for the 2021-2022 school year

We were 110 students at the end of the school year 2021. After the summer break this year we will be about 210 students.

As a new school, we have been challenged in many ways. Three addresses in 2 years, COVID and a struggling with the financial situation. But the school is still growing and - happily - with almost the same staff of teachers as when the school started in 2019. This is such a great achievement.

Many thanks to all of the teachers.

It is all the parents who, in collaboration with the school staff and the children, contribute to creating the school. We are all carriers of the school culture - this also applies to new parents. After all, we are still in a start-up process.

3. Report from the Inspector

When you are an independent school, it is required by law to have a supervisor who assesses the school's academic goals and outcomes. Annelise, our school inspector, monitors three different areas when she inspects the school 5-6 times during the school year, talks to teachers and school leadership, and observes lessons in the different classes:

Whether our school is academically equal to what is taught in public school, and that pupils from here can progress well in the education system.

Freedom and democracy - democratic education, e.g., the school's basic attitudes, the intention of the teaching, the actual teaching, the benefits of teaching

Visibility and transparency, e.g. information on the website, annual plans, learning objectives and final outcomes

In addition to observing, she also provides feedback to teachers on their teaching.



Annelise sees how the primary school subjects are drawn into our programme and concludes that the academic quality is in place. She sees a variation in methods that favour the mind, body, emotions and senses - and it does something really good for the students' learning. The teachers are very aware of this. She also observes that the teachers take a great deal of pleasure in teaching. They are very dedicated and the teaching is well thought through. The students are curious and are provided with many tools to co-operate and communicate in groups, which is worth noting, as being part of a community is so important. This is worth noting, as these are important competences for being able to participate in a community. The inspection report is available on the school's website.

4. Revised annual report of the Byens Steiner School

The financial journey of the school from its foundation has been challenging. It is difficult to start up a school because it takes a certain number of students before the operation makes financial sense. We still have challenges, but we are moving in the right direction.

We have a small deficit again this year (2021), but since we still have to be perceived as a start-up company, the finances are gradually becoming more and more healthy. Our deficit this year is significantly smaller than last year. This year we have not had to take out any bank loans, as we did last year. So things are going in the right direction.

In 2021, we have had extraordinary expenses of DKK 1.1 million. This is due to unforeseen expenses on the building site and in connection with the move and cleaning and more sick leave in connection with Covid. A positive development is that we are getting more and more children at the school and that the costs associated with each child are less now than in the beginning.

5. Report from the School Principal

2021 became the year where we finally came home - after a long, long journey.

And it truly felt like coming home. As a tree that has been replanted a number of times, to finally get the roots down into the permanent soil.

A school day is very much based on routines, so moving around has a big impact on the everyday life. And it has taken a lot of time and effort. We are a school with a lot of strength, and we have proved to be very adaptable to all kinds of situations. However, we are still a new school that has to find its structure, routines and culture. And we need to focus on this now.

At the same time, we are a school that has grown a lot. We are based on a warm and close knowledge of each other. Building relationships takes time, and we must remember this when we welcome new families to our school.

For many of the new families, the school is their first encounter with Steiner pedagogy. There is a lot of new things to deal with. No wonder we sometimes misunderstand each other a little and have to put extra effort into getting to know each other.

In 2021, teachers have focused on the development and structuring of student assessment. All the teachers' educational days have been allocated for this purpose.

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The reason is that we want our student assessment to be more dialogue-based than the traditional annual written testimonies.

In this connection, we have had workshops with external consultants from Waldorf schools abroad, to be inspired and to develop our own methodology.

We have also worked with the topic of gender and identity, and have had guest speakers to give the school staff new knowledge and perspectives on these areas.

We have also looked at sexual education and explored how it can be organised and still integrated the Waldorf perspective on children's development.

In 2021, we got our parent handbook, where parents can read about everything from A-Z about the school. A warm recommendation to read it thoroughly and look up in the handbook when you are seeking answers to questions about the school. I'm sure you'll find most of it there.

Covid has also affected 2021, but fortunately we have been able to organise seasonal parties here and there, which is really nice. Our Festivals and school Saturdays are an important part of the school's DNA.

The after-school programme has also been upgraded in 2021, which is really nice.

The international department has come full speed ahead, and the kindergarten has also grown and fallen into place. Many thanks to Søren for the great effort in getting the kindergarten well in place after have been moving around with the children and the staff.

The music programme is progressing very well. The co-operation with the conservatory students is going really well and the academic level among the students is very high. So we can all be proud of that - also you as parents, who have to practise with your children at home.

We have finally been given the opportunity to offer swimming lessons in Vesterbro Swimming Pool. So 5th grade and since 3rd/4th grade have had swimming lessons weekly.

In 2021, Food Science was added to the timetable as a new subject. From 4th grade and up, the students take turns cooking for their own classes and for the kindergarten together with Anne Katrine.

Even though we have just moved in, we are continuing to work hard to find an investor who, together with us, can ensure that the school can continue to stay here at Otto Busses Vej and continue growing. A building committee has been set up and is already in progress. It is a great pleasure that we have such an active and committed group of parents. Thank you for all the great work you as parents are doing.

6. Election of Board members

Sebastian, Nikhil and Jari are up for election. They stand for re-election and are re-elected. Catharina and Caroline resign from the board. Krister and Marie wish to stand for election and are elected. Henrik continues.

The new members briefly:

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Krister Janver: Has a lot of experience from boards, property development, construction industry and has extra time right now.

Marie Gregersen : Originally a Steiner child, trained as an economist, she is self-employed and works in business development.

Many thanks for Catharina's hard work since the start of the school. Also thanks to Caroline Boutrup, who unfortunately is moving and therefore cannot continue.

7. Topics received

It has been asked whether the school has a focus on digital bullying, now that it is a mobile-free school. The answer is yes, there is a clear policy at the school and cyberbullying is something that is focussed on in the larger classes.

Questions were asked about the school's strategy for the future.

We - the board and the parents who get involved - are working on two tracks to secure the future of the school:

- As the area does not yet have a local plan, efforts are being made to lobby local politicians and other relevant people so that we can be written into the future of the area
- In parallel, work is underway to explore whether the school could have a future elsewhere in Copenhagen.

8. Overview of school committees and working groups

An independent school is owned by the parents. It is the parents' school and the parents create the school. Therefore, the school is also deeply dependent on parental involvement. You can contribute a little or a lot, a few or many hours - all involvement is welcome - and, as I said, necessary. The school needs your involvement. The school currently has various working groups and committees that help to ensure the school's finances and the school's progress. The school's committees and working groups are listed below:

- **Byens Steinerskoles Support Association:** The organisation organises events of all kinds that support the school's operations and vision. Everyone is welcome.
- **Building Committee:** The committee focuses on the future of the school - here or elsewhere in Copenhagen
- **Maintenance:** For those who are ready to pick up a paint roller or a drill. The working group fixes small and big things at the school - it saves us a lot of money.
- **International working group:** The group helps international parents to have an easier landing at the school and in Denmark.
- **Communication:** Focus on the school's external presence, both on social media, website, etc.

We need everyone, so please write the board if you would like to contribute and join a committee or if you have any ideas for something you'd like to help with.