

Minutes of AAGE Board Meeting

Thursday, April 23, 2015

18:00-21:00

PARTICIPANTS

Chair: Christian Schacht-Magnussen

Vice Chair: Anders Ostergaard

Member: Niclas Kverrod

Member: Flemming Dahl

Member: Erik Hygum

Member: Tim Gram Lykholt

Member Klaus Solling Rimmen

Member: Peter Post (19:15-20:30)

Guest: Gene Aidam

Guest: Pernelle Fau Clausen

Guest: Charles Hanna

Guest: Nicola Woodvine

REGRETS

Member: Rune Kilden

Member: Soren Adamsen

Member: Svend Hylleberg

Member: Karsten Pedersen

Christian Schacht-Magnussen called the meeting together at 18:05. The meeting's Agenda Item No. 5 would be handled first.

5. GENERAL ASSEMBLY: This agenda item in part was moved forward to allow the auditor, Helle Lorenzen of Ernst & Young, to deliver the audited "Annual Report", the summary of which took the format of a powerpoint presentation. The "Annual Report" in its entirety (hard copy on file in AAGE's archives) was accepted by the Board, as presented in the powerpoint summary.

1. ATTENDANCE: Following a brief introduction by each member of the Board, Mr. Hanna was welcomed as a guest to the meeting. He gave an overview of his background and qualifications, expressing thanks for the support he had received to date as part of the selection process for the position as Head of School.

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA: Approved, as presented.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: The Minutes of the Board meetings held on 23.05.2015 and on XX.02.2015 were approved. Christian Schacht-Magnussen reminded the members present that as of the

current April meeting of the Board, the meeting's Minutes except for matters concerning personnel issues should be posted to the School's website, once approved.

4. FINANCIAL REPORT: Klaus Sølling Rimmen reported on the status of the cash flow and the overall health of the budget for both the remainder of 2015 as well as for 2016, indicating that under the current financial situation, figures are expected to remain in the red. Only limited discussion followed his remarks.

5. GENERAL ASSEMBLY: It was confirmed that the invitation to the annual meeting of the General Assembly to be held on April 28, 2015 had been sent out to the parent body on time as required.

Christian Schacht-Magnussen announced that Soren Adamsen had resigned from the Board and that Klaus Solling Rimmen would now assume this position, serving in the capacity as the international community's representative to the Board.

Peter Post proposed that the position of "Parents Council Chair" should not automatically be, at the same time, a member of the AAGE school board. The current practice represents a conflict of interest. The PC Chair's position needs to be an independent one so as to be able to focus on issues specific to the needs of the Parents Council rather than being placed in a double role. Members of the Board expressed the opinion that although this arrangement had worked well in past years, effective immediately it should be changed to reflect the above proposal. PROPOSAL ACCEPTED. Flemming Dahl will prepare the necessary changes accordingly to the Articles of Association so that they can be formally voted upon prior to the General Assembly. A special Board meeting will be held at 18.00 on April 28, 2015 to act on this issue.

As a second proposal, Peter Post requested that the date for the annual election of the Parents Council Chair be moved forward from the current September date to the month of May for future years. Holding an election in September prevents the Parents Council board from being constituted in a timely fashion, thus unnecessarily delaying the PC's planning and organization of activities which should take place preferably in advance of a new school year. PROPOSAL ACCEPTED. (Fleming Dahl pointed out that although the Board can make changes to the Parents Council's operational procedures, the Parents Council also needs to confirm decisions on procedures which will change their rules.)

In further matters concerning the election of parent representatives to the Board at the upcoming meeting of the General Assembly, Tim Gram Lykholt expressed the hopes that there will be continued representation on the Board by a parent whose child is enrolled in the PYP 1-3 kindergarten levels. As of the upcoming school year, he will no longer have a child enrolled at those levels.

It was confirmed that three positions on the Board are to be filled at the upcoming meeting of the General Assembly.

6. SCHOOL REPORT: Pernelle Fau Clausen presented the anticipated staffing needs for the upcoming 2015-2016 school year. This included additional teaching positions as well as additional classroom space, the latter of which could be solved by renting portable facilities in light of the expected growth in student

enrolment. Members of the Board were receptive to her report but it was pointed out that the implied funding funds was neither available nor included in the approved school budget

Board members felt strongly that the upcoming school year should be considered as a "Year One" , especially now that the new school administration is in place. With this concept in mind, Niclas Kverrod voiced the opinion that the Board should use this "Year One" opportunity and become proactive in seeking new sources of additional revenue, an undertaking he was willing to initiate in cooperation with the school's administration. Anders Ostergaard also expressed the opinion that the "Year One" concept offered a unique opportunity to move the school forward in a positive direction and that the school's efforts should be supported by securing additional funding and new sponsors. Board members welcomed the comments and implied initiatives as it was known that securing further bank loans to fund school expansion and development was not an option at this point in time.

Pernelle Fau Clausen stressed that the faculty would also respond positively, in turn, were they to see a proactive response from the Board towards securing the numbers of staff they see as necessary to improve the quality of student learning as well as the school's overall educational program. With additional funding and careful financial planning, additional positions need be created to allow the school to offer classes in "Language C" for both Danish and English, to create separate classes for PYP 7 and 8, to increase the guidance and counseling services which no longer effectively meet the needs of the school, and to hire additional homeroom teachers as well as classroom aides in light of the expected increase in student enrollment.

Nicola Woodvine pointed out that if additional classroom space within the Dalgas building could be found, the funds necessary to rent portable classrooms could be used instead toward securing additional teaching positions. The Board was reminded that although the school will explore additional classroom space options in the Dalgas complex, further rooms may not become available for use by AAGE until well after the new 2015-2016 school year has begun.

DECISION: Members of the school's administration, supported by the Board, will use the upcoming period of a month to explore new funding sources and sponsors. Christian Schacht-Magnussen's suggestion of building a small commission consisting of Niclas Kverrod, Pernelle Fau Clausen, and Mr. Hanna (upon his formal appointment) to follow up on this task was accepted.

7. SCHOOL FEES AND STRUCTURE: The increase in school fees by DKR 100.- as of the 2015-2016 school year had been previously approved by the Board. The school's information regarding "School Fees" will now be adjusted accordingly. There was further discussion of a possible additional increase to offset the cost of materials and those related to field trips but no conclusions were reached.

8. PARENT COUNCIL ELECTIONS: Refer to Item No. 5 of these Minutes for the discussion and decisions taken regarding this agenda item. In addition, reimbursement for expenses incurred by the communications chair person of the Parents Council was discussed and acted upon.

9. MISCELLANEOUS: Erik Hygum asked that the school administration review the school's organizational chart in an effort to make it more efficient.

10. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 21:00

NOTE: Members of the Board will meet briefly at 18:00 on April 28, 2015, prior to the annual meeting of the General Assembly which begins at 18:30.

Next regular monthly meeting of the AAGE Board: Thursday, May 28, 2015

On behalf of the school administration,

Pernelle Fau Clausen
Deputy Head of School