

**JOHN F. KENNEDY SCHOOL**  
**DEUTSCH-AMERIKANISCHE GEMEINSCHAFTSSCHULE**  
**GERMAN-AMERICAN COMMUNITY SCHOOL**

**Minutes of the School Conference**  
**October 5, 2016 at 15:15 h**

In attendance: Reinhard Roth, Brian Salzer, Timm Jones, Anne de Tarr, Gabriele Jendretzki, Heather Rising, Jocelyn Barrios, Peter Schier, Kimberley Schneidereit, Anja Kamradt, Ludivine Mouton, Kristen Winkler, Marc auf der Heyde, Maya Lugani, Adrienne Amri, Sophia Brown-Heidenreich,

Guests: Maike Groth, Jan Heinsohn

Excused absences: Klaus Hentges

### **1. Approval of Agenda**

The Agenda was approved.

### **2. Security**

The JFKS used a security company for Fun Day, for the first time. It worked very well. The school has now decided to always use security companies, when we have a large gathering, such as Fun Day. There was a security meeting right after the summer vacation. JFKS is considered a soft target, at the bottom of the list. Therefore, the LKA and Embassy support the Administration, that we have a security control at the gate. They suggest that we have a permanent gate control. The district is not supporting the idea, because they do not want to cover the costs. Herr Roth has asked the LKA to write us a recommendation that we need to get a security gate control, so that the Senate and District have to take over the costs. In the future, the parents and students might wear badges or show ID to enter campus. All gates should be locked, only entering through the main gate. The concept is still being worked on. Cameras should be installed to record after a certain time of day, in order to control the thefts. In 2011, the first Security Concept was created by a former officer of the LKA. It was very comprehensive and it was submitted to the ED in order to at least install the minimum requirements. It was not taken very seriously, as the District and the Senate did not want to cover the costs. We are now looking at a new electronic key system, which the school hopes the District and Senate will approve (ca. 200,000 Euro for the key system alone) .

### **3. Prank 2016**

Brian Salzer explained how the prank went. Communication problems within the student group and with the administration occurred, leading to the prank.

The school ban has since been lifted, but one police report for coercion is still in place and the youth district attorney has yet to decide about it. The student involved, came in following a proposal of the school administration and spoke with Brian and explained the failed prank. Brian Salzer talked to the student's lawyer and is hopeful that the district attorney will not bring charges against the student.

The new seniors are already working on their plan for this year. They have learned from the incident and will try to find a solution for the Senior Prank 2017.

Anja Kamradt explained the frustration of the students of this particular year prior to the prank, due to the restrictions following the behavior of former classes. Marc auf der Heyde feels that the overnight is important and would like to make it work again. The administration said that it could be discussed at the faculty meeting again.

Peter Schier mentioned that we discussed this last year at a SK meeting, that perhaps parents could be asked if they would chaperone the overnight. Asked that a group be formed to make guidelines, rules and regulations. Herr Roth mentioned that communication is important. Perhaps parents could be asked, but the legal aspects must be clarified first, and there still must be at least 2-3 teachers as chaperones. Transparency within the SK is the best way to handle the info. The students should meet with the admin and set some rules first, then bring it to the SK.

Heinsohn mentions that the student committee needs to be a strong group – one that can organize the prank.

Anja Kamradt recommended to release a statement for the JFKS parents about what happened and suggests an informal meeting of principals and class 2016 graduates. She clarified that the parents did not inform the press, but instead prevented communication with journalists. Herr Roth explained the position of the entire administration once again, and about the seriousness of the offence. The Administration felt they had to call the police at the time but in the meantime, the school ban has been lifted. Mr. Roth asks the parent and student reps to inform the parents and students about the discussion in the SK about the prank. Gabriele Jendretzki states that the class of 2016 was indeed a very good class with very nice students.

As the Berlin School Law mandates to the SK to mediate all disputes at school, Peter Schier suggests that in the future the SK should convene directly after such conflicts occur, in order to try to mediate and swiftly settle the dispute. Mr. Heinsohn supports this idea.

#### **4. Strategic Planning 2020**

Because of time constraints this subject was tabled until the next meeting. Papers supporting the plan will be sent out to the SK members beforehand.

#### **5. 11<sup>th</sup> Grade Course Trips**

In the past, the maximum money that parents need to pay for course trips had been set at

500 Euros. (Spanischleistungskurs wants to go to Cuba : 850 Euros. Moscow: 550 Euros, London 650 Euros, Rome 500 Euros, Giglio 570 Euros.) Prices include flight. Gabi Jendretzki asks why they need to fly to Cuba for Spanish. We have a reason for setting a limit at 500 Euros. Marc auf der Heyde mentions that Cuba is an extremely interesting destination from the historical and political aspect etc.

The SK has the right to discuss the pedagogical value of the trips. An extensive discussion for guidelines for the budget limits took place.

Gabi Jendretzki asks for a vote, whether we will approve the 850 Euros for Cuba. Another detailed discussion takes place. Reinhard Roth suggests raising the limit that parents can be asked to pay for course trips to 650 Euro (max). The discussion about the Cuba trip was tabled until a detailed course trip description is made available to the SK members. The SK members will then take an email vote.

Vote was taken to limit expenses for parents for course trip to 600 Euros. (Vote: 2 against exception, 1 abstention, 9 yes votes)

If the SK is presented with information about content and worth of a more expensive course trip (with a break down of expenses), a SK vote can be taken for an exception, allowing the course trip to cost more for the parents. Vote passed.

Jan presented details of the Cuba Trip to the SK. Total trip costs ca. 1200 Euros. The difference should be made up by fundraising. SK members need more detailed information about the daily program and added value of trip and will take an email vote.

## **6. NEASC**

Brian has to report back about the two governing boards (ED and SK), in the spring. Governing boards need to create an orientation for new members. We need to come up with a way of evaluating/ measuring our effectiveness. Will be added to next agenda.

## **7. Special Needs**

Inclusion is a new theme that will effect our school as well as other schools. We have students with special needs. Difference between Special needs German/American. What is included in special needs? Nachteilsausgleich (accommodations) / Sonderpädagogische Förderung (special needs education support). Nachteilsausgleich is offered by Heather Rising in the Reading Lab and Sabine Eiler-Müller in the Leseladen. Sonderpädagogische Förderung is offered by Maike Groth. A service manual is being put together in form of two brochures, one for teachers and one for parents-students. (In-house support, with the Jugendamt and school psychologist.) Hours are all covered by either Ms. Groth or by someone else who is educated in special needs education (3 hours). Nachteilsausgleich: 147 students from 860 in the ES. 9 students with Sonderpädagogische Förderungen. HS has 50-60 who receive accommodations and 3 students with Sonderpädagogische Förderung from 850 students.

Trägerschaft (sponsorship) was brought up. Schulhelfer (school helpers) can come in and

help while the student is in school. The JFKS Trust fund supports a part time person. 3 school counsellors, plus Barbara Lopacz and Christine also help support students. If there was a larger need, then the school might move towards a Trägerschaft, but in the meantime the JFKS works with Tandem.

## **8. Misc**

Gabi Jendretzki: mentions that many D2 teachers in the HS will retire in 3-4 years. There is a need for teachers to train for D2 teaching before the existing teachers retire. Suggestion was to have those teachers who teach D1, also teach D2. The Administration should please make sure that the D1 teachers learn the ropes from the D2 teachers before their exit.

Reinhard Roth asks the SK members whether a student from Uni Münster should be allowed to distribute an anonymous survey for parents of 1<sup>st</sup> graders for her dissertation research. A vote was taken and survey will be allowed, as it is not directly involving the students and no physical presence is required at the school.

Minutes submitted by: Kimberley Schneiderei