

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

Minutes of the School Conference
March 22, 2017 at 15:15 h

In attendance:

Administration: Reinhard Roth, Brian Salzer
Teacher Representatives: Malte Schröder, Jocelyn Barrios, Anne de Tarr,
Christian Neumann
Parent Representatives: Peter Schier, Kimberley Schneidereit, Anja Kamradt, Shana
Moffet-Heyer, Kristen Winkler, Klaus Hentges, Karin Weinberger
Student Representatives: Marc auf der Heyde, Maya Lugani, Adrienne Amri, Tillmann
Sherwood
Hort Representative: Svetlana Ostojic

Guests: Shelby Fällnbacher, Nicole Latzel, Elisabeth Horz

1. Approval of Agenda

The Agenda was approved.

2. Approval of Minutes

K. Winkler asked that the Minutes clearly state the outcome of the vote on the move to the Senate, stating that the vote needed to have a 2/3rd majority of all voting members (10 out of 14) in order to pass, whereas abstentions are not considered. There is a discrepancy which rule the SK needs to use for such a vote. K. Winkler was not provided further time to explain the suggested correction of "motion has failed". It was finally agreed that the arguments could be addressed under the agenda point 5. Managing Report. A request to postpone the approval of the minutes until after the explanation was not granted. The minutes were approved 9 yes, 3 no, 2 abstentions.

3. Late Birds 2017-18

Two companies applied for the bid for taking over the Late Birds afterschool program, as Petra Rose is retiring.

Ms. Fällnbacher, Kiddies Campus für Generationen presented to the SK members.

Nicole Latzel and Elisabeth Horz, Villa Grips presented to the SK members.

Pros and cons of each company, which were presented, were later discussed.

According to Paragraph §76.1.12 of the school law the SK voted for a new company to run the afterschool program, similar to Late Birds. 13 SK members voted for Villa Grips and 1 abstained.

4. JFKS – SK – Rules of Procedure (Geschäftsordnung)

There is no specific Rules of Procedure for the SK. Rules and Regulations (Rahmengesäftsordnung) exist in the outdated school law. It is not valid anymore, but it is a blue print for us to use. Parliamentary procedure (Robert's Rule) could also be a helpful tool. Until now, the SK hasn't had a problem and did not need a clarification for rules of procedure. The ED has a Rules of Procedure in place, which the SK could use as a guideline when establishing its own rules and regulations. Herr Roth would like to ask Dr. Jürgens to come to the next meeting for legal advice. K. Winkler and A. Kamradt suggest building a committee of one parent, teacher, student and administrator to come up with suggestions and consult Dr. Jürgens on the draft. Comments and suggestions were made for the committee to take into consideration.

Established committee: A. Kamradt, M. Auf der Heyde, M. Schroeder/T. Jones, R. Roth

5. Managing Report

M. Lugani reported on the Bezirksschulbeirat Meeting (BSB): Staatssekretär Herr Rackles answered questions about the JFKS move to the Senate. He clarified that all schools that are physically located in the district take part in the BSB, not just the schools that belong to the district administration. Meaning that all the parent, teacher and student committees (Gremien) continue as they are.

K. Winkler addresses the outcome of the vote to move to the Senate. Although the Berlin School Law does not specifically discuss a move from the district to the state Senate, it does indicate that important decisions made by the school, fall under the "2/3rd" category. According to Staatssekretär Herr Rackles, the decision should be made conjointly and no group (parents, students, teachers or administration) should feel overruled. It was suggested to wait for the letter from Herr Rackles answering the school's questions and hear the ED's recommendation. The SK can then vote for the move, with full support of all members. P. Schier clarifies the motion of the last meeting and agrees to a final vote.

R. Roth: Discussion about content vs. procedure of the SK vote.

Herr Roth recaps of all the events leading up to the decision to move and what has happened in the meantime. Herr Platzek is the appointed person in the Senate who will help with the transition. A steering committee will be formed with teachers, students, parents and admin to help with the transition.

Herr Roth spoke about the pros of going to the Senate.

A decision was made to meet again on April 24, 15:15 hr., after the ED meeting takes place on April 4th.

6. Misc.

S. Moffett-Heyer addressed a fight in ES 5th / 6th Grade. Some parents feel the need to have statement from administration that the situation was handled correctly and taken very seriously. Herr Roth assured that a statement will be made at the next PC meeting by the administration.

P. Schier revisits the Steps to Respect program and makes suggestions e.g. competitions regarding respect in the ES, etc. Herr Roth assures that these are single events and that the students are very respectful.

Traffic Committee: A. Kamradt reports that the deputy mayor is coming to the school to look at the drop off zones and the traffic problems, in general. We will continue to improve the situation. K. Hentges reports that the Verein will support a digital speed indicator panel. (Anzeigetafel)

B. Salzer asks the students to come up with their plan for the Abi Prank and meet with him before the next SK meeting, so that the idea can be presented at the next meeting for approval.

Minutes submitted by: Kimberley Schneidereit