

17th May 2022

Kochs School's Annual meeting:

Good evening, my name is Martin Kaerup and I am Chairman of the Joint Board at Kochs School. I am the father of William, who is in 4.b, and Edgar, who is in 2.b, here at this school.

I would like to start by telling, in general, about the Joint Board and its work:

The Joint Board consists of the school's management, three teacher representatives and seven parent representatives. The parent representatives are elected at annual meetings and today there are two parent representatives up for election.

The Joint Board has some tasks that we work with on an ongoing basis, such as the school's finances and teaching at the school. But in addition to these continuous tasks, we also have other tasks that require our attention in a given period. The focus of the joint board is on a strategic level. This means that work on plans for Kochs next year and how Kochs should be in 5 years or 10 years' time.

Tonight, there will be presentations of the work of three of the long-term and strategic tasks that the Joint Board has been working on in recent years. Initiatives that will precisely affect Koch's school for the next 5 years, 10 years or more. These measures are:

- The renovation and building at Koch's school.
- Improved recreation club and Club GREEN.
- The future integration between Kochs International and Kochs National (The Danish department).

What is always the Joint Board's guiding star in what we do, are the values of the school; the values that are a part of everyday life for staff and children. The values that are *communities, creativity, and enterprise*.

Renovation and Building

The first initiatives are the renovation and building of Koch's School. During the past 6 years the number of schoolchildren at Kochs School has increased by almost 20% - without increasing the total area of teaching premises. In June 2021 the Joint Board decided to set aside a double-digit million amount for the renovation and building of Kochs School.

Last summer, the Joint Board elected, by tender, a competent team of consulting engineers and architects to assist us in the process of creating the best new framework for all activities at the school. Therefore, during the last year, the school and the Joint Board have spent a lot of time and energy creating the plans for this new physical framework.

We are, at Koch's school, in possession of some older buildings worthy of preservation, which we must take care of, at the same time as we must have space for a new school building on our premises.

The process of getting the groundwork in place, in a way so that the municipality etc., are satisfied, has taken more time than first expected. We are now so far into this process that we can share the details of the project; The conversion consists of many modules or parts.

The first part is that before the summer holiday, we begin by taking the "villa into use", then there will be a renovation of the current library building, then a new building on the north-eastern part of the plot, and finally renovations in the remaining buildings. Therefore, from this summer and the next long period, there will be construction work at our school. You will shortly have the opportunity to talk to the building committee about our renovation and building work of Koch's school.

Improved Recreation Club and Club GREEN

In 2020, the Joint Board was behind a Parent Satisfaction Survey. One of the things we could see from this study, was that several parents pointed out that an upgraded recreation club offer for all children was high on their wish list. Based on this, the Joint Board initiated a process that intends to improve our Club activities. This course has run over the last few years and most recently the staff have participated in five inspirational presentations at VIA University College. Subsequently, the current structure has been discussed as well as possibilities for improvements.

With continued focus on free play, the structure of the future FO and Club GREEN has now been rethought. What the future plan for Club GREEN and FO looks like, we would like to tell you more in a little while.

The future integration between Kochs International and Kochs National

At the annual meeting in October 2016, the then Chairman of the Joint Board was able to report that a decision had been made to establish an international department at Koch's school. She mentioned in her report that: *We believe that it will be an educational gain for both the Danish and the international children and that Kochs Skole's values will be a strength in an international school offer and vice versa.*

At the annual meeting the following year, it was reported that we now had 18 international students at the school and Kochs International was a reality. Since the beginning, Kochs International has steadily grown, and last year on the Joint Board we decided to create the 6th international class at the school. With a now fully classed International Department, from school start August 2022, with almost 100 children, it is important to recognize that there is a difference between the International Department we had the first year, and the International Department we have now. What was easy when it was a smaller department, may not be so easy anymore; what was needed before, may have changed as to what we now need. That is why we are currently taking stock of the integration between the international and Danish classes, so that we can find the right level of ambition for the now larger international department. In a way where it can become an educational and cultural gain for both the Danish and the international children, without us structurally stretching ourselves too far. Status on this we will hear more about, in a little while.

Economy

It is important that we, as the Joint Board, are constantly aware of the finances of our school. When we want to develop the school we have, as well as the visions themselves, it is also important to have the finances with us. On the one hand, it is important not to start large visionary projects than we can afford to implement; on the other hand, we must not stop the most important development projects, we have the finances to carry out.

We therefore have a goal of generating only a modest profit from the operation of the school. This year we have a larger profit than we normally plan with but based on the investments we are considering concerning the building project, we in the joint board, believe that in this situation, it is good to have a little more money in the school account than planned.

To Finish



Finally, I would like to thank everyone who has worked for Kochs School since last year's meeting: children, teachers, management, administration, parent councils in all classes, substitutes, parents, and everyone else associated with Kochs School: Thank you for your efforts.

Also, many thanks to all of you who showed up tonight.

One of the special things about our school is that it is ours. Therefore, it sincerely makes a difference that you, as parents, take the time to participate and enter dialogue, as you do, for example, by being here today.

Spring Market for the whole school or pizza night in an individual class makes a significant difference, and is not only pleasant, but is also a way to show that our values, (community, creativity, and enterprise), are rooted in practice here at Kochs.