

Annual report parent council (OR) Kindercampus King School year 2022-2023

Organization and operation

The parent council 2022/2023 consists of the following members:

Chairpersons:

Maho Schotte-Nagasawa

Figen Knudsen- Ay (until December 2022)

Treasurer:

Donovan Hendry

members:

Rachid Kherrazi

Liëla Reedeker

Yuliya Zwets

Johan Koop

KCK-team:

Antoinette de Jong (on behalf of the KCK management board)

Sherryl Salarony (on behalf of the KCK teachers)

The school year 22/23 started with 8 members including newly joined Yuliya Zwets, and 2 KCK team members. Johan Koop joined the OR in April. Unfortunately, we also had to say goodbye to a few members by the end of this school year: After many years as an OR member and for the last 1,5 year as a co-chairperson, Figen stepped out from the OR as of January. It was the last year for Rachid as his oldest child was in group 8. And the OR treasurer Donovan Hendry, the savior of the organization for the last 1,5 year, had to leave because of the relocation. Yuliya also decided to leave the OR by the end of this school year. Finally, I (Maho) also decided to stop after 4 years, in which the last 2 years took the responsibility of the organization as a (co-) chairperson.

On behalf of the parents and school we thank Figen, Rachid, Donovan and Yuliya for their time and energy. Also the effort and contribution made by Liëla and Johan were indispensable for the organization. Thank you very much. We hope new members will join the OR soon.

There were five general meetings in this school year of which three online and twice on-site at school. Traditionally the OR meeting was organized at school during the weekday evenings. Since the Corona period, Google Meet became a major tool to accommodate the OR's meetings, which made it more convenient for both KCK and parent team members. Unfortunately, even we all made our best effort, it was very difficult to have all members to be present in every meeting no matter online or on-site and occasionally too few to create a proper documentation (minutes). Scheduling of the OR meetings (frequency, date and time, location (online or on-site) should be a topic to be discussed in the new OR team to increase the attendance and quality of the meeting.

Parental contribution

The initial proposal for the parental contribution for this year was €54 per child, which was based on the budget proposal calculated by the school board. However, the cash reserve unintentionally accumulated during the Corona period was high, this despite the occasional discount on the contribution amount for the years 20/21 and 21/22 (€35 per child). Considering the increased financial pressure to individual households due to continued inflation, the initial proposal of €54 was rejected by the parents. The OR repropose the contribution of €45 per child which should be enough to cover all the children's expense compensated with the cash reserve.

Although the majority of parents paid the requested amount, and some made generous donation, the collection of the parental contribution remained challenging. Multiple payment reminders were sent via e-mail/Parro/School- and OR newsletters to stress the importance of the parental contribution. Regardless, many parents/caretakers did not transfer their parental contribution. As a consequence about 23% of the children's expense for the school activities could not be covered by their own parents but were instead paid for by extra donations from the other families, the small profit of the summer festival and the OR cash reserve.

The reserve is meant to support unforeseen expenses and not to fill the gaps of due to not contributing parents/caretakers.

For the current school year 23/24 we have a healthy financial balance. However, there serious concerns that that the decreasing parental contribution participants will have negative consequences for coming years.

The OR hopes there will be an arrangement from the government put in place to remove the volunteer based parental contribution issue. But for the moment we urge all parent and caretaker to contribute their share.

Annual events

After three years of uncertainty due to the Corona virus pandemic, we finally managed to go ahead with all the extra school activities without heavy restrictions. Sinterklaas and Christmas celebrations, cultural/educational excursions, school trips, and camp and musical for group8, we believe that all the children enjoyed the events.

Traditionally, Christmas was celebrated in the early evening in the class room where children could enjoy the dinner together with their class mates. Meanwhile the parents could socialize with some drinks and snacks. This created an atmosphere that has been special for so many years. Unfortunately, during the corona period, the celebrations were canceled or moved to a school morning. Since this school year, the celebration was continued to be organized in the morning to relieve the teachers from the extra work pressures.. Parents were also invited, for some coffee/tea and socialization. Children and teachers seemed to enjoy the celebration and there were many parents stayed for the celebration, therefore it was a successful event.

However, facilitating the tea party in the morning was new to the OR. The preparation and operation can be improved next year, such as preparing enough cups and coffee/tea pots, logistics of coffee/tea from the team room.

The summer festival, the biggest annual event organized by the OR, was once again a great success. A big thanks to all the parents/old students and KCK team members that

contributed to make this a success. This year's theme was "World children (Wereldkinderen)" as the Kinder campus King school is filled with many different nationalities and cultures. To our surprise 45 different languages are actively spoken among the families in our school (this was the answer of the prize question).

Since the growing awareness of the environmental/climate issues and dietary preferences, it was decided to serve only vegetarian food this year. And parents from the many different backgrounds were asked if they could bring their (traditional) dish. This turned out to be a great success as so many parents brought their specialities, all of them were very delicious and everybody could enjoy the various dishes.

All in all, it was a very joyful and successful year of school activities. Thank you all!

Communication and connection

Opportunities to meet other parents and teachers face to face were limited during the Corona-period. Communicating with parents is essential for the OR activities. We have started a WhatsApp group between the OR and the klassenouders since last school year and once again, it was very helpful to communicate with the parents from all the groups via the klassenouders. Together with newsletters and Parro publication, we hope we managed to improve our communication system and connected with many parents.

Finally...

As if the Corona virus never existed, our lives quickly returned to what it was before the pandemic, although we also noticed that not everything went back to as it was before. As the world continues to change, probably we need to learn how to live with the new trend. However, the trend of limited to no interest to the OR organization, including the parental contribution to the children's activities, is keep growing and that is our great concern for the coming years. Many of the members have left the OR team and up to now no one raise their hands to strengthen the OR. If you have any interest in the OR membership, or any questions or suggestions, please send us an e-mail to or@kindercampusking.nl, or try to approach one of the OR members. We hope the children from KCK continue to enjoy their school activities supported by the OR and the parents.

On behalve of Kinder Campus King Ouderraad

Maho Schotte-Nagasawa

September 2023