



ESHA LETTER

European School Heads Association

September 2007

Website <http://www.esha.org>

REPORT ON THE ESHA GENERAL BOARD MEETING IN LUXEMBOURG

A veritable army of European educational glitterati descended on Luxembourg for the General Board (GB) meeting in March this year.

ESHA has exploded in membership and it is gratifying to see such involved representation from so many member countries. Our hosts headed by Robert.. organised a hotel in the middle of the city as focal point for us all and then a programme that included eminent speakers, culture, good food, and—I am not sure how—good weather for most of the time.

The work of the Board had two very important themes—European school leadership and actively sharing good practice. Underlying these was strategically looking at the workings of the Board and how to increase communication.

This newsletter is one of the results of the "workings of the Board" group and we hope as this builds you will all start to contribute to it.

Without going into great detail, the Board will produce a position paper on school leadership that will outline the ESHA stance. It will increase the mode of communication with members through increased use of the website and the use of the ESHA office email communication systems.

One of the highlights of Robert's gracious hosting was a visit to the new Philharmonic Hall to experience a magnificent concert conducted by Carl Davis of his score to the silent 1926 version of Ben Hur. We must thank Luxembourg, Robert and his team and of course all members of the Board and the executive for motivating what promises to be an exciting future for ESHA.

Roy Tedscoe
GB member

11TH EUROPEAN SCHOOL HEADS ASSOCIATION SEPTEMBER 11TH TO 13TH 2008

Copenhagen Denmark

The ESHA 2008 organising team has the pleasure of inviting you to the 11th ESHA Conference in Copenhagen.

The venue of the conference is situated very close to the centre of Copenhagen.

The official language of the conference will be English, and all abstracts and presentations must be in that language. There will be no simultaneous translation.

Our main theme will be principal leadership:

The conditions of principal leadership in Europe.

The conference will contain school visits, key note speakers and workshops, as well as visit at Town Halls.

Our website is www.esha2008.dk

Our programme is under construction and the website will be updated continuously.

Jens Porsgaard Nielsen
Denmark

NAPD IRELAND NEWS

Ms Mary McGlynn, Director of the National Association of Principals and Deputy Principals (NAPD) has announced her retirement to take effect in January 2008. The Association was established in 1999 to provide



a united voice nationally for Principals and Deputy Principals on issues of common concern. For the past eight years since its establishment Mary has been Director of NAPD and has seen it grow to a position of major influence in the Irish Educational System. Mary is well known to her colleagues throughout ESHA for her commitment to the ideals of the association and was instrumental in introducing ESHA to her Irish colleagues.



SWEDEN IS BACK IN ESHA

The Swedish school leader organisation, Sveriges Skolledarforbund, has decided to join ESHA again from 1 July 2007. This means that the countries of the Nordic region are now all members of ESHA.

NAHT PRIMARY CONFERENCE

“Children’s Development and Learning and the Celebration of Good Primary Practice”

Holland House Hotel, Bristol - 11/12 October 2007

ESHA PROGRAMME

Thursday, 11th October 2007

1200 - 1400		ESHA EB Meeting
1300 - 1430	<i>Orchard Foyer</i>	Delegates Registration Exhibition Viewing (<i>Tea/Coffee</i>)
1500	<i>Forest Suite</i>	Welcome – David Fann & Chris Harrison Chairmen – NAHT Primary Sector & International Committees
1505-1545	<i>Forest Suite</i>	Mick Brookes NAHT General Secretary
1545-1645	<i>Forest Suite</i>	Stephen Harrison The Education Guild
1645-1715	<i>Orchard Suite and Foyer</i>	Refreshments and Exhibition Viewing
1715-1830	<i>Forest Suite</i>	Mick Waters Director of Curriculum, Qualifications and Curriculum Authority
1915	<i>Orchard Suite and Foyer</i>	Wine Reception Exhibition Viewing Reception for ESHA Delegates
2000	<i>Forest Suite</i>	Dinner After Dinner Speaker – Arthur de Caux

Friday, 12th October 2007

0830-0900	<i>Orchard Suite and Foyer</i>	Refreshments and Exhibition Viewing
0900-1000	<i>Forest Suite</i>	Robin Alexander Wolfson College, University of Cambridge
1000-1100	<i>Forest Suite</i>	Ruth Pimentel National Director, Foundation Stage, Primary National Strategy, DfES
1100-1130	<i>Orchard Suite and Foyer</i>	Refreshments and Exhibition Viewing
1200 - 1330		ESHA Workshop – Children’s Rights
1330 – 1400	<i>Restaurant</i>	Buffet Lunch
1400 - 1700	<i>Refreshments at 1530</i>	GB Meeting

Saturday, 13th October 2007

0900-1030		ESHA GB Meeting & Workshops
1030-1100		Refreshments
1100 - 1200		ESHA GB Meeting & Workshop
1200 – 1300	<i>Restaurant</i>	Buffet Lunch for GB members before departure
1400 - 1700		EB Meeting

Notes: NAHT Primary Conference will close at lunchtime on Friday – ESHA GB Weekend continues until lunchtime on Saturday 13th October



Almost 100 representatives of national educational interests and NAPD regions nationwide attended the "Vision and Values" Symposium at the Royal Hospital Kilmainham on March 7.

Above: Minister Mary Hanafin opens the proceedings, with Clive Byrne (Chairman and Patricia McDonagh (NAPD President).

ESHA ROORSO MEETING IN MINSK

Following an invitation of the President of ROORSO, the Belarus association of school heads, Ekaterina Petrusha, the President of ESHA, Dr. Burkhard Mielke flew to Minsk, the Capital of Belarus, for intensive talks and meetings with the Board of ROORSO, representatives of the ministry of education and the Academy of formation. Here is his report about the meetings:

- 1 With the Ministry we discussed the importance of principal leadership for the schools and the cooperation of ROORSO with ESHA to develop common standards and principles in an Unified Europe .
- 2 "The increase of a professional level of the principal operational experience" was the topic of the following session with representatives of the Academy, the Board of ROORSO and ESHA. In an interesting Presentation Nina Koshul from the Academy outlined the future plans for the formation of principals in Belarus. She will write a paper to be presented in Bristol GB meeting to find other ESHA organizations as partners. This project is based on the excellent work of our Dutch friends in Ukraine and Belarus some years ago.

In a second part of the meeting and in a discussion with the director of the Academy we discussed the ESHA Project ESLN and ways to implement the European dimension in the national Belarus formation program for principals. The Academy will decide if this is possible.

- 3 To understand the school system and the role of the principal in Belarus, I was invited to visit several schools, private and public:
Grammar School Nr. 5 : Principal Irina Chernyavska
Private School : Principal Tamara Artemyeva, former President of ROORSO and now Vice- President Grammar school Nr.15 – director: Ekaterina Petrusha President of ROORSO.
Remarkable the discipline and the motivation of the students, their high language skills and the outstanding performances in music, ballet, dance and

art – rewarded with many international and national gold and silver medals.

The school system from Kindergarten to 12 (private) or primary to 12 (public) is an integrated system with a special organisation form in the main subjects. Here the class is divided in smaller groups during the lessons so that at least two, sometimes three teachers teach in one group. This seems to be the key to the success and the high standards.

- 4 In another meeting with the EB of ROORSO we discussed the special situation and questions of the East European Region. The plan came up to organise an ESHA East-European Conference together with the Baltic States. Ekaterina Petrusha will therefore contact Irina Kozinaa from Ukraine and plan how to organise this conference and how to work and represent East Europe in ESHA. They will also use their contacts with Russia and with Moscow region.

My special thanks go to Tatyana Maslova, the General Secretary of ROORSO and principal of the private Kindergarten and primary school, who accompanied me during the stay and was my special guide to explore the City and Svetlana Melnicova as English interpreter in the grammar school

German is a very important language in Belarus and the Goethe institute guarantees the high standard. It was a great pleasure for me to meet Margerita Katsuba who was with me in all the meetings and as guide in Minsk as my German interpreter. At the end I had the honour to be invited in the house of Tamara Artemyeva, to learn about the typical life in a Belarus family and to taste the best of the Belarus kitchen.

Last but not least Minsk is a nice and growing city with broad prospects and beautiful buildings, especially after dark when the whole city is lightened. It is worth visiting the capital of Belarus.

Dr. Burkhard Mielke
ESHA President

September 2007

ESHA LETTER – a new concept

In Luxembourg we decided to replace the former ESHA Newsletter through a new concept and a new edition under the name ESHA LETTER. A working group under the lead of Solveig Dahl (Norvegia) was installed and now we are looking forward to reading the first result of their work.

That ESHA needs an information platform besides of the homepage is reasonable and clear. But more important than this conviction is that this new concept of the ESHA Letter **needs you all** to manage the change from the former Executive Board Newsletter to an information platform of and for all our member organisations and members. We hope in the future you will send us short articles about important developments in your country or in your region. The regionalization may be helpful to collect, choose coordinate and compose reports from our different regions- a new task for our members representing the ESHA regions.

This ESHA LETTER will be distributed via our members list to all ESHA GB members. But this is only the first step. We ask you to inform your ICT manager or if there is none to organize this in your organisation the ESHA Letter will be sent to all members of your national organisation.

The language of the ESHA Letter is English. If there is the necessity to translate it for your members, there are different options. You can either rewrite it (this is easier as a word by word translation) or inform us if you have a member who is able to translate the newsletter in the language of your country. ESHA will try to find a way to finance this if the need arises.

As President of ESHA I wish to thank Solveig and her team for the excellent and ambitious work and hope that you will read with interest and enjoy the first ESHA LETTER and join the team as authors for the future of ESHA

FEDADI GENERAL BOARD IN SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA 3, 4, 5 May 2007

FEDADI, the Spanish umbrella association held its GB in Santiago de Compostela, in Galicia (north-west of the Spanish State).

The meeting was attended by 35 people, representing 15 associations, among them BIHE (Basque Country) and Axia (Catalonia), themselves members of ESHA.

The general theme of the sessions was autonomy at state schools. The State is responsible for developing the autonomy of a school, according to the new education law (Organic Education Act), and taking into account the diversity of schools.

The concept of autonomy should be developed in different fields: pedagogical, operational, economic and provision of staff and resources. Moreover, the concept of autonomy should relate to a school project (written by the principal), to a compromise between the administration and the school, and, finally to accountability and quality.

On the other hand, FEDADI is very happy to have become a member of ESHA, and it is sending a representative to Bristol, attending the next GB.

