**Draft** 

Interparents’ intervention regarding **ES Bergen proposed move**

at BoG Dec. 2019

**Background:**

The Dutch Ministry (OCW) sent a first letter (09-07-2019) in the beginning of the summer holiday telling JRC and EMA (European Medicine Agency) that they had decided to move ESB away from Bergen.

In the ESB AB (02-10-2019) the OCW’s project manager gave a presentation explaining the content of the letter. Only a short time was set to this point, and It was agreed to discuss further in the ESB SAC meeting. In the SAC the members were worried about the stress and uncertainty that the suggestion from OCW coursed. Another worry were if the buildings would be further maintained until a decision is taken. The school did not hear anything from OCW until a second letter from OCW arrived (27-11-2019) to ESB staff and parents.

**The parents have some points:**

* OCW are stating that they have set up some criteria to be able to find the best location for the school. The parents do not agree to the criteria, that has been made by the Ministry without consulting the school community.
One of the new criteria in the second letter is that **the location of the school should be in walking distance form an intercity train station with direct connection to Amsterdam.** None of the smaller European schools has a location like that – and a lot of parents would not like that at all.ESB is 6 km from an intercity train station with a direct bus from the station to the school.
* The ministry has not maintained ESB properly during the years – and therefore the school is in need of a prober update to modern time *(the budget saved during the years could be used for this purpose…)*The parents have not seen any proof as to **WHY the school cannot stay in Bergen**.
* The ESB school community welcomed the arrival of EMA to the Netherlands and helped the Dutch Ministry to attract EMA by making a video of the school in Bergen that was included in the bidding for EMA. In the bid it was also stated that **“The Netherlands has two European Schools: a type 1 in Bergen and a Type 2 in Den Haag”**. So it cannot be a surprise to anyone where the schools are in relations to the new EMA building (in Zuidas).
* +55 years ago the school was built to serve the staff of JRC in Petten. There is about 100 children from JRC parents attending ESB. Also almost 100 children of the EMA parents chose ESB as their school – in the Bergen location. They have now settled down and a lot of them have bought a home. Most of the ESB families lives in easy commuting distance from the school, meaning within 20 minutes by bike, walking or by car or public school bus. This is the lifestyle, that attract the parents to the school and the area.
* During the years ESB had around 20% of the pupils commuting from the Amsterdam area by door-to-door mini busses – and this is still the case. *In the press releases from the Ministry it is stated that all the new EMA children travel every day from Amsterdam – this is not true.*
* The EMA families has integrated very well in the ESB school community and the number of cat 1 children has doubled since the arrival of EMA – in the Bergen location. **Parents see that as a big success.**
* Parents feel that the communication in the press has been very damaging for ESB and are convinced that parents were scared-off by the threat of moving the school.
* What the parents wants now (some of them after immigrating from UK – and Brexit)
is stability.
* The JRC parents feel that in the Ministry’s suggestion about moving ESB, the Ministry is taking their school away from them. They worry about the attractiveness of JRC in the future, if the school moves further away. JRC has a site agreement saying that the school should be in the vicinity of the institute. JRC Staff is looking into the legality of the suggestion.
* ESB is the only European/international school above Haarlem, so for the parents who bought a house near the school, ESB is their only option.

 