

## **Participation Council Annual Report**

### **2024-2025 Academic Year**

Dear Friends,

The past academic year was a momentous one, marked by significant developments and strategic decisions that will shape the future of our school. The Participation Council (PC) met six times to address a variety of important issues.

Key among this year's achievements was the foundational merge with the Stichting Vrije Scholen Rijnstreek (SVSR), which will officially take place on August 1, 2025. This collaboration will ensure high-quality Waldorf education for our students and attractive employment conditions for our staff.

Our school also welcomed new leadership. Following the resignation of Artho Jansen in August 2024, Sebastiaan Cooman was appointed as the new director. Mr. Cooman began his tenure on January 1, 2025, and fully transitioned into the role in March 2025. The PC had the opportunity to meet with the new director on May 15, 2025, to get to know one another and discuss the integration of our school into the growing foundation.

Financially, the school has made positive progress, ending the 2024 financial year with a surplus that has allowed the institution to begin building a financial reserve. Other topics of discussion during the year included the school guide, communication pathways, and the teacher work division plans.

To ensure continuity within the council, the PC has established a three-year term for its members, with the next elections scheduled for the start of the 2026-2027 school year. We encourage parents and staff to consider getting involved in strengthening our school governance.

For any further inquiries, please contact the PC directly at [pc@iwsth.org](mailto:pc@iwsth.org).

## 1. Composition of the Participation Council and Division of Tasks

In the 2024-2025 academic year, the Participation Council (PC) consisted of the following four people:

- Chair: Freddy Nyiti (parent)
- Secretary: Sarah Mann (staff member)
- Notetaker: Lindie van Jaarsveld (staff member)
- Member: Ieva Gailiusaite (parent)

## 2. Meetings

In the 2024-2025 academic year, the PC met six times. The topics covered include:

- 30 September 2024            PC introductory meeting  
*Communication pathway, new team members, school guide*
- 14 November 2024            Planning for the coming year  
*Meeting schedule, school guide, SOP, study days, targets, work division plan*
- 27 January 2025                Foundational merge and new director  
*New schools joining the foundation, new director, therapy policy, budget, building financial resistance*
- 24 March 2025                 Dress code and planning  
*Dress code for children and staff, tasks for the remainder of the year*
- 15 May 2025                    Meeting the new director  
*PC and director getting to know one another, staff configuration for 2025-2026*
- 19 June 2025                    Annual report and new year schedule  
*Finalising the annual report for 2024-2025 and approving the year schedule for 2025-2026*

## 3. Most important topics

### **3.1 Foundational merge**

Discussions took place between the board, school leaders and supervisors, as well as the supervisory board, regarding the collaboration with the board of the Stichting Vrije Scholen Rijnstreek (SVSR), which includes Vrije School Mareland (Leiden), Vrije School Ridderspoor (Alphen aan den Rijn), and Vrije School Vuurvogel (Zoetermeer). The discussions progressed positively, and it became clear that the two foundations can strengthen each other. Therefore, the merge will take place on August 1, 2025. The collaboration will ensure high-quality Waldorf education for the child(ren) who attend our schools and attractive employment conditions for our staff.

### **3.2 Appointment of a new director for our school board**

Artho Jansen resigned as the director of our foundation in August 2024. A new director, Sebastiaan Coiman, was appointed. He started work on 1 January 2025, and, after a short transition period, took over from Artho Jansen in March 2025.

### **3.3 Budget and positive financial reserve**

The principal showed the financial closing of the 2024 budget to the PC. The financial year ended with a positive balance. The school has now begun to build a financial reserve. The principal also showed the new budget for the 2025 school year. This was approved by the PC.

## **4. Elections**

Last year, the PC, together with an external trainer and advisor from the *Vereniging Openbaar Onderwijs*, decided that – in order to ensure continuity – PC members will serve for a term of three years (unless a member leaves the school prior to that time). The next PC elections will therefore take place at the start of the 2026-2027 school year.

Do you have questions about this annual report or other questions for the PC? If so, please contact the PC at [pc@iwsth.org](mailto:pc@iwsth.org).