

Secondary Education participation statute of Stichting Het Rijnlands Lyceum

Recommendation of the GMR VO dated 1 March 2024
Adopted by the Executive Board on 1 March 2024

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Preamble

The Executive Board of the Stichting 'Het Rijnlands Lyceum' and the Joint Participation Council (hereinafter referred to as: 'GMR VO') of the schools and the central services office, the schools being:

- Rijnlands Lyceum in Oegstgeest;
- Rijnlands Lyceum in Sassenheim;
- Rijnlands Lyceum in Wassenaar;
- The International School of The Hague, Secondary School;
- The European School The Hague *Rijnlands Lyceum*, Secondary School,

have held consultations on the application of the Dutch Act on Participation in Schools (*Wet Medezeggenschap op Scholen*). They have also expressed their expectations on the possibilities that this Act provides for the enhancement of the mutual communication and the formal consultations on all activities in and around the school that are of importance to the management, parents, students and staff members.

The Board and the GMR VO herewith state their vision on the participation and make concrete agreements on mutual communication, as well as the provision of information to all persons involved with the school, as stated below.

In principle, the Board of Stichting 'Het Rijnlands Lyceum' consults separately with the Joint Participation Council for Primary Education ('GMR PO') and the Joint Participation Council for Secondary Education ('GMR VO') on both school-transcending and Stichting matters. In the case of special circumstances of common interest to both primary and secondary education, both joint participation councils strive for consensus and transparent deliberation. For this reason, they can meet together.

Since each school that is part of the Foundation is completely independent of the other schools in its nature and functioning, the wish has been expressed to organise participation as much as possible at the level of each school, establishment and/or location. For this reason, a structure with a joint participation council for the joint issues and an own participation council for each individual school, establishment and/or location has been chosen. The distribution of competences, as laid down in the management statute of the Stichting, is the starting point for determining whether the Participation Council or the Joint Participation Council should deal with issues.

This statute is based on the model statute of the Stichting Onderwijsgeschillen (infowms.nl)

Chapter 1 General provisions

Article 1 Definitions

- a. **act:** Education Participation Act (*Wet Medezeggenschap op Scholen*) (Bulletin of Acts and Decrees 2006, 658);
- b. **Board:** Stichting 'Het Rijnlands Lyceum';
- c. **GMR:** the Joint Participation Council as intended in Section 4 of the Act;
- d. **MR:** the Participation Council as intended in Section 3 of the Act;
- e. **Schools:** the schools under the jurisdiction of the Board;
- f. **Students:** the students, as referred to in the Secondary Education Act (*Wet op het voortgezet Onderwijs 2020*) of the schools;
- g. **Parents:** the parents, guardians or carers of students;
- h. **Staff:** the staff that are employed or will be employed for at least six months without appointment by the Board and that are employed at the schools;
- i. **Section of the (joint) participation council:** a separate group of participation council members, as referred to in Section 3(3) of the Act.
- j. **Section within the school:** a separate group within the school, i.e. students, parents or staff, as referred to in Article 1, sections f, g and h of this Statute.
- k. **Statute:** this participation statute;
- l. **Central services office:** the central services office of the Stichting where persons are employed to support the work at the schools and to support the Board;

Article 2 Nature and period of operation of the Statute

1. The Statute will enter into force on 1 March 2024 and will have a period of operation of two years.
2. Not later than three months before the period referred to in the previous paragraph expires, the GMR VO and the Board will discuss the evaluation, updating and re- evaluation of the Statute.
3. The Board and the GMR VO may make proposals to amend the Statute regardless of the expiry of the period referred to in the first paragraph of this Article.
4. A proposal to amend the Statute requires the approval of two-thirds of the members of the GMR VO.

Chapter 2 Organisation of participation

Article 3.1 Joint Participation Council

1. The schools have a Joint Participation Council.
2. The Joint Participation Council consists of 10 members elected by the staff section of the respective participation councils from the staff of the school in question, one member elected by the participation council of the central services office from the staff of the central services office, five members elected by the parent sections of the respective participation councils from the parents of the school in question and five members elected by the student sections of the respective participation councils, from the students of the school in question and in such a way that the number of members elected from the staff of the schools respectively from parents and students each amounts to half the number of members of the Joint Participation Council.
3. The election of Joint Participation Council members takes place in accordance with the Joint Participation Council participation regulations.
4. A person will be elected as a member of the GMR VO by the Board of the Stichting after

he/she has been elected in accordance with the election procedure included in the participation regulations of the GMR VO. Before proceeding to the installation, the Board of the Stichting will ascertain that the election is valid and in accordance with the regulations.

5. The regulations of the joint participation council require the consent of at least two-thirds of the members of the GMR VO and are adopted by the Board. Decision-making on the regulations of the participation council by the GMR VO takes place after consultation with the participation councils.

Article 3.2 Participation Council

1. Each school has a Participation Council.
2. The Board of the Stichting may establish a participation council as referred to in Section 3(6) of the Act for the central services office. This central services office participation council is directly elected from and by the staff of the respective central services office. The relevant central services office participation council is part of the joint participation council for secondary education. The Participation Council consists of four to six members elected from and by the staff of the school in question, two to three members elected from and by the parents of the school in question and two to three members elected from and by the students of the school in question and in such a way that the number of members elected from the staff of the schools respectively from parents and students each amounts to half the number of members of the Participation Council.
3. The election of Participation Council members takes place in accordance with the Participation Council participation regulations.
4. The regulations of the participation council require the consent of at least two-thirds of the members of the GMR VO and are adopted by the Board.
5. A person is installed as a member of the MR VO in question by the principal of the school in question in accordance with the election procedure included in the participation regulations. Before proceeding to the installation, the principal of the school in question will ascertain that the election is valid and in accordance with the regulations.

Article 3.3 Special circumstances of common interest

1. The Board of the Stichting, on behalf of the Board, conducts consultations on school-transcending and Stichting matters with the joint participation councils separately.
2. In the case of special circumstances of common interest to both primary and secondary education, both joint participation councils strive for consensus. For the purpose of unambiguous decision-making and transparent deliberation, the two joint participation councils may, in that case, meet jointly.
3. The initiative for a joint meeting can be taken by one of the two joint participation councils or by the Board of the Stichting.
4. The Board of the Stichting attends the joint meeting on behalf of the Board.
5. The joint meeting discusses the competences granted to the joint participation councils in the individual participation regulations, which have a sector-transcending significance and which also involve a special circumstance.
6. In the case of an appointment or dismissal of the executive director, a joint appointment advisory committee may be established by the joint participation councils at the joint meeting, which operates on the basis of equality of both joint participation councils or joint participation in an appointment advisory committee may be agreed upon.

7. With regard to the working method and the decision-making process of the joint meeting, the provisions of this Statute and the participation regulations of both joint participation councils apply. Decisions are taken on the basis of equality of both joint participation councils.
8. In the case of a joint meeting, the chair of the joint participation council for secondary education will act as chair, and the chair of the joint participation council for primary education will act as secretary and deputy chair.

Chapter 3 Provision of Information

Article 4 Provision of information by the Board

1. The Board will provide the joint participation council, the participation council, or their sections, whether requested or not, with the information required by each of them for the performance of their duties, in a timely and accessible manner. 'Timely' is understood to mean: from the initial phase of policy development, and in any case at such a time that the joint participation council, the participation council and their sections can use the information in the performance of their duties and, if necessary, consult experts.
'Accessible manner' is understood to mean: in such a way that the information is understandable, relevant and clear to the joint participation council, the participation council and their sections.
2. The information referred to in paragraph 1 will in any case include:
 - a. annually the budget and the corresponding policy plans in the financial, organisational and educational fields;
 - b. annually before 1 May information on the calculation that forms the basis for the resources that the National Treasury allocates to the Board;
 - c. annually before 1 July an annual report as intended in Section 106(1) of the Secondary Education Act 2020;
 - d. the points of departure that the Board employs for the execution of its competences;
 - e. immediately informed of any decision by the complaints committee, as referred to in Section 3.35 of the Secondary Education Act 2020, in which the committee has found a complaint to be well-founded and of any measures that the Board will take as a result of that decision, all this in compliance with the regulations relating to the privacy of the staff, the parents and the students, as referred to in Sections 12(1)(m), 13(i) and 14(2)(f) and 14(3)(d) of the Act;
 - f. at least once a year written information on the level and contents of the employment regulations and agreements per group of the persons employed at the school and the members of the Board, with insight being provided regarding the percentage with which these employment regulations and agreements are related to one another, as well as to those of the previous year;
 - g. at least once a year, written information on the level and content of the employment regulations and agreements with the body of the legal entity charged with supervising the Board, with insight being provided regarding the percentage with which these employment regulations and agreements are related to one another, as well as to those of the previous year;
 - h. at the beginning of the school year the written information with regard to the constitution of the Board, the organisation within the schools, the

management statute, and the main points of the policy already established; and

- i. annually after the end of the school year, but no later than the following 1 October, information about the actual number of hours of an education programme provided by the school, as referred to in Section 2.38 of the Secondary Education Act 2020.
3. The Board will in any event make the information available to the joint participation council and the participation council in writing and, where possible, in a digital format.
 4. All information obtained is in principle public.
 5. If the Board submits a proposal to a section of the joint participation council or the participation council for advice or consent, the Board will simultaneously submit this proposal to the other section of the joint participation council or the participation council for information.

Article 5 Provision of information to those involved

1. The joint participation council and the participation council will report in writing on their activities to all those involved in the schools on a solicited and unsolicited basis, and will give each of them the opportunity to be consulted.
2. The meetings of the joint participation council, the participation council, or their sections, are in principle open to the public. In principle all information is provided in writing and where possible also in a digital format.

Article 6 Mutual provision of information

1. The joint participation council, participation council and their sections will report to one another in writing on their activities on a solicited and unsolicited basis, and will give each of them the opportunity to be consulted.
2. In principle all information is provided in writing and where possible also in a digital format.

Chapter 4 Facilities

Article 7 Facilities and means of provision

1. The Board will allow parents, students and staff members who participate in the joint participation council, participation council and their sections to use the facilities which the Board has at its disposal and which they reasonably need for the performance of their duties.
2. The Board will also reimburse the training costs agreed in advance for the members of the (joint) participation council in order to make their work for the (joint) participation council more professional.
3. The staff members of the (joint) participation council are given the necessary facilities in time for consultation, training and other participation activities, with due observance of the provisions of the Secondary Education collective labour agreement.
4. For parents who are members of the GMR VO, there is an attendance allowance of €65.00 per attended meeting for travel and expenses. 'Meeting' is understood to mean a planned (regular) meeting, not consultation of an incidental nature. Members of the student section of the joint participation council are reimbursed for the actual travel expenses incurred.
5. Parents and students who are members of the participation council of a school do not receive any remuneration for their membership.
6. At the written request of parents, students and staff members who participate in the joint participation council, participation council, or their sections, the Board will

immediately reimburse the reasonably necessary costs for hiring experts and the costs of legal proceedings. The joint participation council, participation council, or their sections may request the Board to pay these costs directly to the expert or other third party. In the latter case, the Board will comply with that request immediately.

7. The joint participation council, participation council and their sections will inform the Board in advance of the participation activities as referred to in paragraph 6.

Chapter 5 Discussions

Article 8 Discussions on behalf of the Board

1. The executive director holds discussions with the joint participation council, a representation of the joint participation council and the sections of the joint participation council on behalf of the Board.
2. The meetings with the participation council, a representation of the participation council and the sections of the participation council are conducted by the principal of the school in question.
3. The persons referred to in the previous paragraphs may be relieved of this task at their own request. In that case, the Board will immediately arrange for a comparable replacement.

Chapter 6 Miscellaneous

Article 9 Official title

1. This Statute can be cited as: Secondary Education participation statute.

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