To Komunalråd Christer Wallin

Lund 2018-05-24

**Concerning:**

**LIMUS being determined from their facilities at Svaneskolan by Lunds Kommun**

**Demand for subsidizing rent for decent new facilities f ex at Fabriksgatan 2.**

**Signature list**

Dear Kommunfullmäktige,

Dear Kommunstyrelse,

We are writing to you on behalf of a large group of parents with children at LIMUS Musikskola who all feel very frustrated and concerned about the unclear future facing the school. Action from Lunds Kommun to provide new facilities and make new facilities affordable is heavily needed, very urgently.

About 350 children from Lund are enrolled at LIMUS, being taught by 22 amazing teachers, and we demand the same access and right to subsidized music lessons that other children in Lund enjoy. After all, are we also not citizens of Lund? Do we not pay kommunalskatt?

By now you should have received enough information from Gabriele Katthän, the principle of LIMUS, to know that LIMUS is not a profit-driven company. The only income comes from us parents, and it is just sufficient to allow LIMUS to cover its expenses. As we understand it, LIMUS uses our money highly effectively and responsibly. They also pay all taxes, inkl 25% VAT.

To allow our children qualified music tuition in our own kommun, we must pay substantially higher fees than other families in Lund for the same access to music. Many of us have come to LIMUS in desperation after waiting for years in queues at Kulturskolan, but a majority of those enrolled today are unlikely to change to Kulturskolan, even if an opportunity arose. These two schools should not be handled as two competing institutions. Together, Kulturskolan and LIMUS can cater for a much wider range of music teaching in Lund. Both are needed for all citizens of Lund.

LIMUS will not survive if it is forced to increase fees by any greater amount. The only thing Lunds Kommun will have accomplished if forcing LIMUS to close, is to drive 22 teachers out of a job and to leave 350 children in Lund without access to music lessons. Higher fees would only be affordable for a small group in society, which would cause a socio-economic divide for the families.

This would be such a great shame given how all children thrive fantastically in the hands of their inspiring and loving teachers. Consider that these teachers are teaching music in several languages, which is marvelous for guest researchers and other foreign families employed in Lund.! LIMUS is so much more than just a music lesson!

Many parents will testify to how LIMUS has impacted their children outside of music – how their attention span at school has changed for the better, how quickly they have grown with the music, and – very important! - how they learn to interact with children from different cultures and across different ages. Children at LIMUS are encouraged early on to participate in large concert productions and to play in all sorts of various ensembles, together with children from all over the world. Isn´t that what Lund is all about? A fantastic melting pot of culture and academia? Why deprive so many children of that? We don´t understand how this would be of benefit to anyone! To us it appears that you are trying to force LIMUS out of business, and in a very unfair manner.

The financial subsidy required for Fabriksgatan is 760 000 SEK/year. Per child an amount of about 2000 SEk/year would be required. That is much less than families at Kulturskolan receive. We aren´t looking for a hand out – we are demanding you giving our children a reasonable help to keep LIMUS as their music school.

Other citizens of Lund receive a subsidy to attend Kulturskolan. As tax-paying citizens of Lund we also demand the same access to a financial subsidy to attend LIMUS, albeit in our case a much smaller subsidy, one that will simply allow LIMUS to survive and to continue to provide quality musical instruction to 350 children in Lund.

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För föräldrargruppen Save LIMUS

Attachement: List of signatures