



AARHUS
ACADEMY FOR
GLOBAL EDUCATION
DENMARK

REPORT FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL (calendar year 2017)

The calendar year 2017 set the foundation to enable more comprehensive goals for 2018 to be established as AAGE prepares simultaneously for the Evaluation Visit by the International Baccalaureate organization in spring of 2020. Comments on the 2017 calendar year should therefore be seen as they reflect forward towards 2018. What was accomplished in 2017 made the goals set for 2018 possible.

Of first priority was the experience gained from working with an agreed-upon and well-structured 2017 financial budget. It contributed to the school's operation by adding a needed degree of reliability and proved to be a basis around which the school's future financial organization can be built. Keeping to the approved 2017 budget figures helped to identify line items to be maintained or increased in 2018.

Strengthening AAGE's Information Technology (IT) was achieved thanks to the efforts long-term planning and investments made in both hardware and personnel. Ongoing substantial investments in IT are now planned for 2018. Curriculum and program revision contributed to a more unified path forward which now addresses student and teacher IT education and will place greater capability into the hands of students.

Professional development (PD) to upgrade teacher competencies also became a focal point of AAGE's efforts in 2017. As a result, courses addressing the Personal Project and Approaches to Learning (ATL study skills) brought immediate upgrades to the Middle Years Programme. Courses in math, language and assessment strengthened the Primary Year's Programme in a similar fashion. Above all, PD opportunities offered teachers renewed contact with areas of their specialization, promoting enthusiasm and a desire to improve the learning for students and for their colleagues alike. The solid basis built in 2017 now allows for the expansion of the professional development program to be extended to a greater number of colleagues in 2018.

Members of the leadership team also participated in both local as well as national/international events and IB coursework and activities to ensure that AAGE's educational programme continues to be aligned with IB values, purposes and standards as well as national requirements. Groundwork has been laid in the form of an Action Plan to guide the process of review and evaluation of AAGE's IB programme in 2018.

Curriculum development received focused attention in 2017 in the areas of language program development, science education, strengthening interdisciplinary units and vertical alignment between content areas. As a by-product of such efforts, further subjects and programs were identified for attention in 2018 such as developing swimming, Danish, English as an Additional Language (EAL), German, keyboarding and handwriting in addition to the improvements in Learning Support (special needs) and Design necessary to fulfill the requirements by the International Baccalaureate Programme.

Continuing increases in student enrollment during 2017 kept the aspects of the new building “One Campus” project in the forefront of future facility planning efforts. The need to create greater awareness of the role AAGE plays in bringing international education to Aarhus remains an important challenge to be accomplished in 2018. Thanks to the outstanding efforts made in the Early Years Programme, AAGE’s PYP1-3 received high marks in their evaluation conducted by the municipality, contributing once again to accomplishments which adds to the quality of academics and programs at AAGE.

The calendar year 2017 required a substantial effort among all AAGE members to redefine how best to move forward in a unified manner. With this in mind, the efforts of the AAGE Board, the teachers, the achievements of the students and the contributions from the parents need to be recognized. We look forward to 2018 together.

Charles C. (Chris) Hanna
Head of School
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