

Minutes from the General Assembly on 25 April 2019

The General Assembly was held at the MYP Canteen, starting at 18:30

Participant: 33 parents

From the Board:

Niclas Kvernørød, Kenneth Nielsen, Cristina Tardéz, Jesper Steiness, Yago Bundgaard, Michael Winther, Vibe Bregendahl Noordeloos

From the Staff:

Chris Hanna, Kathryn Templeman, Megan Behnke, Emilie Zelander, Margaret Kristensen, Sarah Burvill, Lars Hansen, Per Bjørnholdt, Henny Bak

Chairman, Niclas Kvernørød began the meeting by welcoming the parents. The current board members presented themselves.

1. The election of the General Assembly Chairperson

Mogens Birkebæk was elected.

Mogens Birkebæk declared the General Assembly was convened according to the regulations. Henny Bak was appointed as the minute taker.

**2. Report from the Board
Including Parent Survey**

Niclas Kvernørød presented the Report from the Board.

Yago Bundgaard made a report on the Parent Survey.

The Report from the Board was approved.

The Board's report is attached.

3. Report from the Head of School

The Head of School, Chris Hanna presented the Report.

Approved

The Head of School's report is attached.

4. Presentation of the accountant's audited annual result

Business Manager Lars Hansen submitted the annual result. The annual result can be seen on AAGE's website www.aarhusacademy.dk

5. Presentation of the Approved Budget

Business Manager Lars Hansen submitted the approved Budget.

The Budget is attached.

6. Election of Board Members and Substitute Members

Board Members:

a. 3 positions open (parent representative from PYP4-MYP5): 1 position for 1 year and 2 positions for 2-year term. Cristina Tardez is a candidate for reelection.

There were 4 candidates for the 2 positions for 2-year term:

Cristina Tardez (children in PYP4 and PYP7), Stinne Dewett Ibsen (children in PYP1 and PYP4),

Arun Prabhu (children in PYP7 and MYP2), Li-Ha Luu (children in PYP4, PYP5 and PYP7).

Elected were:

Arun Prabhu

Li-Ha Luu

There were 2 candidates for the 1 position for 1 year:

Cristina Tardez (children in PYP4 and PYP7), Stinne Dewett Ibsen (children in PYP1 and PYP4).

Elected was:

Cristina Tardez

b. (parent representative from PYP1-MYP5): There was 1 candidate for the one open position:

Vibe Bregendahl Noordeloos (children in PYP1 and PYP2).

Vibe Bregendahl Noordeloos was re-elected as the parent representative from PYP1-MYP5 (elected for 1 year).

c.

Substitute members for parent representative from PYP4-MYP5:

There was 1 candidate:

Kim Christensen (children in PYP8 and MYP5).

Kim Christensen was elected.

Substitute members for parent representative from PYP1-MYP5:

There was 1 candidate:

Stinne Ibsen (child in PYP1 and PYP4)

Stinne Ibsen was elected.

7. Election of AAGE's School Supervisor

According to AAGE's Articles of Association, point 6 and the rules for Frie Grundskoler, parents must elect a supervisor, who ensures that AAGE supplies its students with an education that lives up to the standards of the Danish Folkeskole/Public School.

The Parent Council suggests that Linda Jensen be elected as AAGE's supervisor.

Linda Jensen was elected.

8. No further agenda items were submitted

9. Any Other Business

Vibe Bregendahl Noordeloos reported on the rebranding efforts of the School to date including its new name – Aarhus International School (AIS).

Vibe Bregendahl Noordeloos also presented samples of the new uniform and told about prices and how to buy the uniforms.

Meeting adjourned at 21:10

Chairperson of the General Assembly, Mogens Birkebæk



Report from the Head of School (calendar year 2018)

The focus of calendar year 2018 centred primarily around the improvement of AAGE's overall school program for both students and families. With the finances and budgetary issues now on solid footing, attention could be turned more toward expanding and strengthening the quality of the educational experience. Some of the sources which were used for input in planning and guiding these improvements were as follows.

1. Completing the IB's "Self-study" process and document by all staff members with parent and student input in preparation for the Evaluation Visit by the International Baccalaureate
2. Continuously updating the school's educational "Action Plan" which serves to keep improvement efforts focused
3. Taking action on and reviewing comments as input gained from the Parent Survey
4. Working with the 2018 Goals and Objectives established by AAGE's Board of Directors

How do these sources of input contribute to and lead school improvement efforts?

First, the IB Self Study document contains the programme standards and practices for both the PYP and MYP programmes. It is divided into three sections. Section A on "Philosophy" addresses the School's philosophy, educational beliefs and values as they reflect the IB philosophy. Section B on "Organization" covers the areas of leadership and structure as well as resources and support. Section C on "Curriculum" addresses collaborative planning, the written curriculum, teaching and learning as well as assessment. Under each of the standards are the related requirements expected to be met. Through discussion, reflection and an examination of the school's documentation on each of these requirements, areas of improvement are identified and become part of the Action Plan which guides improvement. A specific outcome related to this process was the initiation of a special learning support program and teacher to address specific learning needs of students.

Second, the School's Action Plan is a summary of items for educational and programmatic planning which have been identified as needing attention and is kept current by both the PYP and MYP IB coordinators. It is continuously updated and serves to guide school improvement for both short and long term goals. Specific outcomes relating to this Action Plan include the breadth of staff development programs attended by both staff members and teacher assistants during 2018 as well as the focus given to the further development of programs such as the Personal Project and study (Approaches to Learning/ATL) skills. Also mentioned in this section are the improvements in the area of information technology such as more comprehensive use of Office 365 by students and an increase in available online references by the School.

Third, the results of the Parent Survey completed in June 2018 provided concrete information on which action could be taken. The results also gave an indication of areas on which the school administration together with the faculty could focus to further enhance the educational program. As outcomes, the areas of Danish B and the quality of math instruction in MYP received substantial attention. Programs such as the science fair, the art exhibitions, book week and the PYP8 Exhibition became more prominent components in the annual planning. To increase international awareness, celebrations such as Diwali and Chinese New Year grew in the role they play for students, parallel to the success of the mother tongue program in PYP. External test results like those from the MYP5 IB E-assessments and the Danish Afgangsprøve showed stronger results which reinforced ongoing efforts to deliver a higher standard of quality. The Early Years program received commendation and recognition from the Municipality regarding the quality of their offerings. The concept of a Transition Committee was developed as a result of the Parent Survey to focus on transitions between PYP 3 and PYP4, between PYP 7 to PYP8 and from MYP4 to MYP 5. This committee's charge will also be to develop stronger transition support for families entering and leaving the school as well as for those arriving and departing during the school year.

Parent Council

The fourth and final source of input in guiding school-wide improvement came from the Board's "Key Objectives for 2018" which covers Academics, AAGE's Image, Financials and Foundations. Given the School's plans for rebranding inclusive of developments to date, its focus on and plans for building improvements, the ongoing reliable administration of the budget and many of the other areas already mentioned, it too served as a valuable document to help all contributing parties focus on the same set of essential priorities together.

All in all, 2018 was a busy and very successful year which led to an expanded school program more solidly structured yet still focused on continuous improvements to meet the goals, plans and needs of the School in the years ahead.

Charles C. (Chris) Hanna
Head of School