



December 21, 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter as a reference for Mr. George Piacentini upon his request. George joined *Ihsan Dogramaci Bilkent Erbil College* (IBDEC) as the Director of School 3 years ago with ample administrative experience and long term familiarity with PYP and MYP programs. He accepted to work in a very difficult geography for a school with high academic ambitions. What we needed from him was not only academic leadership but also a strong personality to guide his staff during volatile environmental conditions. As a member of the Board of *ID Bilkent Erbil College*, I work with G. Piacentini very closely. He was able to bring together a talented group of teachers to deliver our programs. With the help of the resources provided by the Board, first cohort of students who were admitted six years ago, successfully finished the elementary division last year, to proceed to the middle school at the beginning of this academic year. As we have adopted the MYP program for the middle school, he made sure we had the staff and resources needed for MYP in its first year. I have observed that George knows the academic and financial requirements of the programs we pursue, and defends his requests for staff and other resources, supporting them with proper documentation of the program needs.

In an international school operating in challenging environmental conditions, motivating and directing the staff becomes the top concern at times. George has shown very strong determination and leadership in the summer of 2014 when the town of Erbil was under threat from IS. Most of the teachers were on summer recess, but George chose to stay in Erbil during those difficult times and once he was sure that the danger was over, he persuaded the staff to come back to work in September. Academic activities at IBDEC thus continued as planned. In my opinion, his personal determination was the key in making this to happen.

George Piacentini has had cordial relationship with the Board. He has shown remarkable leadership qualities in dealing with the international as well as local staff. I strongly support him for the leadership position he is applying for.

Kursat Aydogan, Ph.D.

Board Treasurer

ID Bilkent Erbil College

e-mail: aydogan@bilkent.edu.tr phone: +90-312-2664125