

# ATAD Board - Minutes of Meeting

April 7, 2015

## FINAL

**Present:** Debbra Allwell, Dean Ekberg, Sharon Garofanello, Pedro Gomez-Pupo, Sue Isgrigg, Peggy Lull, Elaine Morel, George Morgan, Barb Pellicano, Millie Poventud, Marina Sweany, Tonya Thompson, Alicia Ward, Bob Wason.

**Call to order:** The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM by President, Peggy Lull.

**Order of business:** The order of business was reviewed and accepted without change.

**Minutes of previous meeting:** The Board Members approved minutes of the February 2015 meetings without changes.

### **Treasurer's report: Dean Ekberg**

Attached are standard Budget vs. Actual Income/Expense and Balance Sheet reports.

I have received no information about the status of the one AO student who has applied, therefore no invoice has been prepared. Typically these invoices would be prepared (including credit for Financial Aid and/or Merit-Based awards) and mailed to candidates by early February, with partial payment due March 15, and final payment due April 15 to allow plenty of time for us to purchase airfare. Peggy reported that Tonya Thompson's daughter who applied as the AO to Italy will get back to her with a phone number and other details to continue the application process.

An account has been established for ATAD with Intellicorp Records for taking care of required background checks. This is the company recommended by Sister Cities International. Their rates are substantially better than we have been paying.

### **Host Families: Karen Grover & Debbra Allwell**

We have 8 students to place (actually 5) explained below:

**Mateusz** from Krakow, Poland and **Ariadna** from Mallorca, Spain: Pittsford Mendon High School wants them, and has asked me not to show their file to other schools. The principal guaranteed that they will place them. For both of these students the PMHS representative and I are working on finding families together.

**Irene** (short blurb distributed at the last meeting) from Mallorca, Spain needs a home. Sharon (a Victor resident) is contacting the school to see if there are openings. I have contacted the Brien family that hosted Mallorca in the past and were going to consider hosting in 2015-16.

We have **two students from Novgorod, Russia**, one of which has a family in Brighton if the Brighton school district has an opening. Peggy is inquiring about openings at Brighton through a friend. I do not have either file, but plan to interview the family with Marina when their student's file is received and we know there is an opening at Brighton. A short blurb will be written on the second student and will be distributed.

We have **two students from Wurzburg, Germany**. There is a short blurb written by Bob and edited by Karen (on each student) in Bob's hands. I am waiting for Bob's response to release those short blurbs. Bob is contacting a German professor at Eastman to ask if she knows in

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which high schools teach German. Bob says that one student has an American passport. In this instance, there is no need for a VISA however the Board advised that we proceed as if the applicant is an international student. There are no State Department fees associated with visas for US citizens.

We have a **boy from Caltanissetta, Italy**, whose file is not here yet. I may have a family for him, but they really want a girl. They, as a family, are discussing whether they can host a boy.

### **Americans Overseas: Peggy Lull**

No report.

### **State Department: Sue Isgrigg**

There are some changes in the State Department Re-Designation procedure. It came into effect January 5, 2015. Since we filed in December, I don't think it applies to us. We have not received a reply to our application. This is not unusual to wait so long. There is a new form to report death, serious injury or sexual abuse. Hopefully, we will never have to use this. We received our allotment of DS2019s for next year.

### **CSIET: Pedro Gomez-Pupo**

Pedro sent a reminder email to the Board Chairs to give back the binders. He will provide a report on activities at the end of June.

ATAD got designated again for 2015-16. The fee was paid in November for the same amount. The fee for the summer program may go away.

Peggy will contact our auditor, Jim Buffum, again to confirm that we do not need his services this year as Pedro will be acting as our internal auditor for CSIET/State Department compliance.

### **Policies and Procedures Committee: Peggy Lull**

No report.

### **Website development: George Morgan**

The website was changed to allow the Board members to see and add information. For example, the Minutes of meeting and forms on ATAD training are now available online, accessible to the members only. We could add our international Liaison's info and a tracker to see who takes a look at our website.

### **Social Media: Michael Lauria**

Sharon tried to phone Michael using a 3 year-old phone number his family gave when they hosted, with no success. Sue gave his email address at Purdue University instead.

### **Outreach: Alicia Ward**

Zhanna Johnson, a 12<sup>th</sup> grader at World of Inquiry applied for the Gary Simon Memorial Scholarship but her file still requires a few pieces of information to be complete. Peggy has asked Zhanna to contact her for an initial conversation prior to setting up an interview date with her. Zhanna mentions Italy as her first choice of city but she needs to add a second one in case

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the first one is not accepted. Peggy will include Rosalba and another board member on the interview process.

### **Activities: Sharon Garofanello**

Our exchange students participated in Winter Break at Sue Isgrigg's Canandaigua property on February 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>.

We had our International Dinner on Sunday, March 15<sup>th</sup> from 4:30-7PM at the Rustic Village's Community Center.

The Pittsford Senior Luncheon is scheduled for Tuesday, April 21<sup>st</sup> from 11a-2p. We need drivers to help drive the students from their schools to Pittsford.

We have two definite exchange students interested in the New York City Trip. Alexandra and Jose are both from Peru. We are looking at the weekend of May 9<sup>th</sup>.

Our departure orientation and farewell picnic is scheduled for Sunday, June 7, 2015. This is mandatory for all families who are hosting international students. (Interested board member to host??)

### **Programs:**

#### **Bamako: Tonya Thompson**

No report.

#### **Wurzburg: Bob Wason**

Liz continues to do very well at school and with her family. Her grades are so good that she's on the honor roll—certainly the first IS in my experience to do that well. She's also completely assimilated into the social life around her. She's been a really big success.

We have two applicants for next year, and I really hope we can place both, given our failure to do so last year. Karl-Heinz Utschig will be considerably less motivated in his search for students if we can't find homes for them two years in a row. The biographies will be changed to remove the photos. Debbra will send those back to the Board for distribution.

#### **Arequipa: Tom Greiner**

Jose Ignacio Lopez is doing well in school. He's also playing on the Fairport varsity tennis team.

#### **Iquitos, Peru: Barb Pellicano**

Carolina Espiritu is doing great. She is doing well in all of her classes. She just came back from a family vacation in North Carolina. She is looking forward to going to NYC especially seeing the Statue of Liberty.

#### **Novgorod: Marina Sweany**

Sasha is studying. She applied at the Monroe Community College for the Dental Hygienist program. She is having fun with her friends, and is learning cooking. She changed families on February 26, 2015 and is now staying with the Meteyer family of Fairport.

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**Rennes: Millie Poventud**

No report.

**Krakow: Leah Stormo**

No report.

**Majorca: Sharon Garofanello**

Maria went to Florida for winter break. There are 2 girls coming in the 2015-16 year, looking for families. Marina may have found a potential family and gave names to Karen.

**Caltanissetta: Rosalba Pisaturo**

One boy applied from Caltanissetta for the 2015-16 school year and his file is in the mail. I have already talked to Karen about this applicant.

**New Business – High School Connections: Sharon Garofanello & Debra Allwell**

For those who are interested, George is offering the Board Members a demo of the ATAD website.

All Board members received a spreadsheet of high school contacts, for review and update. Debra is asking that everyone returns the details to her; no one should edit the master Excel document, except herself. She will be the point of contact for this project. ATAD intends to use the updated info to broadcast and market our program to the teachers and principals of all the schools.

Alicia suggests that we give out advertisement on our program. Sue suggests that we position ourselves at the Marketplace Mall the last week in September. The mall has a college fair. Since it attracts students and their parents, we could increase our visibility during the fair. Sue will let us know the dates. Alicia also says that REOC's college and career fair could be another potential location for marketing our program.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 PM on April 7, 2015

Respectfully submitted,  
Elaine Morel, Secretary