

ATAD Board - Minutes of Meeting

April 5, 2016

Present: Sharon Garofanello, Peggy Lull, Sue Isgrigg, Alicia Ward, Debra Allwell, Elaine Morel, Iva Doser, Barbara Pellicano, Rosalba Pisaturo, Pedro Gomez, George Morgan, Millie Poventud, Mike Smaczniak, Dean Ekberg, Les Knox, Marina Sweany. Joanne Funk

Call to order: The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM by President, Sharon Garofanello.

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 2016 meeting without changes.

Treasurer's report: Dean Ekberg

Attached, please find standard Budget vs. Actual and Balance Sheet reports.

We are current with payables and receivables. The Board approved having Sharon Garofanello's name on the account for UBS.

Host Families: Karen Grover, Debra Allwell & Elaine Morel

As of April 2016, ATAD counts 5 IS students placed in Rochester schools: 2 from Russia, 1 from Germany, 1 from Peru and 1 from Spain.

For the academic year 2016-17, we have 9 IS applicants - ONLY Damien Le Vasseur from France and Elena Dell'Utri from Italy have host families. We need host families for: Viola from Germany; Mateusz from Poland; Renato from Iquitos, Peru; Laura Cantos Basany and Laura Navarro Gomez from Spain; Daria and Milana from Russia.

On March 9, George Morgan used Mailchimp to send a mass electronic mailing to all the names showing on ATAD's school contact list. Elaine wrote a letter to all the Principals at Greater Rochester high schools informing them of ATAD's need for host families. We asked the principals to forward the summaries of the students to the teachers and counsellors of their school, hopefully identifying potential host families and promote ATAD in their schools. Statistics show that approximately 10% of the total emails were opened and links read. It is disappointing. We will continue to find other strategies to reach out to host families in the community. Karen suggested all board members as tax-paying citizens in their schools be proactive in reaching out to their school system as well.

Elena Dell'Utri (Italy) found a host family in Brighton. Debra and I interviewed Lisa and Ned Green's family Thursday, February, 25 2016. Lisa and Ned Green are Peggy Lull's in-laws and are ready to have a student live with them during the 2016-17 academic year as their son moved away to attend college. Only Mikayla, a junior this year, is at home. On March 9th, Elaine met with Sarah Jacob, Assistant Principal at Brighton High School who said that the school submits all completed applications for exchange students to the District. Our papers are all in order and the file is complete. She will give ATAD a formal answer early April.

Damien Le Vasseur (France) found a host family in Pittsford, thanks to Karen. On March 13th, Millie and I interviewed Deborah Uman and Michael Sander, and their 3 children. They are very excited to host an international student. The Pittsford's Administrator for exchange students accepted our choice of family and student, and sent the file on to Pittsford Sutherland High School (SHS) for their approval. Karen contacted Michael Sander to give him the good news about the placement. We are confident that Pittsford SHS will accept Damien, as the principal has a very positive attitude toward having international students in the school.

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Karen, Debbra and I continued to meet with people who could possibly host or may know someone who may be interested in hosting. We may have a possible host family for one of those Russian students. Marina already has the acceptance letter from the school of the Arts. Marina and Elaine will set a family interview in April. Debbra cannot do the interview because Marina asked her to be the temporary program chair as the student is Marina's niece.

Few schools accept single semester students, and the ones that do, quickly fill the open slots. Peru's wish is that ATAD have a definite cut-off date of no family so they can look at a different program for the kids.

After the background checks on the Host families are being performed, Debbie sends to the Program Chairs a note that they have been cleared, along with the ID number to put in the students' binders.

Americans Overseas: Peggy Lull

All AOs who owed money are paid. Three students are going overseas: the Gary Simon scholarship recipient is going to Krakow, one student is going to Majorca and one student is traveling to Iquitos, Peru.

The orientation is Saturday, April 23. At that time we will go over the parent-student agreement as well. Program Chairs should be reaching out to all the liaisons to make sure the students have a host family.

State Department: Sue Isgrigg

State Department is sending two people to talk to students about their experiences in school and with the Host families. They would like to meet and talk to Taisia from Russia in April.

CSIET: Pedro Gomez-Pupo

Pedro is currently collecting the binders for all the students. Please make arrangements to submit them to him.

Policies and Procedures Committee:

Orientations for new Board Members need to be scheduled. Date to be determined.

Website development: George Morgan

George Morgan used Mailchimp to send a mass electronic mailing to all the names showing on ATAD's school contact list. The mailing went to 109 e-mail addresses. The next day, March 10, 29 people were on the website as visitors. Some of the addresses were updated. All the forms are also currently updated. The new bios for the interested students will be posted on the website shortly.

Social Media:

No report.

Outreach: Tonya Thompson

No report.

Activities: Barbara Pellicano

On April 19 the international students are scheduled to speak at the Pittsford Senior Citizens luncheon. The students will be missing their afternoon classes, and will need permission for

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that. Program Chairs should reach out to students and host families to make sure the date is on their calendar. They also have to notify the schools of this and ask what they need to release them. If the school needs a note, please submit this to the school office in advance. If they say they need something from Karen Grover, she will be happy to write a note and get it to the school.

Save the date - June 5th is the ATAD's end of the year picnic.

Programs:

Bamako: Alicia Ward

The Bamako-Rochester sister Cities Committee marked its 40th Anniversary on March 18th with a community celebration at City Hall. The highlights of the event included a tribute to the committee's founder Dr. Walter Cooper and Keynote address from His Excellency Mr. Tiena Coulibaly, Malian Ambassador prior to the event. He expressed interest in student exchange opportunities of Malians at the high school level and collegiate levels.

Würzburg: Bob Wason

In January of this year Jonah Hug had what seemed to be a flu (or perhaps an allergic reaction?) that was difficult to diagnose and caused him to miss school. Finally, the problem seems to have been overcome, and he's back in school on a regular basis. Jonah is very lucky to be with his host family, the Peacocks. He gets a chance to travel regularly, and has extremely comfortable living accommodations.

I very much hope we can find a place for Viola Schenk. Not doing so would mean that we have failed to find a place for a Würzburg student three years in a row. This would do serious damage to the Würzburg exchange program.

Arequipa: Tom Greiner

No report.

Iquitos, Peru: Barb Pellicano

Nothing to report.

Novgorod: Marina Sweany

Taisiia is enjoying her school and especially singing in the chorus. She also signed up for a group where they sing and dance. Her afterschool activities include Frisbee Club. She is going to two proms - Junior and Senior, and is getting ready for them.

Victoria is doing well, she was in the Bowling Club and now does running. She also goes to the Gym with some friends trying to lose weight she had gained in America. She went to New York City during her spring recess. She also went on a tour to MCC and is considering applying for next year.

Rennes: Millie Poventud

ATAD has been able to identify a potential host family for Damien. The family has gone through the process of background checks. Everything is clear. A school is interested in him.

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Things seem to be moving along. Patricia has been communicating with Damien's family on a regular basis to keep the up to date.

Krakow: Mike Smaczniak

Mike is waiting to be introduced to the liaison from Poland. He will follow up with Andy Dutcher to facilitate the introduction.

Majorca: Joanne Funk

Ariadna and her host dad attended the International dinner in March and had a good time. Joanne shared the letters from the two interested in the program girls Laura C. and Laura N. from Majorca with a few language teachers in Fairport as an attempt to find placement for them.

Caltanissetta: Rosalba Pisaturo

Elena Dell'Utri has been placed with the family of Lisa & Ned Green in Brighton for the academic year 2016-17.

All the documents have been forwarded to the Brighton High School, but I have not had final confirmation of her acceptance in the school yet.

Trip to Caltanissetta was cancelled for Easter of 2016 but rescheduled for April 10-20, 2017.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:27 PM on April 5, 2016

Respectfully submitted,
Iva Doser, Secretary