

ATAD Board - Minutes of Meeting

February 2014

FINAL

Present: Sharon Garofanello, Sue Isgrigg, Leslie Knox, Peggy Lull, Elaine Morel, George Morgan, Rosalba Pisaturo, Millie Poventud, Marina Sweany, Tonya Thompson, Alicia Ward.

Call to order: The meeting was called to order at 7:15 PM by President, Peggy Lull.

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

Minutes of previous meeting: The minutes of the January 2014 meeting were accepted with no changes.

Treasurer's report: Dean Ekberg

Attached are standard Budget vs. Actual and Balance Sheet reports.

To date, two students have paid deposits on NYC trip. No application fees for potential AO students have been received.

Host Families: Karen Grover – Debra Allwell

The three Peruvian semester students were not placed. I received an understandably frustrated letter (via Tom) from Gachy, the Director of the Arequipa program. I sent a draft of my reply to Peggy and Tom for their corrections and approval. I will send it back to Gachy when I hear from Tom and Peggy.

We have three student files for the 2014-15 school year—two girls from Spain and one girl from Germany. I have submitted the three files to Pittsford School's Administrator whose approval is necessary before giving them to the schools. I will e-mail the short blurbs to the school teachers whose e-mail addresses are available on our School Contact List.

Americans Overseas: Peggy Lull

I sent the AO application to Marina, as well as the rest of the board, so that Marina can forward to the potential applicant from the School without Walls. The form has been updated to remove Christine's contact information. Although the deadline for financial aid has passed, we could still consider applicants who do not require financial aid.

State Department: Sue Isgrigg

We received our allotment of DS2019 forms from the State Department. They gave us seven for the 2014-2015 school year. These add to the five we have left from this year. This should be enough for next year (12 slots in total).

CSIET: Pedro Gomez-Pupo

All ATAD material has been turned in to the Auditor. Pedro met with him already, and he will be contacted if any material is missing.

Policies and Procedures Committee: Peggy Lull

No report.

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Website development: George Morgan

George has updated all the material for the new website. He distributed a sample of an ATAD brochure to the Board. Peggy says that when the CSIET audit is finished, we will be able to switch to the new website and begin distributing new marketing materials,

George suggests opening a PayPal account on the website which allows non-profit organizations to receive payments. It requires that ATAD pays a small percentage to set it up.

Social Media: Michael Lauria

No report.

Outreach: Alicia Ward

A potential Rochester City School District student has been identified to participate as an AO. An extension of the Gary Simon Memorial Scholarship deadline would enhance the probability of this student and other students to apply. Opportunities for donations on behalf of a particular student would also help applicants raise money towards program fees.

Sue Isgrigg moved to extend the Gary Simon Scholarship deadline to March 1st in 2014 only. The financial aid deadline will not be extended. The motion was seconded and the board voted to approve the motion.

Activities: Sharon Garofanello

March 2, 2014 is our International Dinner. Please join us for a fun dinner. All are welcome! It will be at the same location as in the past, Rustic Village, Community Center room. It's from 4:30 – 7p. Dinner will be served promptly at 5:00p!

New York City Trip is underway. We have 5 students attending including Daniel from Poland, Gaia and Ludovica from Italy, and Oleysa and Liuba from Russia. Barb and I will be chaperones and are looking forward to it. We have tentatively reserved our accommodations and are waiting for the 2nd payment by students to make our air reservations. All monies for the trip will go to Dean.

Programs:

Bamako: Tonya Thompson

I have received a letter from the Government in French which I have yet to have translated. Peggy suggests Tonya consults the US State Department website, travel.state.gov, to check whether a warning has been issued regarding travel in Bamako.

Wurzburg: Bob Wason

No report.

Arequipa: Tom Greiner

We could not find families for the two girls from Arequipa who wanted to come for this second semester.

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In my conversation with Peggy, we agreed that we need to address the second semester situation and whether it would be feasible to get full year students from Arequipa (or Peru in general). The folks in Peru are upset so we should address this soon and come up with a proposal.

Iquitos: Barb Pellicano

We were unable to place our semester student from Iquitos. The program chair from Iquitos asked if it was a possibility to send students from Iquitos for a full academic year rather than a semester.

Novgorod: Marina Sweany

Luba got good grades for this marking period and received nice comments especially from her Spanish teacher. She entered her artwork in a contest. She received a dancing part in the upcoming musical and goes to a lot of rehearsals. Yesterday she watched her first Super Bowl trying to understand the rules of the game.

Olesya is doing really well with all her grades. She participated in a Bar -Mitzvah for her host sister and played a special part in the ceremony. She has a very active social life and gets together with friends all the time. She got a trophy for second place at the Science Olympiad. Her activities in cheerleading are almost over and she is looking for more activities after that.

Rennes: Millie Poventud

No report.

Krakow: Leah Stormo

No report.

Majorca: Sharon Garofanello

We have received two files of two girls for the next academic year 2014-2015. Karen Grover and Deb Allwell have these files for circulation. One of the bios has been made and Deb/Karen are working on the second. There are two great girls for next year.

Maria Pereiro-Lopez is 15 years old. She will be 16 this June. She lives in an apartment with her Mom and Dad. She has a 13 year old brother. Her hobbies are photography and horseback riding, music, sports and Zumba classes. She says she's self-confident. She enjoys cooking and likes school and travelling.

Neus Vives Munar is 15 years old. She will be 16 this April. She loves the US and has visited many places such as California, Las Vegas, Florida and New York. She likes to meet people, listen to music, read books and outdoor sports. Photography is her hobby. She runs, roller skates and loves sports.

Neus has an older sister who is 18 and a toy Yorkshire terrier. She helps with chores at home. She is closer to her father than her mother but gets her sense of travel from her.

Maya/Roberts Family-May just completed her 2nd semester exams/Midterms. I'm hoping her grades go up. I should get those grades within the next week. Additionally, I reached out to her

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school counselor and have not heard back from him. I will be making another phone call this week to follow up. I'm concerned with her grades not improving.

The family shared that her stepsister is coming for the February break. Maya is wrapping up with her basketball season and all is well with her and her family. Martha says she offered to get a tutor and suggested flash cards to help Maya with her grades and reminded her to catch up on any missing assignments but Maya has refused the tutor and has not accepted any help or use of the flash cards. Their daughter Sally thinks she's afraid to look stupid. An academic intervention would be appropriate.

Caltanissetta: Rosalba Pisaturo

Gaia is doing very well, her English has improved a lot and she is getting good grades in all her classes. In school she is involved with the upcoming spring musical performance; she is doing soccer, indoor tracking and she joined the sky club. I visited with the host family on January 26th and everything is going well. The whole family is planning a vacation to Florida for the Spring recess.

Ludovica is very happy with her new host family and the Mandarano family has decided to keep her for the rest of the school year, now she has two host sisters with whom she gets along very well and everyone has been notified of the change of family. The Mandarano's have purchased a plane ticket to take Ludovica with them to Florida for spring recess. She is doing well in school and her English is improving.

Both Ludovica and Gaia have signed up to go to the ATAD New York City trip in April.

Board Education Topic – NYSAFLT Conference: Peggy Lull

We have again been invited to participate as an exhibitor in the New York State Association of Foreign Language Teachers (NYSAFLT) Rochester Regional Conference at Nazareth College on SATURDAY MORNING, MARCH 8.

It can be a lot of work to prepare a table for this event and we often do not see much positive result from our work. However, we do have the opportunity to connect with foreign language teachers and this organization did give us a very nice award a few years ago. The consensus from the board members I spoke to is that we should participate this year, but also we should request a table that is NOT hidden among the textbook vendors; and if there is an opportunity to make a presentation, participate in a panel discussion.

Sharon will contact the 2 conference organizers and set our organization in motion. Several Board members have offered to help man the table, get brochures and create a workshop on March 8

The meeting was adjourned at 8:54 PM on February 4, 2014

Respectfully submitted,
Elaine Morel, Secretary