

ATAD Board - Minutes of Meeting

February 2, 2016

Final

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, Bob Wason, Mike Smaczniak

Guest: Mike Smaczniak

Call to order: The meeting was called to order at 7:03 PM by President, Sharon Garofanello.

The Board appointed Mike Smaczniak as a Program Chair for Krakow through June 30, 2016

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

Minutes of previous meeting: The Board Members approved minutes of the January 2016 meeting without changes.

Treasurer's report: Dean Ekberg

Attached, please find standard Budget vs. Actual and Balance Sheet reports. Board members are reminded to submit claims for reimbursement promptly.

Host Families: Karen Grover, Debra Allwell & Elaine Morel

Karen Grover:

Our international students have been invited to speak at the annual Pittsford Seniors meeting in April. The dates offered are April 11, 18 and 25. Karen takes care of finding transportation for the students but the students are responsible for requesting time off from school (11:00 to 1:30—this includes the transportation to and from the meeting.) Both our IS's and Pittsford Seniors benefit greatly from this event, and I hope all can attend.

04/19-?

Elaine Morel:

Pre-orientation for the Salmon family who will host Mariana from Arequipa (2nd semester 2016), was done January 6 at the Pittsford Library. In attendance were Peggy Lull, Elaine, Stephanie and Sydney Salmon. The host family and Tom met Mariana at the airport on January 23. She is now in class enjoying her US experience.

A revised IS & host family was sent to all board members on January 29. As of January 2016, ATAD counts 5 IS students in Rochester: 2 from Russia, 1 from Germany, 1 from Peru and 1 from Spain.

We received 2 new IS applications for the academic year 2016-17: Damien Le Vasseur from France and Elena Dell'Utri from Italy. Debra Allwell wrote and distributed the student application summaries to Board Members late January. They will also be posted on the ATAD website.

Keep in mind that we are looking for host families for our new applicants in the 2016-17 school year. These are: Damien from France; Viola from Germany; Mateusz from Poland; Renato from Iquitos; and Elena from Italy. We encourage you to reach out to your contacts at schools and speak to everyone around you about our hosting needs. A small description of each IS student who needs to be placed in 2016-17 is found on the ATAD website. This is a great time to get familiar with

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the profile of our applicants. The access code and password to our website was given to you in previous minutes.

Karen is following up by phone on the names of the 4 families who have agreed to discuss hosting, as seen on the American Overseas applications.

Debbie and Elaine met to review the forms on the ATAD website and requested George to update approximately 7 files with new contact information. We also worked on setting up a list for the transition from Karen to Elaine as new VP of Host Families. Karen's success for successful placement of students was phenomenal, and we are still counting on her expertise until the sad day comes when she will move on from ATAD!

As you all know, the IS application that we receive starts the search process for a host family for the student. We appreciate that each chairperson takes the time to send an electronic copy to the following members: Elaine, Karen, Debbie, Sue and Sharon. AND 3 printed copies to distribute at schools. It may sound like much but these files help us write blurbs, get into the ATAD website, get a visa for the student, identifies the student to a host family, sets the tone for the choice of a school.

For your information, our new background check company, Intellicorp, does not require us to sign a piece of paper before the check, as the entire short process is on line. Here are the instructions to access the electronic portal for the background check when a host family is selected to place a student.(Attachment A) Those forms will go to the host family applications. Family members 18 or older are a subject to a background checks. Check current students and make sure that all board members had a background check.

Effective September 2015, the NY State immunization requirements for school entrance and attendance were updated (see <https://www.health.ny.gov/publications/2370.pdf>). Chairpersons need to check that their students have all the required shots before coming to the US.

Americans Overseas: Peggy Lull

Seven students expressed interest in our program. Five of those students submitted an application and were interviewed on Saturday, January 30. Four of the five will be accepted as AOs. Calls to students with the results of the interviews will be completed this week.

The executive committee met on Sunday, January 31 to consider various AO financial aid requests. Preliminary decisions have been made; final decisions await the results of the Gary Simon interviews.

Gary Simon interviews will be held in the very near future. AO orientations will be held throughout late winter and spring.

Many thanks to Millie, Rosalba, Michael, Barb, Joanne, and Elaine for their help interviewing students, and thank you to Sharon and Canandaigua National Bank for lending us their offices space for our interviews!

State Department: Sue Isgrigg

The required report for second semester was submitted by Sue Isgrigg to the State Department website. Our student from Peru was activated on the website after her arrival in January.

CSIET: Pedro Gomez-Pupo

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Student binders will be collected in the future months. Program Chairs, please double check all of the documentation needed.

Bring your files to April meeting for review with all the required documents.

Policies and Procedures Committee:

Please send to Sharon Garofanello all the requests for changes regarding policies, procedures, forms and files. She will forward to George Morgan for completion.

Website development: George Morgan

Meeting minutes are up to date. The new blurbs for Elena from Caltanissetta and Damien from Rennes that Debby Allwell sent are available on the ATAD website.

Forms are pending for update. For the international dinner we need some more brochures to be distributed.

Google for non-for-profits allows to switch e-mail to Gmail and use Google Docs as a place for record keeping. George is going to look into that option that will also allow for easier search for ATAD on the Internet.

Social Media:

No report.

Outreach: Tonya Thompson

Two students submitted applications for the Gary Simon Memorial scholarship. We had a third student but she is a junior at School without Walls and decided to apply for next year. We are collecting missing items from the applications and plan to schedule an interview with the two scholarship candidates next week. Alicia is working closely with Tonya to help transition her into the role.

Activities: Barbara Pellicano

International dinner is 03/13 at 4:30 pm at Rustic Village Community Center. RSVP by March 5th to Barbara Pellicano.

Programs:

Bamako: Alicia Ward

Rochester - Bamako, Mali Sister City Committee is planning its 40th anniversary celebration. Reception will be at City Hall on 03/18 at 6pm. The ambassador from Mali will be the keynote speaker. On the 19th he will stay for Black Heritage Committee Gala at Hyatt Hotel. No tickets are sold but donations welcomed.

Wurzburg: Bob Wason

In general, things are going well with Jonah, though two problems arose in Dec. and Jan. First, his mother announced to the Peacock/Stango family that she was coming for a visit, and taking Jonah to visit his godfather in Chicago (where he was born and lived the first five years of his life). The host parents had little warning on this matter, and I had less than a week's warning before her arrival. I decided essentially to ignore it, since there was nothing I could do at that point. There was some worry about what our insurer would say about this trip to Chicago, though I countered

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that we should simply declare him “off program” while in the custody of his natural mother. I finally checked with Andy Dutcher, and he assured me that while this is not the sort of arrangement that ATAD condones, the insurance company would have no objection. The visit went as planned, without a hitch. The second problem was that Jonah began feeling poorly in late Dec. (presumably when he returned from Chicago, though I am not sure of that). It dragged on into January, and while I was on vacation in early Jan. I received an email from Jonah’s guidance counselor, Rich Kieffer, worrying about his absences from the school and possible consequences for his grades. Jonah’s sickness went on for some time, to the extent that his host father and I wondered if he was just trying to get out of school. (Actually, this possibility was suggested by his natural mother!) This turned out not to be true. After a second visit to the doctor, Jonah began to improve markedly, and upon visiting him 1/21/16, I took him out for coffee, and found him to be in excellent shape. I think he’s doing fine now. However, it has to be taken into consideration that he has his problems in certain classes—math in particular. His academic record in Germany was about a B average, and so it’s not surprising that he’s dropped back, having to study in a different educational system and a different language. The important thing is that he seems to be happy now, and, I think, willing to try his hardest to improve his performance in school.

Arequipa: Tom Greiner

Mariana from Arequipa arrived safely and is with her host family. Tom is doing the one week post arrival visit for Marianna Berrocal.

Iquitos, Peru: Barb Pellicano

Nothing to report.

Novgorod: Marina Sweany

No report.

Rennes: Millie Poventud

This year we have a potential candidate from Rennes. His name is Damien Le Vasseur. He is 15 and will be turning 16 the first week of September. I have contacted both Peggy and Sharon to get approval for him. Angelique, our former Rennes student, took the initiative to contact one of her former French teachers (Mr. Mou) from Spencerport High School in an effort to locate a potential host family for Damien. I have forwarded the information to Elaine Morel for follow up, and we are in mutual communication during this process. In addition, I have made contact Mr. Mou at Spencerport HS and he seems very willing to help in anything possible with this student and with any other students. He has experience through Rotary. We are in the process of reviewing Damien's application and at the same time, guiding Patricia & Angelique in Rennes with the rest of the process. Everything seems to indicate that Damien and his family are very excited and determined to make this experience possible.

Krakow: Mike Smaczniak – newly appointed Chair for Krakow through June 30, 2016

No report.

Majorca: Joanne Funk

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Ariadna and I have played phone tag to set up a coffee date. I did let her know about the NYC trip planning that takes place after Peruvian students arrive. She is very happy about that. She's feeling less stressed now that midterms are over, but kind of sad there's not more snow. I'm sharing blurbs of possible students with my kids at Fairport as well as other teachers.

Caltanissetta: Rosalba Pisaturo

Elena dell'Utri is the new IS from Caltanissetta for the school year 2016-17. She is 15 years old with good English. She passed her proficiency exam with 98%. Elena is also involved with Drama workshops and has good references. We are looking for a host family.

Rosalba will forward all the attachments for the new updated documents to the liaisons in Italy. The exchange program has to be recognized by the Department of Education in Rome to function on yearly basis. Before they accept or send any students they have to re-register.

There is not going to be a delegation to Caltanissetta for this Easter. Visit most likely will be postponed for 2017.

Reminder: - no meeting in March due to the International dinner on 03/13/2016.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:22 PM on February 2, 2016

Respectfully submitted,
Iva Doser, Secretary

ATTACHMENT A

SELF-BACKGROUND CHECKS

1. Log on to <https://atad.volunteerportal.net>
2. Review text on the Welcome Page,
enter the password **IS&AOk1dz** and click "**Agree and Consent**".
3. Enter personal information

All field marked with an asterisk "*"are required.

4. Click "**Next**"
5. Review all information to ensure its accuracy before proceeding.

If you need to make any corrections you can click on the "**Edit**" link or the "**Previous**" button to return to the Personal Information page.

6. Click "**Next**" or "**Complete**" to process your search.

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*****Please note the following *****

- If you QUIT without clicking SAVE, the system will not save your information. Your background check will not be run. You will need to start over from the beginning when you return.
- If you click SAVE before you QUIT, you will be provided with a reference code to enter when you return to the site to pick up where you left off.

When returning to the site, click on this link on the Welcome Page “If you are returning to finish a previous search, then click [here](#).”

Enter your last name and reference number to resume your previous search.