

ATAD Board - Minutes of Meeting

January 2014

FINAL

Present: Debra Allwell, Dean Ekberg, Sharon Garofanello, Karen Grover, Sue Isgrigg, Leslie Knox, Peggy Lull, Elaine Morel, George Morgan, Rosalba Pisaturo, Marina Sweany, Alicia Ward, Bob Wason.

Call to order: The meeting was called to order at 7:03 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 November 2013 meeting were accepted with no changes.

Treasurer's report: Dean Ekberg

Attached are standard Budget vs. Actual and Balance Sheet reports. To date, no AO application fees, nor applications for AO financial aid have been received.

Our current balance is healthy. The bills are paid. We did not come close to the \$2000 goal we projected for fundraising, less than last year. We made approximately \$750 which is under half our estimated amount.

The January 15 deadline is past for AO students applications or for financial aid. We have not received any requests. However, Marina would like to send an application for financial aid for IS support for the NYC trip. She will discuss with Dean on this topic.

Host Families: Karen Grover – Debra Allwell

We still have all three Peruvian students available. Deb Alwell wrote the short blurbs of all three students. All schools that take semester students have been contacted or had short blurbs distributed via hard copies or e-mail.

Karen and Peggy interviewed one family, but they decided not to host. There is one possible family at Pittsford Mendon H.S., but the school liaison could not confirm their interest before the school break. Pittsford Sutherland will not take one this year (new principal) and I still not have heard from the Fairport Spanish teachers, who received the short blurbs in their mailboxes. I emailed those teachers whose addresses we have on the ATAD School Contact List, but had negative replies. We will have to inform the students that we were unable to find host families.

Ludovika was removed from the Johnson home. I interviewed her temporary family. The temporary host dad has told me that they would love to be her permanent family. I visited the Johnson family to deliver a thank-you gift from ATAD. It was a very cordial visit and the Johnsons were able to express their concerns. They gave me some items Ludovika had left at their home and Bridgette gave me one of the Christmas gifts she had for Ludovika. I gave these items to Rosalba at our meeting to deliver to Ludovika. The Johnson's would appreciate compensation for a couple of their incurred expenses. I gave that information to Rosalba, as well.

Americans Overseas: Peggy Lull

I will send 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 deadline for financial aid has ended but we can still accept AO applications at this time.

ATAD Board - Minutes of Meeting

January 2014

FINAL

State Department: Sue Isgrigg

It took lots of reminders but everyone on the board is compliant with the State Department online training. A report was sent to Pedro so that it can be included with our CSIET audit. Not being trained is one of the worst offences we can do to jeopardize our license.

CSIET: Pedro Gomez-Pupo

In preparation for the yearly CSIET program audit coming up in February, all IS binders have been collected and other pertinent data has been compiled in preparation for it. Pedro has made contact with the auditing company and has made definite arrangements to provide the auditors with the student binders and other required documentation. The auditors have been advised to check CSIET's website for specific guidelines, requirements and format to follow.

Policies and Procedures Committee: Peggy Lull

No report.

Website development: George Morgan

Pedro wanted the development of the website on hold until the CSIET audit was completed. George is ready to start working on the website when we are. Alicia informed the Board that the application for the Gary Simon Memorial Scholarship and the regular IS/AO applications still have Christine's name on them. The Board agrees that a generic email address will be added to the forms at the time we switch to the new website.

Social Media: Michael Lauria

No report.

Outreach: Alicia Ward

There were no AO and Gary Simon Memorial Scholarship applications received from the RCSD administrators, teachers and staff. Many potential applicants did not meet the requirements necessary to apply on our Program. Peggy encourages Alicia to continue her search for students for next year and invite them to the international dinner.

Activities: Sharon Garofanello

New York City information needs to go out to students to find out if we have any interest for the trip. Daniel is the only student that has expressed an interest to date.

I will also be contacting Rustic Village to secure our March date for the International Dinner and AO Orientation.

Programs:

Wurzburg: Bob Wason

Max continues to do very well. We have an application for next year from Elizabeth Hartmann, the sister of Tim, who stayed in Geneseo in 2009-10. I've heard this via email from Karl-Heinz Utschig. I hope the paperwork arrives in the mail today. The mail between Germany and Rochester is notoriously slow. We may need to think of a different way to send applications from Germany.

ATAD Board - Minutes of Meeting

January 2014

FINAL

Arequipa: Tom Greiner

No report.

Iquitos: Barb Pellicano

We still have not found a host family for a second semester student.

Novgorod: Marina Sweany

Olesya went to Florida with the family. She loved it. She also enjoys winter activities because she gets together with friends to build a snowman, and also went skating. She said she has been very busy this vacation and did not miss school.

Luba went to a Russian New Year celebration in the Russian school. She volunteers there teaching dance. Her students performed really well which made her proud. She had a relaxing vacation - visited her family's relatives and enjoyed Christmas and New Year's celebrations. Luba tried out for the musical in school. Both girls are in good spirit and are having fun.

I have received another application, in parts only. When Bob mentioned the difficulty in receiving an application in a timely manner, Marina said that she gets her applications electronically. The originals are left in the office in Novgorod. Peggy is asking her to check with her liaison to find out if originals have been maintained in Novgorod. Even if applications are originally sent electronically, they should be sent here by regular mail as well. Marina will check.

Rennes: Millie Poventud

A Skype session was held between Peggy, Millie, and our potential liaison Patricia and Angélique from Rennes, France in an effort to provide guidance and answer questions regarding the steps to take as representatives of ATAD (student selection process, immigration required documentation, student orientation, etc.). Both Angélique and Patricia are very excited to become our liaisons in Rennes and are looking forward to this partnership. A student from school approached Angélique about our program. We may have a potential student from France in September 2014.

Krakow: Leah Stormo

No report.

Majorca: Sharon Garofanello

Maya had family visit her over the holiday break. She went to NYC to celebrate her birthday. Alphonso sent documentation for another student for the 2014-15 year. Her name is Maria Pereiro Lopez. I will make copies of her application for Karen.

Maya is playing basketball. All is well with the family and the exchange.

Caltanissetta: Rosalba Pisaturo

Gaia is doing very well. Her first quarter report card shows a 90 average. She loves the snow and is doing outdoor activities with her host siblings. Her parents, Claudio and Maria Ginevra visited for 10 days during the Christmas recess and spent time with Gaia's host family and with other

ATAD Board - Minutes of Meeting

January 2014

FINAL

relatives they have in Rochester. I held a dinner meeting at my house on December 20 so they could spend time with both Gaia and Ludovica and we reviewed future plans for our exchange program with Caltanissetta. Peggy hosted a party for the board to meet Claudio and Maria as well.

On December 16th, Ludovica was transferred to a new host family in Caledonia; they are Chris and Kelly Mandarano and have two teen-age daughters. Ludovica is still attending York High School and has had a good first quarter report card with an 87 average. She is very happy with her new family. The Mandarano's originally took Ludovica on a temporary basis. They will decide this week if they will keep her for the rest of the year. Ludovica and the family members are all adjusting very well and happy to have Ludovica with them. In the next few days I will schedule a meeting with them.

Bamako: Tonya Thompson

No report.

Board Education Topic – Calendar: Elaine Morel

Elaine would like to create a month-by-month calendar for our website showing tasks and deadlines related to ATAD's yearly activity. This would give the Board Members an overview of events related to the program during the year. It gives also great information for the schools, host families and students that participate in our program or are interested to participate in ATAD.

Elaine is looking for information such as: nominations, regular scheduled meetings, system date for eligibility of J-1 status, application for AO & IS, written acceptance of student by school, orientations dates, CSIET financial info, ATAD activities for the students – anything with a deadline.

If the Board members agree with this idea, they should send Elaine a list of tasks and dates that they are familiar with, by January 21st. Elaine will compile all this information into a spreadsheet in time for the February meeting and pass this to George for inclusion in the website.

New Business:

Karen gave Rosalba a request for reimbursement for the Johnson family. Due to the nature of the items, the Board suggests that Rosalba first speak with Ludovica, and then consult with Peggy, before deciding to reimburse the family.

Because Sue's name is shown on the CSIET website, people assume that she can help them get a J-1 visa. She usually refers them to the Rotary Club. A month ago, Sue received a call from a Buffalo lawyer who expressed interest in starting an exchange program with China. Sue felt that his request was different from the usual requests she receives so she encouraged him to draft a proposal that our Board Members could review. If it is a legitimate request, then we may implement another city program.

Rosalba is asking for marketing documentation to pass on to schools in order to spur interest for our Program. Peggy reiterates that Pedro has asked George to hold out making changes to the new website until the CSIET audit is finished. A personal approach to market our program is

ATAD Board - Minutes of Meeting

January 2014

FINAL

preferred for the next few weeks rather than sending someone to our old incomplete website. George is prepared to produce various marketing materials as soon as we switch the website.

The meeting was adjourned at 9 PM on January 14, 2014

Respectfully submitted,
Elaine Morel, Secretary