

# ATAD Board - Minutes of Meeting

January 5, 2016

## Final

**Present:** Sharon Garofanello, Peggy Lull, Marina Sweany, Tom Greiner, Dean Ekberg, Leslie Knox, Joanne Funk, Sue Isgrigg, Tonya Thompson, Alicia Ward, Debra Allwell, Elaine Morel, Iva Doser, Barbara Pellicano, Rosalba Pisaturo,.

**Call to order:** The meeting was called to order at 7:03 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 November 2015 meeting without changes.

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

Attached find standard Budget vs. Actual and Balance sheet reports.

To date three applications for need-based financial aid have been received. We will need to arrange an Exec. Committee meeting to review these applications and to make decisions.

Our fundraising efforts are getting a good response despite of the late start. We have targeted \$2000 and so far we have raised way over \$1000. ATAD has received a note along with a check from Ellen Rosen with an offer to support ATAD by funding an outing for current students and their families up to \$400. Barb Pellicano will follow up with her.

Applications for American Students and International students are not updated with the current fees which are \$3200 for AOs, \$1100 for IS for full year and \$550 for semester. Program Chairs should have conversations with liaisons about the updated application fees. We should find a way to clearly notify the application as pertaining for particular school year.

### **Host Families: Karen Grover, Debra Allwell & Elaine Morel**

Karen Grover:

I have updated Elaine on IS placements, as she is now the VP for Host Families. She and I met over a month ago to go over the general responsibilities of that "office". Hopefully everybody has contacted the schools for which they are responsible (for getting IS information to the schools' contacts.) I have not updated the roster with Marianna's host family (Fairport H.S. placement) listing because I have a family at Pittsford Mendon H.S. who wants to host Oldrin and we still need to interview them. I will contact Elaine with available dates they desire and I will interview with her. I'm still trying to pry the new placement guidelines out of the Pittsford School Administrator via the Mendon contact.

Elaine Morel:

Mariana from Arequipa will report for the second semester at Fairport High School as soon as her visa and ticket are set. Elaine Morel and Peggy Lull will give the pre-orientation to the Salmons on Wednesday, January 6, 2016. The family is excited to have her with them.

Bob Wason received an application from Viola Schenk, a student from Germany who is interested to study in the US for the 2016-17 school year. He passed on the application to Elaine. Debra sent a summary of the student application to all Board Members on December 31<sup>st</sup>. She is

# ATAD Board - Minutes of Meeting

January 5, 2016

## Final

respectfully asking that all Board Members reach out to their contacts at schools so that we can find a host family quickly. Elaine has 5 printed copies to distribute.

Oldrin is a 16 year-old from Arequipa, Peru. Karen found a host family in Pittsford who would like to host this coming semester (January 2016). However, the host family phoned Mendon School and declined their participation in ATAD because they will take 2 trips during the semester and cannot take Oldrin with them. Karen will follow up with the family and encourage them to take on the student while ATAD will search for a temporary family while they are away.

Elaine met with Bob to get a bird's eye view of ATAD from a Chairman's perspective. Bob had a lot of good comments which will be shared at the first meeting of the New Year. Elaine will continue to meet with chairpersons for their view on the ATAD program.

An updated host family roster will be provided soon.

We are still looking for families to host for the other students: Oldrin from Arequipa, Bodo from Wurzburg, Mateusz from Poland, Renato from Iquitos and Irene from Majorca.

### **Americans Overseas:**

No report.

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

Sue registered one student Mariana from Peru for the second semester. She notified two board members that their online training is overdue. Please try to keep up to date with that.

The department of state's deadline for paperwork for students coming for the second semester is 01/15/2016. In order for Oldrin to be placed for the second semester, his paperwork has to be submitted by the deadline. The necessary documentation is:

- signed host family agreement
- school acceptance form
- first page of student's application
- copy of passport (preferred especially for the Spanish speaking countries)

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

No report.

### **Policies and Procedures Committee:**

No report.

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

The blurb for Viola from Würzburg that Debby Allwell sent is published on the ATAD website.

### **Social Media:**

No report.

### **Outreach: Tonya Thompson**

We have 2 applicants for Gary Simon Memorial Scholarship.

# ATAD Board - Minutes of Meeting

January 5, 2016

## Final

There is one application from School Without Walls but the student didn't get her materials on time. She is a junior and a promising candidate.

The Board decided to accept her application as long as it is postmarked by 01/09/2016 at the latest.

### **Activities: Barbara Pellicano**

Save the date:

International dinner is 03/13 at 4:30 pm at Rustic Village Community Center

### **Programs:**

#### **Bamako: Alicia Ward**

Rochester - Bamako, Mali Sister City Committee is looking to make a donation to one of the clinics that take care of some of the victims from the hostage situation in the city.

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

Jonah Hug continues to do well with his family and school. However, we did have a bit of a problem that should be noted. Unbeknownst to me, Jonah's mother made plans to visit the host family and take him to visit a relative in Chicago, where Jonah was born and lived his early life. The host family was fine with this, but of course this is not a practice that ATAD condones, nor was I told about it in time to have anything to say about it one way or the other. The question arose as to Jonah's status in the event of an emergency, and the possible reaction of our insurance company. I spoke with Andy Dutcher about it; he was upset about Jonah's absence from his host family between Christmas and New Year's, precisely when we would have liked him to spend time with them. But Andy said not to worry about the insurance company, that there was no problem there. In any event, I just called Jonah (1/3/16), and he is back with his host family and ready to start School again tomorrow.

The best news for the Würzburg Program is that we have an applicant for next year: Viola Schenk. As I've come to expect from Karl-Heinz Utschig, who does a terrific job screening these people for us, she looks like an excellent prospect. I just hope we can find a host family for her.

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

Mariana from Arequipa will be arriving for the second semester at Fairport High School. Arrival date is not confirmed yet. Her host family is going on vacation during February break and is looking for ways to accommodate her. They could take her on vacation with them if she is willing to pay the airfare to Arizona. Another option is to find a temporary host for that week. Her host family seems very nice and is very excited to have her.

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

A host family is still needed for Renato from Iquitos for 2016-2017.

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

Viktoria Kovaleva

She enjoyed her vacation. She went to ice skating rink for her birthday and invited her friends. She often goes to the movies. She is participating in Bowling Club. Her school hosted after school

# ATAD Board - Minutes of Meeting

January 5, 2016

## Final

Master Classes in Dancing and Viktoria loved participating in it. She helped prepare New Year's celebration in Russian School for the students.

Taisiia went to Georgia for Thanksgiving to visit family's relatives. She helped prepare and performed in Russian School's New Year's celebration. Her art work was selected for the Art Show. During vacation she worked watching dogs. She is in the musical "Once upon a Mattress" She plays Lady Mamble and also has a part in dancing. She created a video in her Video Class interviewing international students of Brighton school. The video was highly praised by the principal and other teachers.

### **Rennes: Millie Poventud**

No report.

### **Krakow: Andy Dutcher (Interim)**

No report.

### **Majorca: Joanne Funk**

Ariadna is doing great. She and Joanne were going to meet 12/16 but didn't work out. She is playing indoor soccer, getting along with her host family and has good group of friends. She is very busy and enjoying her activities.

### **Caltanissetta: Rosalba Pisaturo**

The application of Elena Dell'Utri was received from Caltanissetta. Elena is applying for the academic year 2016-17; soon we will have a blurb with her credentials to help us find a host family. The story of Italo Scarlata, as the 1967 and first exchange student from Italy, was part of the ATAD fund raising letter and we are grateful to Bob Wason for a great job.

Plans are underway for an official delegation from Rochester to travel to Caltanissetta in March for our 50th Sister Cities Anniversary.

### **New Business:**

- Marina Sweeney: Finding host families

Marina starts looking for host families early. She sends information about the students, spreading the word, talking about the exchange program and asking current students to share with friends. She also mentions that as part of the Sister City programs. It is important to follow up with the people that show some level of interest and ask for e-mails. She reaches out to people that are interested or already taking Russian language classes. She is assuring everybody she talks to that she will provide lots of support.

- Elaine Morel: Liaison Role-Host Families-Board involvement

Elaine met with Karen to discuss the process and the responsibilities of the Host families' position. Elaine is planning to keep Karen close for ideas. Elaine's goal is to establish a cooperative process with the Program Chairs so they can approach individuals and encourage them to host. The available list of schools should be utilized and visits scheduled, so the schools can associate a face

# ATAD Board - Minutes of Meeting

January 5, 2016

## Final

with the program. In collaboration with the Program Chairs there should be presentations about the ATAD exchange program to the language Department Chair or principal and follow up every 3 months. We should be looking for continuous presentations for classes, sending newsletter to teachers and teacher's associations.

- Peggy Lull: AO's & Gary Simon Interview process

Peggy received 4 application and 2 more inquiries for applications from AOs (list was provided to the Board Members).

One of the students Elijah Goldberg said that his family has hosted and his sister went as AO in the past. He missed the deadline for application, which is 12/31/2015. This is the deadline for application with financial aid. The board is going to allow him to apply and be considered if his application if postmarked by Saturday 01/09/2016. We can still accept applicants that don't need financial aid.

Peggy is considering an interview process in groups and individually during the last week in January.

- Hosting Mariana during February break

Sue Isgrigg offered to take her for the first several days of the vacation week if someone else can help for that weekend. Debbie and Elaine offered to help as well if needed.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:29 PM on January 5, 2016

Respectfully submitted,  
Iva Doser, Secretary