

ATAD Board - Minutes of Meeting

January 3, 2017

Present: Sharon Garofanello, Iva Doser, Peggy Lull, Debra Allwell, Rosalba Pisaturo, Randy Peacock, Elaine Morel, Les Knox, Dean Ekberg, Marina Sweeney, Sue Isgrigg, Alicia Ward

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 the minutes of our October and November 2016 meetings without changes.

Treasurer's report: Dean Ekberg

Financial aid applications have been received for 2 students.
To date, no AO application fee checks have been received.

We are approaching 50% of our goal for 2016-17 annual appeal.

Host Families: Elaine Morel, Debra Allwell, Karen Grover

Last November, Dean put Susan Proe (Canandaigua) in touch with Elaine regarding her son Colden doing an exchange in Rennes. Many phone calls and emails later, Colden sent a complete application to Peggy Lull.

We have not received other news of potential host families during December. Karen, Debra and Elaine will meet in the new year to brainstorm on finding families.

Americans Overseas: Peggy Lull

I have received two AO applications for year exchanges - a student from SOTA is applying for a year in Caltanissetta, and a student from Canandaigua Academy is applying for a year in Rennes.

I have also received a single reference (Form E) from a student applying for a summer in Peru.

I am beginning to plan for "AO interview day," hopefully for the weekend of 1/21-1/22. I will be securing a location and asking for board members to help interview. Please let me know if you are able to help interview!

State Department: Sue Isgrigg

We received a request from DOS to provide input about our program. They are starting a review of our category of exchanges and they want to hear from all size programs. Sharon, Peggy, Elaine and Sue met in November and filled out the template listing strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and challenges. It was filed electronically. Also the annual verification of officials was completed electronically. It confirms that Sue Isgrigg and Deb Allwell are our Responsible Officer and Assistant Responsible Officer.

CSIET:

We have paid our annual dues and we are all up to date.

Policies and Procedures Committee:

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No report.

Website development: George Morgan

No report.

Social Media:

No report.

Outreach: Tonya Thompson

Phone calls were made to students from the list created from the REOC College fair. An email was sent out to those students who provided an email. Around 20 students were emailed and no reply was received. Some emails were returned. Phone calls resulted in leaving messages or students saying they were no longer interested. Only 9 phone calls were made.

Two emails were sent to RCSD school counselors regarding scholarship opportunity. This resulted in one applicant from Vanguard High School at Franklin. Her counselor worked with her to apply and collected funds from her teachers to afford the application fee. I was not able to confirm if the application was mailed out over break. I will check with her counselor on Wednesday.

There is another applicant named Jordan Majors, a junior at School of the Arts. His father confirmed that his application was mailed by the deadline. That should come in the mail.

Outreach/recruitment for Americans Overseas/Gary Simon Memorial Scholarship applicants was held at The Greater Rochester Area Branch - American Association of University Women (GRAB AAUW) November 12th during the Women Helping Girls program.

Female International Students are invited to participate on a panel at the Saturday, March 18th (11 am - 1 pm) Women Helping Girls Session. The discussion will be Information - Q & A focusing on experiences of living in America, IS perspective.

Activities: Barbara Pellicano

Just a reminder that Sunday March 12, 2017 **will be our International Dinner (5-7) at** Rustic Village Apartments-Community Center, 999 E. Henrietta Road.

Programs:

Novgorod: Marina Sweany/Debra Allwell

Debra – In November I met with Kristine Frederick, the host mom of the Milana. She advised things are going well in the house. She mentioned that Milana is very quiet, definitely not a talker in the morning, but gets her point across when needed! Kristine said the house is pretty maintenance free but if she asked Milana to help with chores she does so right away. She's made friends with the other exchange students at SOTA and does a few social events with them. She also visits her aunt and cousins on a regular basis.

She really hasn't made any American friends at the school but Kristine says it's still early in the

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year and she is heavily involved in the dance recital program. She enjoys all types of dancing, Milana has gone with Kristine to do salsa and line dancing.

I also spoke with Milana's counselor, Talya Sirianni, at SOTA and she advised Milana did excellent during the first marking period. She received a B+ in English, a B in US History and an A+ in Algebra. She is very successful in her dance classes as well as piano. She is doing well in school, what is carrying a C in English literature and struggling with American history. Talya also stated that Milana's locker is down the hall from her office so she sees her on a daily basis and Milana always has a smile.

At the end of December I met with Milana and she told me she is enjoying the break from school but misses the dancing rehearsals. She enjoyed Christmas but in her country New Years is the big holiday and she is looking forward to spending it with her relatives and Kristine. Milana stay after school two times a week to rehearse for a dance recital in April. She does not do any other school activities but Kristine mentioned that Milana usually walks or takes the bus home, prepares her evening meal, then goes to her room for the rest of the night. Kristine drops her off at school every morning. Both advised that everything is going well.

Kristine advised Milana is easy to get along with but does enjoy her time alone.

Marina

Daria is busy with her family going to relatives and celebrating holidays .She got lots of presents. She participated in the Winter Concert. The singing group she was in was recorded for the radio. Daria got excellent grades, her teachers are happy with her progress. Daria's host parents are very happy to have her, they get along really well. Daria helps a lot in the house, walks the dog, and helps with cleaning and cooking. She also babysits for family's friends. She is happy with her progress in English. She said that it is much easier to understand teachers as well as expressing herself.

Krakow: Randy Peacock

Let messages for Mateusz, talked to host father. Things are going well with him, he was in good spirits over the holidays. He is on a swim team and keeps himself occupied.

Bamako: Alicia Ward

Nothing to report.

Caltanissetta: Rosalba Pisaturo

Elena is doing very well. She had a good 1st quarter report card with a 90% average. I had her for dinner at my house last month and she told me how much she enjoyed the trip to Ireland with her host family during Thanksgiving break. She also shared a little concern about her host sister who wants to be with her always.

Elena does not mind, but she feels that she should have a little more space and do some things independently with her friends. I spoke with her on the phone during the holidays, the two families had exchanged gifts by mail and Elena was having a good Christmas holiday and time to rest.

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I received two files from Caltanissetta for the school year 2017-2018. They are one boy and one girl and host families are needed for both. I will make copies of the file for the next meeting.

Rennes: Elaine Morel

Damien is doing very well. The family had a busy but fun December. Damien is surprised at but loving the amount of activity going on in the family: concerts, music practice, studies and social outings. I took Damien with me after school before the holiday started to help him find gifts for the parents. He is very happy with his stay in Rochester. The family went to Ottawa, Canada on Dec. 24th and then returned the 1st of January. This was a nice trip for Damien. Several of the girls' cousins are fluent in French and the family will have lots of outdoor and Christmas activities.

Majorca: Joanne Funk

No report.

Wurzburg: Bob Wason

No report.

Iquitos: Barb Pellicano

Nothing to report.

Arequipa: Tom Greiner

Nothing to report.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 PM on January 3, 2017

Respectfully submitted,

Iva Doser