

ATAD Board - Minutes of Meeting

June 2, 2015

FINAL

Present: Debbra Allwell, Dean Ekberg, Sharon Garofanello, Pedro Gomez, Tom Greiner, Karen Grover, Sue Isgrigg, Leslie Knox, Peggy Lull, Elaine Morel, George Morgan, Barb Pellicano, Rosalba Pisaturo, Millie Poventud, Tonya Thompson, Alicia Ward, Bob Wason.

Call to order: The meeting was called to order at 7:17 PM by President, Peggy Lull.

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

Minutes of previous meeting: The Board Members approved minutes of the May 2015 meetings without changes.

Treasurer's report: Dean Ekberg

Attached are standard Budget vs Actual and Balance sheet reports. A budget proposal for our Fiscal Year beginning July 1 will be presented at this evening's meeting. A motion to approve the budget for 2015-2016 was approved by the Board.

Host Families: Karen Grover & Debbra Allwell

9 students, 2 are placed.

I made literally hundred phone calls while I was on the Cape, going back to families who hosted many years ago. People who can't host are making calls to friends to find people.

Teachers who received short "blurbs" by e-mail at Fairport and Pittsford now have hard copies in their mailboxes.

Mateusz—Poland

The one possible person who is interested (thank you, Greg, for the referral) said they did not want to host for the year. Have offered a two-family (one for first and a different one for the 2nd) pending approval from Olga. Andy has tried contacting Olga about this possibility.

Jonah—Germany

A recent possibility (thank you, Marina.) Bob Wason has followed up with that family.

Bodo—Germany

The one family (thank you, Marina) who was interviewed (and the school accepted him) could not host due to the son's fear that there would be too much responsibility for him.

Francesco—Italy

Rosalba is waiting to hear if Gates/Chili will accept her student. They have delayed getting back to her. There are a few families who can be called there (some calls already made.)

Irene—Spain. I have not received any responses from teachers who have her information. Sharon may have a family.

Ariadna—Spain. Pittsford Mendon HS has said they will place her. They have not had any success in finding families this year.

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Viktoria—Russia. She is placed at the School of the Arts. Thanks to Marina, we have a family, absolutely wonderful woman. Second interview done by Debra Allwell.

Taisiia—Russia. She is placed with a family who wanted to host last year, but student decided not to come. She will study at Brighton High School. Thank you, Peggy for following up with the school's administration.

I have a call into Sarah Jacobs, Brighton high school's administrator to see if we could place any other of our students.

Debbie says that the 2015 ATAD School contact list is almost up to date. We still need someone to take over the contact for Avon, Bloomfield, Geneseo and East Rochester School Districts. Copies will be made available at the June Board Meeting on Tuesday.

The second interview was conducted for Delicia Hill, a host person for one of the students from Russia. The second interview, which was mandated as she is a single person with no children, was conducted to ensure that she had a support system in place to take care of the needs of an international student.

Results for hosting families have been disappointing.

Americans Overseas: Peggy Lull

No report.

State Department: Sue Isgrigg

Sharon Garofanello cannot serve as Assistant Responsible Officer when she becomes Board President as per State Department regulations. Deb Allwell has agreed to take this responsibility. We are in the process of doing the paperwork to make this happen.

The State Department sent us an e-mail about registering our current international students on a website that connects alumni of J-1 programs. This is a topic to be discussed and voted on by this board. The Board suggested that we ask students at the picnic in June if they want to voluntarily participate to the US Department alumni network website.

Liz from Germany has asked permission to stay with her host family through August. Sue spoke with the person at the State Department who works with our program. We are allowed to extend Liz's visa so a new DS2019 was issued until the end of August. A decision about the cost of health insurance should be acted on at this board meeting.

Liz's father suggested that he buys an international insurance which is less expensive than purchasing ATAD's insurance. However, our policy specifies that she needs to be covered under our insurance because she is a student of our program. A motion was brought forward to request that her parents cover the costs of the insurance for the 2 additional months that she stays in the United States. Bob will continue to be the primary contact for her during the summer months until she leaves at the end of August. Bob will contact the father to buy ATAD's insurance.

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CSIET: Pedro Gomez-Pupo

An internal informal audit draft was generated, following CSIET guidelines for J-1 Inbound. A preliminary draft report will be shared at the June meeting for approval.

Pedro suggests that we have our own internal validation procedures. Board members are encouraged to make comments about the report by email, no later than 2 weeks from today. Sue sends her CSIET report by July 15. She will review Pedro's report pertaining to students arrival in September and January, change of host families during the school year, and the list of ATAD Officers and Liaison.

Policies and Procedures Committee: Peggy Lull

No report.

Website development: George Morgan

The short blurbs of students available for hosting placement in 2015-16 are found on ATAD's website under 'Current Students Available'. Sue requests that the College Fair be advertised using signage and brochure. Future work will include Email marketing, updating logo.

Social Media: Michael Lauria

Michael resigned from the Board. He gave the social media account back to Sharon..

Outreach: Alicia Ward

The Gary Simon Memorial Scholarship (GSMS) interview was held on May 13th at Baden Street Settlement. The GSMS candidate was Zhanna Thompson, 12th grader at World of Inquiry. On the panel was Dean Ekberg, ATAD Board Treasurer and Kimberly Tucker, 2015 Graduate Student at University of Rochester, Simon School – International business. The scholarship information was sent to community organizations, churches and individuals within the city of Rochester. Zhanna was awarded the GSM scholarship.

Activities: Sharon Garofanello

June 7, 2015 is our departure orientation and farewell picnic at the Genesee Waterways Center. 15 people said they are coming to the IS orientation. Barb is coordinating lunch while George will be the point person for fun activities. Rosalba offered to do the orientation for parents and siblings.

Programs:

Majorca: Sharon Garofanello

I have two students for next academic year: Irene and Ariadna. I haven't heard of any placements to date. Mendon is taking one girl but we have no news yet.

Maria is scheduled to leave at the end of the school year. Her experience in the States was great.

Caltanissetta: Rosalba Pisaturo

We have received the application of Francesco Pagano for the academic year 2015-16. Several schools have his file, but no family has been found yet.

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International Sister Cities of Rochester and ATAD have a reception planned to welcome Italo Scarlata July 16th at the City Hall. He was the first ATAD exchange student from Italy for school year 1967-68. He attended Penfield High School. ATAD Board of Directors is invited to this event.

Bamako: Tonya Thompson

No report.

Würzburg: Bob Wason

The Würzburg program had two applicants from Germany this past year. Unfortunately, we were only able to find a host family for one of the two.

Our two applicants for next year are the Mayor's son, and the son of a family who, after asking around about exchange programs, was referred to Utschig; these applicants bear out my points about political connectedness and visibility. And both were very well vetted by Utschig. We are very lucky to have him with his dedication and energy as liaison in Würzburg.

When I started with this group, the year-long report was a chance to reflect on the nature of the program, its future, etc. We need less chit-chat, and more grappling with some serious issues. I think Sharon is just the person to do that. I look forward to the fall, and maybe a new start.

Arequipa: Tom Greiner

Jose Ignacio is doing very well. Despite the disappointment of not going to NYC with ATAD, his host dad arranged to take him. He was excited. He's done well in school—good grades—and his English has improved a lot. He played second singles on the Fairport tennis team and won his matches at Sectionals which Fairport won.

Iquitos, Peru: Barb Pellicano

Carolina continues to do well. She had a great time at her prom. She also visited Niagara Falls/American side.

We have one student from Iquitos for the next school year. His name is Renato Rios and we are still in need of a host family for him.

Zhanna Thompson has been awarded the Gary Simons Award and will be going to Iquitos this summer for 6 weeks. Specific dates have not been determined yet.

Novgorod: Marina Sweany

Alexandra is doing well. Her family continues to enjoy her as part of their family. Alexandra does not want the year to end. She is getting ready for the graduation and is preoccupied with her dress. She is doing well in school and said it is getting easier to get good grades because she understands how teachers grade now.

Rennes: Millie Poventud

No report.

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Krakow: Leah Stormo

We received an application from Mateusz. No host family has yet to be identified. Leah resigned from the Board; Andy Dutcher agreed to take on the role for the coming year.

New Business:

Our new background check company, Intellicorp Records, does not require you to sign a piece of paper before the check, as the entire, short process is on line! Dean said that this online process takes care of all required disclosures and consent forms and significantly reduces the workload of those involved in researching potential host family members and others for whom this research is required.

Martha Rochford is willing to offer a template to help ATAD's marketing team. They plan to get together this summer.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:01PM on June 2, 2015

Respectfully submitted,
Elaine Morel, Secretary