

ATAD Board - Minutes of Meeting

June 7, 2016

Present: Debra Allwell, Sharon Garofanello, Sue Isgrigg, Les Knox, Peggy Lull, Elaine Morel, Barbara Pellicano, Millie Poventud, Rosalba Pisaturo, Marina Sweany, Bob Wason.

Call to order: The meeting was called to order at 7:35 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 May 2016 meeting without changes.

Treasurer's report: Dean Ekberg

Attached are standard Budget vs Actual and Balance Sheet reports. To date, only one student's flight has been booked. Please submit all requests for reimbursement before June 30 when the current Fiscal Year ends. I will begin preparation for our annual financial review and filings with IRS and NYS and expect to be able to submit all required documents to our accountants by August 1.

Please review the budget proposal for 2016-17 and then consider the following motion: that the proposed budget for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2016 as presented be adopted. Motion accepted.

Host Families: Karen Grover, Debra Allwell & Elaine Morel

We have 10 IS applicants for the academic year 2016-17. The following 5 foreign exchange students are formally accepted in the school system and have families to stay with: Damien (France) at Pittsford Sutherland; Mateusz (Poland) at Geneseo HS; Elena (Italy) at Brighton HS; Milana (Russia) at the School of the Arts; and Dasha (Russia) at Penfield HS. Elaine passed around a preliminary roster of the new students for the 2016-17 school year.

We need host families for: Viola from GERMANY; Renato from Iquitos, PERU; Laura Cantos Basany and Laura Navarro Gomez from SPAIN. We could not place Oldrin from Peru for the second semester, in January 2016; he is now over the age requirement to participate in the program. If we find a family for Renato, he would need to come on or before August 6, before he turns 18 and half.

Marina Sweany and Elaine interviewed Vera and Yuri SYTCH's family on Saturday, May 28 at their house in Penfield. Their daughter Kalyna, prompted the Ukrainian family in accepting Dasha for the academic year. The family has international background and is known as being friendly, hospitable and accommodating. There are 3 young adults at home namely Konstantin, 24, Kalyna, 22 and Natalia, 20. Marina secured a spot at the Penfield High School, a first in ATAD's history. The Host family paperwork is complete and ready for the visa process.

Debra said that the Host Family committee is going for a last minute effort to meet with principals and counsellors before the school year ends. She asked the Board which schools would be most receptive to our efforts. Suggestions were Batavia, York, Hilton, Fairport, any small school with a personal approach.

Americans Overseas: Peggy Lull

ATAD Board - Minutes of Meeting

June 7, 2016

One AO is going to Majorca for the summer. She has a host family and her ticket has been purchased.

A second AO is going to Arequipa for Peru's second semester (August through December). The liaison has identified and interviewed a host family, and is currently finalizing school placement. A third AO hopes to go to Iquitos for the summer, however a host family has not yet been identified.

State Department: Sue Isgrigg

Visa paperwork for three students was sent, one from France, one from Italy, and one from Poland. Visa paperwork for the 2 Russian students will be ready for Marina at her convenience. The new online training site is open but there are many problems. I will send more information when I think things are running smoothly. Gyrus Systems is the new provider for the Secondary School Student Program Annual renewal of Certification (SPARC). Online training is essentially the same material but a different website.

CSIET: Pedro Gomez-Pupo

The final reviews of available IS binders have been completed. Missing items have been identified. ATAD Board Officers and Program Chairs have been notified. Most of the missing components have been addressed and/or provided by pertinent Program Chairs and/or Board Officers. The final findings will be shared with board members within the next couple of weeks for review.

Policies and Procedures Committee:

No report.

Website development: George Morgan

No report.

Social Media:

No report.

Outreach: Tonya Thompson

No report.

Activities: Barbara Pellicano

Our ATAD Post Orientation and Farewell was Sunday, June 5th. All students and parents attended.

Programs:

Bamako: Alicia Ward

No report.

Wurzburg: Bob Wason

We are still looking for a host family for Viola. This past Saturday, I gave a presentation at the Rochester German School and handed out brochures on ATAD. I also sent a note to the German teachers from a mailing list I acquired from a colleague at Eastman. This year, we met challenges with Jonah concerning school attendance. He will go home on the 17th by way of Chicago.

ATAD Board - Minutes of Meeting

June 7, 2016

Arequipa: Tom Greiner

Mariana is doing well. Her time has gone by quickly. She will leave Rochester on June 30 and travel to Austin and meet up with mother and some family members for a couple weeks. Meanwhile, we have an AO, Zahra Bellucci (Rivera) who will go to Arequipa for their second semester in August and will stay with Mariana's family. We're waiting on confirmation from the school there.

Iquitos, Peru: Barb Pellicano

Renato was not placed. AO Elijah Goldberg still has not been placed.

Novgorod: Marina Sweany

The girls are doing well. Both had proms and enjoyed the events. Taisiia visited Phoenix Arizona for Memorial day weekend. She went to an event held in the Country Club for all students who participated in any theatrical performances this year and got a recognition award. Viktoria is participating in the Frisbee club and enjoys outdoor activities. She is getting ready to go back to Russia and is buying presents for her family.

Rennes: Millie Poventud

The Le Vasseur, Damien's family and Deborah Uman, the local host family, have been communicating via email and have held several Skype sessions. The Le Vasseur have made arrangements for Damien's flight to the US September 2nd. Mrs. Uman will be contacting the school this week to begin the process of formally meeting with the counselors and begin the selection of a class schedule for the fall. I have explained the required courses for Damien. Both families seem very excited.

Krakow: Mike Smaczniak

Mike handed in his resignation from the Board due to increasing family responsibilities. ATAD Board will assist the family until a new Chairperson is found.

Majorca: Joanne Funk

Ariadna had a very busy month! She started off with a great trip to NYC. She had lots of fun and had a new phone and a Polaroid camera to capture special moments! The next weekend she had her Junior prom. She went with a large group of friends and had a blast. The next weekend she had her trip to DC with the school. Over Memorial Day weekend she went to Toronto with her host family and loved it. Crossing the border both ways went well. This past Saturday, Ari attended the Senior Ball with some Senior friends. She also had a good time there although had more fun at the Junior prom.

She departs for Majorca on the 28th. Amanda will be travelling with her on the flight as well. A family has been secured for Amanda over there so all is a go!

Caltanissetta: Rosalba Pisaturo

Brighton High School has officially accepted Elena Dell'Utri for the academic year 2016-17. She has received all the documents and is working on getting the student Visa. I have a meeting scheduled for next week with the Green's, Elena host family, and we are anticipating her arrival for the end of August.

ATAD Board - Minutes of Meeting

June 7, 2016

After 45 years, an ATAD exchange student reunited in Caltanissetta with his American host brother. Last month Ken Farnham, whose family hosted Francesco Peri for the school year 1971-72, was welcomed to Caltanissetta by the Culturscambi Committee at a reception at City Hall. Ken and Francesco graduated from Thomas High School in Webster with the class of 1972. This is the second reunion this year during the celebration of the Caltanissetta-Rochester 50th Anniversary. Italo Scarlata, the first exchange student of 1967 who came to Rochester for a Penfield High School reunion last August also reunited with his American host brother, Steve Hammer. Italo is Francesco Peri's brother-in-law having married his sister Alberta Peri, our third exchange student of 1969-70.

Nominations:

Slate of Officers for next year term:

Vice-President for Host Families – Elaine Morel

President – Sharon Garofanello

Secretary – Iva Doser

Chairperson – Peggy Lull

Treasurer – Dean Ekberg

OTHER:

Comments from the students' evaluation were generally good. The following improvements were suggested: improve communication between Chairs and students; organize more field trips; give advance notice of the NY trip before coming to the US.

Family evaluations recommend that: ATAD should look further into motivation of students for coming to US; some students spend too much time in their room; there is not enough common interests with family members; 15 years of age is too young to participate in the program; medical issues such as glasses, immunizations, braces need to be addressed before leaving their home country.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:37 PM on June 7, 2016.

Respectfully submitted,
Elaine Morel