

ATAD Board - Minutes of Meeting

June 6, 2017

FINAL

Present: Debbra Allwell, Iva Doser, Sharon Garofanello, Sue Isgrigg, Les Knox, Peggy Lull, Elaine Morel, Barbara Pellicano, Rosalba Pisaturo, Marina Sweany, Bob Wason. Tonya Thompson, Alicia Ward

Guests – Mary Jane Stark, Jaqueline Gasbarre

Call to order: The meeting was called to order at 7:02 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 2017 meeting without changes.

Treasurer's report: Dean Ekberg

We have received the annual payment from RACF reflecting the earnings on that account during the past year. I will begin preparing documents required for our annual Financial Statements and filings with IRS and NYS Bureau of Charities upon my return to Rochester. Please make every effort to submit all requests for reimbursement for the year ending June 30, 2017 as soon as possible

Please review the budget proposal for 2017-2018 and then consider the following motion: that the proposed budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2017 as presented be adopted. Motion accepted and the Board approved the budget for 2017-2018 year.

Host Families: Karen Grover, Debbra Allwell & Elaine Morel

We received 5 International Student applications for the 2017-18 school year: 2 from Caltanissetta, Italy (Yvonne and Lozenzo); 2 from Mallorca, Spain (Sebastian and Maria) and 1 from Novgorod, Russia (Alina) AND absolutely no luck in finding viable host families.

It is very unusual that all the leads we had did not elicit a positive response from the community. Combined efforts from all the board members have not generated interest to place foreign students with local host families for September.

Americans Overseas: Peggy Lull

Our AO orientation was held on May 7. All AOs and one adult for each AO (parent, grandparent, or aunt) attended. Many thanks to Sharon, Elaine and Rosalba for help with the orientation.

At this point, program chairs are working diligently with their respective liaisons to secure host families for these students.

State Department: Sue Isgrigg

No students have been registered for the 2017-2018 school year so far. Paperwork must be submitted to Sue Isgrigg by August 20, 2017, to ensure that a student can arrive by the beginning of the school year. Sue will be out of town August 26 - September 10. Please notify Deb

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Allwell if a student arrives during that time period so she can activate them on the SEVIS website. Other times notify Sue so she can activate them.

CSIET:

No report.

Policies and Procedures Committee:

No report.

Website development: George Morgan

Nothing new as far as publications. Everything is up to date.

Social Media:

No report.

Outreach: Tonya Thompson

Jordan is very excited about going to Poland as Garry Simon Scholarships recipient. June 15th is the district Board meeting when Alyssa and Jordan will be presented with the award.

Activities: Barbara Pellicano

Our ATAD Post Orientation and Farewell was Sunday, June 4th.

Programs:

Bamako: Alicia Ward

No report.

Wurzburg: Bob Wason

Though we had no students this year, there was interest expressed by a family in hosting a student for next year. Unfortunately, it was too late for Karl-Heinz Utschig to find a student, but this interest may help to revive the program.

Arequipa: Tom Greiner

No report.

Iquitos, Peru: Barb Pellicano

Nothing to report. There were no students from Iquitos in 2016-2017.

Novgorod: Marina Sweany and Debbra Alwell

Debbie - Milana is scheduled to go home June 16th and even though she had a successful year she is anxious to go home! Her last couple weeks are very busy trying to see all her friends before she leaves. The school prom is Friday June 9th and she is excited about that. Milana was most surprised at how quickly the year went. She enjoyed her school and her classes but says she is ready to start college in communications. She stated this experience has been remarkable and is glad she took the year to be a part of it!

Marina - Daria are doing well, She went on a road trip with her host family and grandparents. They visited New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas. Dasha is leaving on the 28th of June. Her host

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mom is driving her to New York. Dasha is looking forward to the prom. She has a dress but no date yet. She said she had a great experience here in America and loves her school.

Dasha received an award for \$200 for her video that she made on her DWI.

Rennes: Elaine Morel

Damien is counting the days until he leaves, only to make sure that his daily agenda covers only new activities not available at his school in Rennes. He looks forward to see his family in France but is reluctant to leave on June 26th because he made new friends.

Damien went to the prom May 13th. He loved it!! He rented a tuxedo, shared the cost of a limousine with friends and invited a young lady from school. She won the French National Concours for foreigners at high schools but, never speaks to him in his language.

Since January, he plays chess 2-3 times a week with his host father. At first, he was losing. Now they play against the clock and wins. He loves to think quickly for strategy. He built an Adirondack chair in his Production System class. He will dismantle and ship it back to France. Later, he will paint and put a plaque that says "Hand built in Rochester, NY 2017". Damien is very proud to have received the Foreign Exchange Certificate at the High School official graduation ceremony in front of his peers at school. He played tennis, participated in Robotics, studied criminal law, had sleepovers, visited museums and ate at restaurants with his host father, went to numerous concerts because his host sisters play music at school. And the list goes on...

June 24, big party with friends in the garden.

As a Chairperson for France, I saw Damien grow from a monosyllabic boy in the beginning of the exchange to a dynamic, conversational, and interesting young man. He really gives me the sense that he had a successful and meaningful foreign exchange. So proud of him!!

Krakow: Randy Peacock

I have checked in with Mateusz via telephone and email on several occasions and he has reported that he has been incredibly busy with his school work and continuing after school activities. Deb Allen has also reported to me that Mateusz has been in fine spirits and that they are all surprised that the year is coming to a close so quickly.

Mateusz has scheduled his departure flight for Saturday, June 24th.

Sharon Garofonello and I met with Michael Leach (Rochester Sister Cities Committee) to discuss several issues before us. My counterpart in Krakow, Olga Druszkiewicz, contacted Michael to ask him to work through the Mayor's office at City Hall to encourage a strengthening of the exchange program with Krakow. Olga is looking for a means of encouraging her city government to urge (request?) the schools in her City to be more active in promoting and supporting the exchange program. She has personally exhausted her pool of potential exchange students amongst family and friends and she has had difficulty getting any of the schools to cooperate and promote the opportunity. Michael was accommodating in offering to investigate what he could do to satisfy the request that Olga put forth.

During our meeting we also discussed Jordan Majors and the difficulty he had in satisfying the financial requirements to participate in the exchange program. Michael offered to review Jordan's applications and request that the Polish American Heritage Society assist him with funding. We have a host family willing to take Jordan for the summer so we are working to determine that Jordan

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is a viable candidate and to secure the funding needed. Per Michael's request he and I will be meeting with Jordan on June 5th.

Majorca: Joanne Funk

Laura is departing July 7th. Her insurance needs to be extended. She had a great year after changing families.

Laura is preparing for her return to Spain little by little. She has thoroughly enjoyed her time here. She has finished up her track and field season and attended her sports banquet immediately after attending the Post Orientation /Picnic.

Laura has only great things to say about her family and her stay in Geneseo.

Per the brief correspondence via text message with Ellen Schield, all is going well at the house according to the host family as well.

Caltanissetta: Rosalba Pisaturo

Elena is finishing up the school year and is looking forward going back home. She is leaving on June 26th and is traveling back with Mikaela Green, her host sister, who will spend the summer with the Dell'Utri family in Italy. Elena had a great time at the senior prom and she will also participate in all the senior class activities up to the end of the school year. She is happy and appreciative of the great opportunity of being an exchange student.

We have not placed the two Italian students for next year. Yvonne and Lorenzo are hoping that they will be placed. I have received their most recent report cards, the final ones will come at the end of the school year. The AO Alyssa Steger has not been placed in Italy yet.

Nominations:

The following people are not continuing on the board:

- Elaine Morel- Vice-President Host Families

Board members whose terms are up and have agreed to continue are:

- Dean Ekberg- Treasurer
- Sue Isgrigg – State Department Rep. Officer
- George Morgan – Website provider
- Rosalba Pisaturo – Chair, Caltanissetta
- Alicia Ward – Chair, Bamako

The meeting was adjourned at 8:37 PM on June 6, 2017.

Respectfully submitted,
Iva Doser