

# ATAD Board - Minutes of Meeting

May 6, 2014

## FINAL

**Present:** Sharon Garofanello, Tom Greiner, Sue Isgrigg, Leslie Knox, Peggy Lull, Elaine Morel, George Morgan, Barb Pellicano, Rosalba Pisaturo, Marina Sweany, Alicia Ward, Bob Wason.

**Call to order:** The meeting was called to order at 7:10 PM by President, Peggy Lull.

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

**Minutes of previous meeting:** The minutes of the April 2014 meeting were approved without changes.

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

Attached are Budget vs. Actual and Balance Sheet reports, up to May 5, 2014.

Currently all our IS kids are insured through June 30. Please advise me as soon as possible of exact departure dates so that if I need to extend insurance into July, I can do that in a timely fashion. This is extremely important.

I will arrange a meeting with Peggy in the next few weeks to prepare a budget proposal for the 2014-15 Fiscal Year. Please let me know if there is anything in your program that will need any particular budget planning. I am in the process of establishing a PayPal account so that donations may be received online. In our budget discussion, we will consider the financial ramifications of accepting credit card payments for AO and IS fees.

Sue informed the Board that it is very expensive to send papers overseas. Sue uses FedEx® to mail and track packages to the liaisons overseas, for example it costs 140\$ to send an envelope to Russia. The US postal service does not have a tracking system beyond the nation's borders. Sue said that we need to keep tab of postal amounts in the budget.

### **Host Families: Karen Grover & Debra Allwell**

Both students from Russia are placed, one in Fairport--school and family paperwork is complete and Sue Isgrigg has the papers to apply for the VISA. The second Russian student is tentatively scheduled to be in Brighton H.S.--I am waiting for the second reference before I take the file to the school. Maria from Spain will be placed in the York H.S., pending all of the paperwork to be completed. The principal has approved the family and is awaiting the file.

The short blurbs of each of the Spanish students have been e-mailed to both Pittsford High Schools, with minimal response. ATAD posters are up, and the two H.S. contacts have distributed the short blurbs, with no response. I will notify them of Maria's placement in York.

Both host families for the Russian students were found by Marina through contacts of hers, indicating that personal contacts work. The family in York was a past recommendation that I called. I have been calling families who have been recommended to in the past. Most responses have been--"call me in the future."

I have suggested to some of the program chairs that they talk to their present host families and international students asking them to give them suggestions.

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## **Americans Overseas: Peggy Lull**

No report.

## **State Department: Sue Isgrigg**

Next year there will be a change in the audit for the 2014-2015 school year. CSIET will no longer conduct it. They have not indicated what the fee will be now that this is changed. The State Department has said that they consider a yearly audit to be "best practice." They are not providing a template at this time. We need to submit our own audit to them electronically. There is no indication by what date this should be submitted. The board should make some decision on how we wish to proceed. The Board suggests that we could redefine the timeframe for submitting our reports. Sue will contact the State Department for more details and then, meet with Peggy to determine the parameters for the audit.

The paperwork for one Russian student has been mailed out.

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

No report.

## **Policies and Procedures Committee: Peggy Lull**

No report.

## **Website development: George Morgan**

George and Dean Ekberg are in the process of establishing a Paypal account for the website. Sue would like to have the School Contact Information and a new form number included in the website.

## **Social Media: Michael Lauria**

No report.

## **Outreach: Alicia Ward**

The Gary Simon Scholarship fund is set up to benefit students from the Rochester City schools. Alicia is asking the Board for ideas on how to reach students from charter schools, which are not included in the requirements that applicants must meet to receive funds.

Tom can have the non-profit lawyer in his firm look over the documents if Alicia mails them to him this week. Peggy will add this item to the agenda and Alicia will lead the discussions at the next meeting. Board members are asked to consider this topic in advance of our discussion at the June meeting.

## **Nominations 2014: Barb Pellicano**

The following people whose terms are up and have agreed to continue are:

Leslie Knox, Karen Grover, Dean Ekberg, Pedro Gomez-Pupo, Milagros Poventud, Alicia Ward.

Peggy states that if anyone knows an individual who would be a great board member, for example, a former host parent, to come forward and identify this person. ATAD wishes to add talent to the Board. Peggy will e-mail an ad she made previously for the Young Professionals Organization which can be used to publicize our demand.

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## **Activities: Sharon Garofanello**

Six of the seven students participated in our NYC trip. It was a great success. We charged the students \$650 each. One student did have a partial scholarship. We did go over our planned expense. This year travel and hotel accommodations exceeded the major part of the expenses we collected. \$650 is still very reasonable to make this trip especially with what we did. I have shared with Dean and Peggy ideas of what we may want to do in the future if we are going to stay in this price range. I am also looking at another school trip to see what they charge and plan for future years. There will be more information to follow on this.

On April 29, 2014 all the ATAD students participated with Rotary at the Pittsford Senior Luncheon. Seniors ask them questions about themselves and ATAD students present.

Next activity is pre-departure orientation and farewell picnic June 1<sup>st</sup>. Barb Pellicano has graciously agreed to do the post-orientation at her home. More information to follow.

## **Programs:**

### **Majorca: Sharon Garofanello**

Maya went to her Junior Prom on April 26, 2014. She recently received her 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter grades and there is much improvement. She struggles with Math and may fail the year. Her mom is paying for a tutor. Two girls are still not placed for the following year.

### **Caltanissetta: Rosalba Pisaturo**

Gaia is doing very well. She was in the School Musical "Beauty and the Beast" and said that it was a great experience. She made High Honor Roll for the second time at Gates Chili and is excited about all the Senior activities coming up. She is going to the Senior Prom and the Senior Banquet at the end of May. She went on vacation to Florida with her host family and said she had a wonderful time.

Ludovica is also doing great in school and her grades are in the 85 average. She also spent the Spring break with her host family in Florida and had a great time. She is now looking forward to the Senior prom this week-end.

Both girls and their families came to an Italian Musical afternoon and I organized a pasta dinner at the Italian America Community Center. There were 200 students of Italian origin from several area school districts, and Gaia and Ludovica met a lot of teachers and students from other schools. They all had a lot of fun eating and dancing to Italian music. Both Gaia and Ludovica went to the New York City trip and told me that they enjoyed everything, but most of all the Broadway show. Gaia went to the Senior Citizens' luncheon in Pittsford. Ludovica was scheduled to go, but she was sick and could not attend. They are both doing great. They have been involved in many activities in Rochester and said that they had a happy exchange this year. They are going back home on July 1st.

Rosalba asks that we eliminate the numbers we show for students in the summer for Caltanissetta.

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**Bamako: Tonya Thompson**

No report.

**Wurzburg: Bob Wason**

We have 2 German girls we need to place.

**Arequipa: Tom Greiner**

No report.

**Iquitos: Barb Pellicano**

No report.

**Novgorod: Marina Sweany**

The Russian girls are doing well. They both enjoyed the New York trip. Olesya took part in the musical this past weekend. She had a dancing part. She said that it was a great experience. Luba is preparing students in the Russian School for their dance for the graduation party. She hopes they will do well. The girls realized that it is almost time to return home.

Marina is requesting that we list 2 places for IS and AO in the numbers for Novgorod.

**Rennes: Millie Poventud**

No report.

**Krakow: Leah Stormo**

No report.

**New Business**

ATAD has an opportunity to collaborate with MCC regarding the exchange experience of international students.

MCC is opening an Office of Global and International Studies. It is presently hiring a director to head this new department and Peggy is sitting in one of the sub-committees. The objective is to reach out to international students, host families, etc. who may be interested to come back in Rochester to study in the near future. MCC wishes to tap into the knowledge of organizations such as ours. The Board is invited to come for a tour and a presentation of the initiative at MCC.

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## **Board Education Topic – Summer & Fall Planning: Peggy Lull**

There is interest in having another brainstorming session similar to the one we had 2 years ago. Sharon approached her boss who agreed to facilitate the meeting in the afternoon at the Brighton branch of Canandaigua National Bank. Peggy requests ideas for planning purposes.

There is also interest for a catered dinner at the Brighton Lodge at the end of August, which will be used as our first meeting of the 2014-15 fiscal year. Peggy will set up a doodle calendar to get everyone's vacancy towards the end of August.

Alicia announced that she will celebrate her 50<sup>th</sup> birthday on August 23<sup>rd</sup> in Hawaii.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:41 PM on May 6, 2014

Respectfully submitted,  
Elaine Morel, Secretary