

ATAD Board - Minutes of Meeting

November 4, 2014

FINAL

Present: Debbra Allwell, Sharon Garofanello, Sue Isgrigg, Leslie Knox, Peggy Lull, Elaine Morel, George Morgan, Rosalba Pisaturo, Marina Sweany, Tonya Thompson.

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 Board Members approved minutes of the June, September and October 2014 meetings with minor changes.

Treasurer's report: Dean Ekberg

Tuesday morning my travel takes me from Paris to Würzburg for the events commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Rochester-Würzburg Sister City partnership.

There has been very little financial activity in the last month. You will find attached copies of standard Budget vs. Actual and Balance Sheet reports.

Host Families: Karen Grover & Debbra Allwell

Jose Ignacio Lopez from Arequipa, Peru has been placed with the Tribotte family and will attend Fairport High School. All of the paper work has been submitted, Tom Greiner has notified Gachi. Hopefully Jose and his host sister, Alicia, will be connecting soon. I have contacted the family requesting dates when they would like to have the pre-entry orientation.

My teacher contacts at Fairport High School have been extremely helpful in giving me names of students who want to host. According to both program chairmen, there were no more students interested in coming from Arequipa or Iquitos (feast or famine!!!)

Americans Overseas: Peggy Lull

Peggy wanted to introduce Martha to the Board but she was unable to join us tonight. We wish to tap into her marketing expertise to find a way to send Americans overseas. We haven't had students go abroad in the past few years. For ATAD, it is financially beneficial to send students abroad. Sharon mentions that a young girl would like to go to France for 2-3 weeks but the Board said no because the minimum ATAD exchange is a 6-week summer exchange.

State Department: Sue Isgrigg

We are waiting for the signed form from Fairport High School accepting Jose from Peru. When this is received, we will get his DS2019 and FedEx it to Peru.

A new procedure has come from the State Department website. Once a year, the Responsible Officer must verify that she is still the organization's representative and that all Assistant Responsible Officers are still active. Sue mentions that Sharon's signature is also valid in the system. Sharon is Sue's assistant and represents her when she is absent.

Three board members have not taken the online training test this year. I have contacted them by

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e-mail. I will now start telephone reminders. The State Department has sent us a notification that we have until November 15 to complete this.

Sue went to the wedding of the student she hosted back in the 80's. She and her husband were treated like royalty. Sue would like us to create a program with Turkey, in a city other than Izmir.

CSIET: Pedro Gomez-Pupo

Reminder to Program Chairs to continue to gather all documentation in the IS binders under the appropriate categories and to document all communications and visits with host families and IS.

Policies and Procedures Committee: Peggy Lull

No report.

Website development: George Morgan

George updated the calendar on the website. He would like the Board Members to agree on the type of publications to distribute to schools. Some schools say that they can't endorse specific programs e.g. Penfield. We may have a generic password for all ATAD Board members. Rosalba mentioned Rock the City, ISCOR's promotional video. Please vote at ISCOR's Facebook page.

Social Media: Michael Lauria

No report.

Outreach: Alicia Ward

Flyers announcing the application process for the Gary Simon Scholarship have been sent out to various venues such as churches.

Activities: Sharon Garofanello

There are no activities planned until our International Dinner in March. Here are some ideas proposed to get the students together outside of supervised ATAD Activities:

Four years ago, Sue Isgrigg used to take the students during February break to ski and do snow activities at her chalet. She would like to repeat this experience and is looking for the Board's feedback. The Board agreed that this is a wonderful idea and thanked Sue for volunteering to host this activity again.

For President's day, the 3rd weekend of February, George suggests a bowling activity for the students.

Maybe, students would be interested in visiting Maria who is hosted at a working farm in the country. Or if a host family would invite all students for the end-of-year party. Sharon will send an email asking the families to invite other students on an activity.

Les Knox discussed insurance implications if students are participating in non-ATAD activities, in case of emergencies.

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Programs:

Iquitos, Peru: Barb Pellicano and Tonya Thompson

Carita is a quiet girl and tends to stay in her room often. She uses Skype a lot to communicate with family and friends in Peru. Tonya will have a talk with her and suggest strategies to help get involved in school activities.

Novgorod: Marina Sweany

Alexandra is doing well in school. She is thinking of being more involved in afterschool activities. Enjoyed Halloween, went out trick or treating with friends and then to a friend's house to eat candy. Her favorite class is Art. She is doing a big project in Art. During lunch she comes to conversation class in the library for international students with an ESL teacher she enjoys talking to students from other countries.

The relationship with her host mom was tense, but Sasha thinks that it is improving now. She is trying to follow all the rules and talks to her host mom every day. She is getting along really well with her host sister and tries to spend more time with her. She is thinking of starting volunteering. The mother is pleased with the changes that Sasha made after their discussion. ATAD is looking for another family in case the situation gets worse.

Rennes: Millie Poventud

No report.

Krakow: Leah Stormo

No report.

Majorca: Sharon Garofanello

Both kids are doing well. Maria especially. I have heard from the Pittsford Mendon contact regarding Neus but no news from the Kealy's. They recently went to Boston to visit a school with a neighbor family. Everyone had a great trip. Nothing else to report at this time.

Caltanissetta: Rosalba Pisaturo

This year there are no students applicants from Caltanissetta. Rosalba will work on the 50th sister-city anniversary plans.

Bamako: Tonya Thompson

Sue Isgrigg says that Mali had their first Ebola case and she feels that the climate is not appropriate to seek students from this country yet. ATAD members agreed to put the program on hold.

Wurzburg: Bob Wason

I'm in Würzburg and so won't be at the meeting on Tuesday. I've checked in with Liz Hartman and her host parents, and she continues to do well.

Arequipa: Tom Greiner

Jose Ignacio Lopez from Arequipa, Peru has been placed with the Tribotte family and will attend Fairport High School. This is for the second semester (January 2015).

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Old Business

Millie has volunteered for the independent visits to host families done within the first 2 months following the student's arrival. Conducting independent visits this year has been more challenging due to responses from host families. I have conducted most and I am still working on the rest. Hope to complete by the end of next week.

New Business

The report for fund-raising is very important. The fund-raising letter needs to be approved in order to be sent out by Dean when he returns from Germany before the December meeting. I've attached a draft. I'd like to have a discussion of the draft be put on the agenda, and a revised version (if warranted) sent to Dean.

Background check: All the papers that need to go in the binders, Sue will include the background checks for the chair person. Rosalba needs more vouchers to do background checks. She did them again because if they are not printed right away, they are no longer valid. Peggy suggests that we wait until Dean comes back from Würzburg.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:54 PM on November 4, 2014

Respectfully submitted,
Elaine Morel, Secretary