

ATAD Board Meeting Minutes - October 4, 2011

Approved

Present: Debbra Allwell, Vickie Cambalik, Keith Crossley, Dean Ekberg, Sue Isgrigg, Leslie Knox, Elaine Kraus, Peggy Lull, Rosalba Pisaturo, Milagros Poventud, Sally Stapley, Tonya Thompson, Alicia Ward.

Call to order: The meeting was called to order at 7:08PM by Peggy Lull.

Order of business: Peggy Lull

The order of business was review and modified to accommodate those who need to leave early.

Minutes of previous meeting: Sally Stapley

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as presented.

Treasurer's report: Dean Ekberg

Budget vs. Actual and Balance Sheet Reports were submitted to the President and Secretary in advance and were distributed at the meeting for review. I met with Jim Leisner, of EFP Rotenberg, LLP last week to go over final details for our annual financial reporting, IRS and NYS filings. I expect everything will be finished within the next week or so. Board members are reminded to submit all claims for reimbursement promptly and frequently rather than to accumulate receipts for submission later.

Fund Raising: Bob Wason

It's time for the annual fund-raising letter. I'd like to have it for our meeting on Nov. 1. Any suggestions for a theme would be gratefully received. If I don't get any, I'll probably take some things out of the paragraph that Brianna sent me, and focus the first part of the letter on the story of one student. If I do that, I'm also thinking about including one photo, which would be a first. Ideas for more global themes, however, would be great.

Policies and Procedures Committee: Peggy Lull

No report; the committee has not met since the September meeting.

Americans Overseas: Christine Valerio

Vickie Cambalik reported that the publicity committee will meet with Christine to update the packet that goes out to the schools. There was some discussion regarding combining efforts to also recruit host families through school contact.

Host Families: Karen Grover

No report.

Publicity: Vickie Cambalik

The committee decided to design a poster, a flyer, and to modify the ATAD brochure to reflect the current CSIET year of certification. We discovered that our materials may be redundant due to the similarity of materials that Christine is already sending to schools. However, some of hers are not current, so we will schedule a meeting to include her and compare everything before we print up anything to distribute. We are still in the process of updating the contact list for schools, so if anyone would like to check their local school for that information, it would be greatly appreciated!

Website Development: Keith Crossley

NEW ITEMS

1. Calendar

I have loaded the ATAD Web calendar with:

- All ATAD Activities events as published by Sharon
- Recurring Board Meetings
- I've made Peggy, Sharon and Sally Authorized Editors for the calendar.
- The Activities has a few dates TBD etc. Sharon (et al) can update or let me know to do so.
- I put First Baptist as the location for monthly board meetings "except as published". If we can put those exceptions on the calendar it would be best.
- Other events (e.g. Interviews, Orientations) are not loaded yet. I can create a Category for any other types of events (e.g. Activities are yellow, Board is (whatever it is))

2. Backups and Related Items

I do a monthly backup of the whole site (Joomla components) to my machine.

We should formalize awareness of the backup and sharing of key password / access rights.

OLD ITEMS

1. Hosting

- I still have an open question to Network Solutions to the hosting service on renewal of our domain name. Faxed 9/30

2. Hosting Software Change

- The software we use for the site (since 2007) is called "Joomla!". We are using version 1.5 and that is now obsolete.
- No progress

3. ATAD Promotional Video

- For some reason I couldn't get this working before vacation.
- Have experimented with various reformatting options but no joy. Still Open item

4. Site Cleanup

- There are still vestiges of the "old" atad.org on the site.
- I have started cleanup but in the process deleted some image files - primarily AO city pictures.
- COMPLETED

State Department: Sue Isgrigg

We contacted Suzanne Macri at Louise Slaughter's office to get help with a visa for Amadou Tall from Bamako. The office was helpful but they could not get much information. We understand the embassy in Mali would not issue a visa so Amadou is not coming. When Charles returns to France, I will update the SEVIS website.

CSIET: Marian Kobrin

No report.

Outreach: Alicia Ward

No report.

Activities: Sharon Garofanello

We had a record turnout for our Fall Welcome Picnic with 43 attendees. Fun was had by all that attended. The October event which is our City Hall & Dinosaur event will be [October 25@](#) 5:30pm. It is going to be an extra special event as we will be attending the annual ISCOR reception. Students and host families will be announced and they will get to meet the Mayor!

Dinner will be at the Dinosaur following the reception. November 5 is our Bowling and Pizza Event. More information will be sent out to students, family and board as we get closer. This event will be at Clover Lanes.

Programs:

Wurzburg: Bob Wason

Brianna sent me a paragraph on her experiences and photos.

Arequipa: Tom Greiner

Alejandro is settling in. I met with him and his host mom on [Sept 14](#) and chatted with them about school and home. Things are fine there although they're trying to adjust his schedule a bit. I also saw him at the orientation on Sept. 25. He's happy and told me that his comprehension of (rapid) spoken English is already better than when he arrived. He was disappointed that he couldn't play on the school soccer team but is going to play club soccer (indoor) when that starts up.

Iquitos: Barb Pellicano

No report.

Novgorod: Marina Sweany

No report.

Rennes: Millie Poventud/Vickie Cambalik

Charles Izard (16)-international exchange student from Rennes, France arrived at the Rochester International Airport on Friday, August 26, 2011. Charles was greeted at the airport by Vickie Cambalik, co-chair for Rennes and Mindy Safran, designated host family. The Safran family resides in Brockport, New York where Charles was enrolled at Brockport High School.

A few days after Charles' arrival and following an extensive meeting where incompatibility and significant homesickness issues were discussed at the Safran home with Charles, his host family, Peggy Lull-president of ATAD, Vickie Cambalik and Millie Poventud-co-chairs for Rennes, an agreement was reached. In the best interest of Charles, a temporarily placement for him with the back-up host family-Mr. and Mrs. Kerr would be enforced until another suitable potential host family would be identified.

Meanwhile, the program co-chairs-Millie Poventud and Vickie Cambalik -kept close communication with school officials, ATAD's President, and Adelaide Minier-the liaison from France. Communication continued to be extended to Charles' parent -Mr. and Mrs. Izard-through the France liaison-Adelaide. Charles' parents agreed to the new arrangements and expressed resistance to the idea of Charles returning home. In addition, Charles attended ATAD's picnic at Powder Mills Park with the Kerr Family. At the picnic, Charles had the opportunity to meet, connect and spend time with other international students attending the event.

Unfortunately, due to family related issues the Kerr family could not commit to a long term hosting as originally anticipated. Therefore ATAD continued the intense search to identify potential host families for Charles with the assistance of other local groups and organizations. Throughout this time, Charles continued to attend school as scheduled at Brockport High School, but made it very evident that his objective was to return home to France and continued fixated in his objective.

Eventually, Charles was placed with the Dora-Morel family (Elaine) -one of ATAD's board members and former chair for Rennes- until a potential host family could be identified or a decision would be made for his return to France. The Dora-Morel family drove Charles to school every day from their home in Rochester to Brockport and made him an integral part of their daily family life and activities. Even though Charles was feeling more comfortable in the Dora-Morel homestead, he incessantly persevered in his determination to return to France. As part of his

regular expectations as an international student, Charles attended the international student's orientation rendered by ATAD's president Peggy Lull.

Consequently, in the best interest of Charles and to bring a positive resolution to the situation, it was determined that Charles should return home. Immediate proper notification was provided to Adelaide Minier the liaison in Rennes and arrangements for Charles return were made by Mr. and Mrs. Izard, Charles' parents. Millie Poventud contacted Brockport High School officials to inform of student's possible last day and documentation requirements for Charles' withdrawal. The Izards made arrangements for Charles to take a flight back home on October 3, 2011. On Monday, October 3, Elaine and Steve Dora-Morel and Millie Poventud accompanied Charles to the airport for his departure and his return to France. Charles expressed gratitude to both the Dora-Morel family and Millie Poventud for their help during his exchange experience and stated that he was very happy to go back home. In addition, he expressed the same gratitude towards everyone else from ATAD who was part of his experience and who took the time to help, adding that he had learned a lot in the short time he spent in the US. Throughout this entire process, close communication was established and sustained between the local co-chairs for Rennes, other ATAD members, ATAD's president, and the liaison in France. Millie Poventud-chair for Rennes connected with Adelaide Minier-liaison from Rennes for a follow up on Charles after his departure. Ms. Minier reported that Charles is currently enrolled in school and attending regular classes at his neighborhood school as before. Ms. Minier added that the Izards are very grateful to the Dora-Morel family for taking in Charles for his last days in the US.

Krakow:

No report.

Majorca: Sharon Garofanello

Everything has been quite on the home front. Laura and Fede are adjusting well. Fede is playing football (#64) for HFL. Laura is on the swim team. Laura is very quiet but does interact well with her family. She as well as Fede are loving it so far. Families have said lots of wonderful things about their new family members and everyone is doing well.

Caltanissetta: Rosalba Pisaturo

Alex Torchio left on [September 11th](#), started school on [September 15th](#) and he is already well adjusted both in school and with his host family. His host family had some difficulties in getting him the Residency in Caltanissetta until I found out that Alex's father had kept with him the documents that the Italian Consulate had given Alex to bring to Italy. I had Mr. Torchio ship these documents with the fastest delivery of Fed Ex.

Carla is doing well. She had to have emergency surgery on [September 19th](#) for a burst cyst in the ovaries; her appendix had to be removed also. Her host family was simply wonderful, with all their help and support. I kept in close contact with her mom in Italy who was nervous, but had a lot of trust in all of us and understood that Carla was in good hands and she was going to be fine. Carla spent two days at Unity Health Hospital, two days at home to recover and is now back in school doing great.

Isabella has had difficulties monitoring her contacts with her mom and dad in Italy. Her use of the computer and skype became quiet excessive, reaching four hours a day. All that talking in Italian in the house was not acceptable. In school her grades have been very poor and the teachers sent comments about Isabella not asking for help, keeping to herself and not trying to make friends. After many meeting and many hours spent with her and with the O'Heron family, and after having asked her to use the computer only one hour a day, and getting no cooperation from her, it was decided to have her try one week without any use of the computer to see if she could dedicate herself to school and her host family. Isabella refused, and said that she wanted to

go home because she cannot spend a day without talking to her mom. Because of this situation the O'Heron household became stressed and tense. We offered to move Isabella with Sue Isgrigg for one week and with the same restrictions for Isabella on the use of the computer. Isabella refused and insisted to want to go back home. The decision was made to withdraw Isabella from the ATAD exchange. We are waiting for her parents to purchase a return ticket. She should be leaving in the next day or two.

Bamako: Elaine Kraus/Tonya Thompson

We started with two students who had applied to come to the US for a full academic year, a girl named Habibatou Toure and a boy named Amadou Madani Tall. We found host families for both families who were excited about their student coming to live with them. Things went really bad at first for the girl, Habibatou. Her mother died suddenly. With two younger siblings, she assumed a lot of responsibility right away. Therefore, she was no longer free to come. Madani was still expected to come. Unfortunately, he missed his first appointment with the embassy in Mali and therefore his appointment was delayed. After much effort from people on the ATAD board and Lynda Howland who has a relationship with the Bamako liaison and who we should consider recruiting for our board to co-chair Bamako, Madani's appointment was rescheduled for sometime in September. East high school agreed to accept him late. After his appointment, we waited for about two weeks for a decision. In the end, the embassy decided not to grant the visa because Madani had "unsufficient ties to the Malian community." Unfortunately, this all resulted in no students from Bamako this year. The lateness of the submission of the applications by the program chair in Bamako made for a very hectic process for everything regarding the placement of the students. This process must take place in a more timely manner and this should be communicated to Mahamane Toure, the program chair in Bamako.

Old business

President's trip: Peggy Lull reported that she hopes to have the report ready shortly.

New business

Peggy mentioned that Dean has ATAD listed on an in-kind web site and we will be receiving a gift of video cameras. There was some discussion about ways to effectively use the cameras.

Tonya reported she is selling tickets to a fund raiser dinner for another organization. See her if you are interested in purchasing a ticket.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:56PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Sally Stapley, Secretary