

ATAD Board - Minutes of Meeting

October 2013

FINAL

Present: Debbra Allwell, Sharon Garofanello, Pedro Gomez-Pupo, Sue Isgrigg, Leslie Knox, Peggy Lull, Elaine Morel, George Morgan, Rosalba Pisaturo, Millie Poventud, Tonya Thompson.

Call to order: The meeting was called to order at 7:07 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 September 2013 meeting were accepted with few changes.

Treasurer's report: Dean Ekberg

Greetings from Paris on the way from Würzburg to Rennes.

Attached you will find standard Budget vs. Actual reports as well as a copy of our annual Financial Statements prepared by EFP Rotenberg, LLP. Our IRS 990 will be filed electronically, and our NYS CHAR 500 will be ready for signatures and mailing when I return.

Due to a change in fee structure, we have closed our accounts with Bank of America and are now using CNB for our banking services. Reimbursement checks for board expenses will look different than those you may have received in the past, but will continue to be processed promptly and on their way to you almost as soon as I have received your vouchers for reimbursement.

I have received IS fees from most of our students, and expect to be able to collect those upon my return. They may already be in my mail, which is being held. Going forward I think that we have to develop a significantly more efficient system for collecting and depositing these fees. These all should have been taken care of upon arrival or before.

I have made arrangements to meet with Angelique Veillard and her mother Mme. Patricia Viellard on Wednesday to discuss the prospects of reviving our relationship with Rennes. I will also have the opportunity to see Odile Soulard, our former liaison in Rennes during the time she worked with IFA. I will keep you posted and will report at our next meeting.

Host Families: Karen Grover – Debbra Allwell

Debbra asked Elaine to distribute electronically a summary of a new IS application, Camila from Peru.

Americans Overseas: Peggy Lull

Nyheir, Sarah and Chelsea, our 3 summer AOs were invited to tonight's meeting to share their experience overseas.

State Department: Sue Isgrigg

All seven of our international students are "active" on the State Department website. The first week of school a new form was mailed to the high schools that our students attend. This letter contains ATAD and US State Department contact information as required by law. This was one deficiency noted last year in our CSIET audit. September 19 a meeting was held at Sue Isgrigg's

ATAD Board - Minutes of Meeting

October 2013

FINAL

house to help organize the CSIET binders. Papers were distributed and dividers setup to help with the audit.

We received word from the State Department that their people are still working through the government shut-down. Our fees are not related to decision from Congress.

CSIET: Pedro Gomez-Pupo

A meeting was held in September with Program Chairs of the 7 International Students at Sue's house to organize the IS binders. During the meeting additional documentation was provided to program chairs from Sue. Program Chairs had the opportunity to organize the IS binders according to the new organizational system in place to comply with CSIET regulations. Additional packets of cover sheets, table of contents and labeled dividers were provided to Program Chairs. Assistance and guidance was provided on a one to one basis to organize the binders accordingly.

All IS Binders will be collected during next Board Meeting in November. All Program Chairs are expected to double check their documents and IS binders to ensure compliance with CSIET regulations before turning in their binders at the next meeting. If any documents are missing, Program Chairs should contact the appropriate people (Sue, Karen, liaison, etc.).

Renewal for CSIET listing is due in November.

Policies and Procedures Committee: Peggy Lull

No report.

Website development: Keith Crossley and George Morgan

In order to create a dynamic website, George suggests that we included photos and short testimonials of students (over 18) and of host families. Peggy will send an email reminding Chairs to contact former students.

Social Media: Michael Lauria.

No report.

Outreach: Alicia Ward

No report.

Activities: Sharon Garofanello

Rosalba planned our first board meeting of the year which was held at The Italian Community Center. The event was well attended by our board members. We had approximately 13 members in attendance.

This past weekend, we had our post orientation with our students who attended a sleepover at Sue Isgrigg' home. 3 host siblings attended along with their exchange for a total of 10 students. Everyone had lots of fun. The parents had their piece at Sharon's home. Great conversations and ideas were shared and everyone is doing very well making the adjustments with their new families and host students.

ATAD Board - Minutes of Meeting

October 2013

FINAL

Our next activity is October 30, 2013 and will be the City Hall visit with the Mayor and Dinosaur BBQ dinner. We will be attending the ISCOR annual reception. Save the date!

Programs:

Iquitos: Barb Pellicano

We have one student coming from Iquitos for second semester. Her name is Carolina Espiritu. Although Hilton High School does not accept second semester exchange students they may make an exception this year because Carolina and her family hosted Chelsea Whittemore (Hilton student) this past summer. We are still waiting for the final ok.

Novgorod: Marina Sweany

The girls are doing well. Olesay tried different activities, switched from Volleyball team to Cheer Leading. She also changed her Social Studies class for an easier one, since it was too much homework and a lot of pages to read. Luba enjoys her school and loves all her classes. She spends a lot of time with her family, they do many activities together. She went to Boston with her family.

Rennes: Millie Poventud

Millie contacted Angelique Veillard and Patricia Veillard in France per the request of one of the two Board members pending visit to France as part of the ISCOR delegation. E-mail addresses and phone contact information was shared. Both Angelique and Patricia are very excited and are looking forward to the opportunity of meeting with the delegates.

Krakow: Leah Stormo

No report.

Majorca: Sharon Garofanello

Maya is doing very well. She had a hard first day of school and had lunch by herself. Her second day was much better. She is on the cross country team and recently had her first meet this past Saturday. She is really a great kid! She's going to be in her host mother and host father's wedding in October. The wedding is October 19, 2013.

Caltanissetta: Rosalba Pisaturo

Gaia and Ludovica arrived on August 29th, they have had a good beginning of the school year, they like their classes and they are both playing sports, Ludovica is playing soccer and Gaia is playing tennis, Gaia won the first tennis match against Greece Arcadia last week. They are well adjusted with their respective host families and both the Johnson's and the Branciforte's are very pleased with the girls. They both had their 16th birthday last week and their families celebrated with surprise parties. Last week-end they attended the Post-arrival orientation where they met the other exchange students and had a great time. They are both happy and excited about the exchange experience.

We have no update about Michael who was summoned for a court hearing in Italy.

Bamako: Tonya Thompson

No report.

ATAD Board - Minutes of Meeting

October 2013

FINAL

Wurzburg: Bob Wason

No report.

Arequipa: Tom Greiner

As far as the Arequipa report, we have two girls interested in coming second semester. We have identified one interested family so far. Karen Grover has asked me to ascertain answers to a number of questions as well as filling in some holes in the applications. I am working on that with the Peruvian folks and hope to have answers shortly.

Board Education Topic – AO Experience

Chelsea, Sarah, & Nyheir

ATAD invited the 3 summer AOs to the October meeting and give a perspective on their trip. They had a great time and learned much! The board members asked them what was good about the exchange and to give tips and ideas for the next overseas students.

A recurrent theme among the students was what to do when connecting flights result in a layover. Students expressed that there should be a set of instructions to help them sort out issues such as:

- Different currencies
- Hotel and telephone cards when flights are delayed
- Contact names of ATAD representatives overseas and in the US, host parents addresses and phone numbers and other parties that can be of help
- Food and beverage in a carry-on – be prepared for closed stores
- Airport policies on luggage claim and proof
- Dictionary for travelers
- Tips on protecting luggage while going on a bathroom break

Also, they discussed homesickness which came soon after they arrived at their destination. Tips like this helped:

- Email current overseas students
- Be active
- Connect to host family and friends
- Keep a blog or a journal

Sue Isgrigg suggests that they write of their experiences on ATAD's website. All students said that they are more confident for having had to rely on themselves in unknown situations. Nyheir will make a presentation of his trip to Majorca, Spain to the 7th and 8th graders at the Northwest Middle School.

ATAD Board - Minutes of Meeting

October 2013

FINAL

Old Business

On September 26, Elaine attended a *Grant Seeking Basics* workshop at the Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School. It was an excellent presentation! The purpose of the workshop was to provide a methodology on seeking funding for projects and sell an idea for a project to a funder. It was not a writing course. It is not clear yet how ATAD could benefit from this information as our organization may be too broad a project to seek new sources of funding. Elaine and Peggy will meet to discuss.

New business:

Tonya Thompson asked about promoting ATAD in schools. She suggests that we pull packets and figure out ahead of time so we can disperse them; piggyback on the students' presentation to do our own and have applications ready then at the 3 schools. Peggy will talk to Barb Pellicano to see if we can approach the language teachers. Tonya offers to do a presentation to the district. George Moran adds that it is easy for him to take info from website and do a flyer. Peggy wishes that presentations be held in early November rather than December because applications are due in January.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:58 PM on October 1, 2013

Respectfully submitted,
Elaine Morel, Secretary