

ATAD Board - Minutes of Meeting

October 4, 2016

Final

Present: Debbra Allwell, Sharon Garofanello, Iva Doser, Dean Ekberg, Sue Isgrigg, Peggy Lull, George Morgan, Barbara Pellicano, Rosalba Pisaturo, Randy Peacock, Marina Sweany, Alicia Ward, Les Knox, Elaine Morel

Call to order: The meeting was called to order at 7:01 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 September 2016 meeting without changes.

Treasurer's report: Dean Ekberg

Attached please find copies of standard Budget vs Actual and Balance sheet reports. All IS fees have now been received.

Host Families: Elaine Morel, Debbra Allwell, Karen Grover

On September 25, Elaine attended the last part of the orientation for host parents and had a brief conversation with Tina Jubert who said that she was not pleased with the Spanish foreign exchange. Joanne and Elaine brainstormed and came up with a possible plan of action considering that Laura was also unhappy.

On September 26, Joanne and Elaine interviewed the Schild family in Geneseo interested in hosting Laura. The family seems like a good fit and they completed all the paperwork. One daughter, Cassidy, 16 year-old, is living in the house. The daughter and Laura share the same classes at school and have common interests. The family is very excited about hosting. Laura moved in with the Schild family Saturday, October 1st.

Americans Overseas: Peggy Lull

Nothing to report.

If board members are aware of any American students that would like to travel overseas, please have them contact Peggy Lull.

State Department: Sue Isgrigg

All six students are activated on the SEVIS website. Only one board member has not renewed their online training at this time.

CSIET:

Policies and Procedures Committee:

No report.

Website development: George Morgan

No changes on the website.

Social Media:

No report.

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Outreach: Tonya Thompson

No report.

Activities: Barbara Pellicano

On September 24 all our exchange students participated in a Team Building Event at Rock Ventures. It was followed by a fun filled day and sleepover. On September 25, we had our Post Arrival Orientation for exchange students and host families.

On October 5, 2016, our exchange students will attend the annual ISCOR reception at City Hall followed by dinner at Dinosaur BBQ.

Programs:

Bamako: Alicia Ward

No Report for Bamako. Alicia worked along-side Tonya Thompson with outreach at the Rochester Educational Opportunity Center College Fair, held at the Rochester Convention Center on 9/20/2016.

Caltanissetta: Rosalba Pisaturo

Elena is doing very well. She enjoyed a lot participating with her host sister in the Homecoming activities at Brighton H.S. and she does a lot of posting on Facebook. She likes school and has adjusted well.

I met with the Green's on Sept. 18th and they shared that they are all very happy with Elena. We also talked about gathering the travel information for their trip to Ireland in November, so that we can get the written permission from Elena's natural parents in the near future.

Elena attended the IS Orientation week-end at the cottage of Sue Isgrigg on Oct. 22nd and this past week-end she traveled with her host family to Lake Placid and Lake George.

On Oct. 5th she will attend the ISCOR Reception at City Hall where she will be welcomed by Mayor Lovely Warren along with our other International Students.

Rennes: Elaine Morel

Damien is enjoying school and has done fine on tests and quizzes in math and physics. He also enjoyed himself at the orientation weekend.

The family is concerned that he hasn't gotten involved in much and thus has a lot of free time after school. However, that is just starting to change. He joined the Robotics team, which had its first meeting last week of September. This is an organization that does require a decent commitment and should be a good way to make friends. He also went to the community service club yesterday and signed up for an activity (a Zombie run) that he is looking forward to. It probably helps that Julie, who is a French foreign exchange student through Rotary, is also in that club as is Phoebe, the host's daughter.

The family is hoping to get apple picking October 1st weekend. They're also visiting some friends. The kids and Deborah celebrate Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. They invited Damien to attend services with them but also let him know he is welcome to decline. Michael will try to take the kids on some kind of day trip for the 4-day weekend, which is the weekend after this one.

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Majorca: Joanne Funk

Sharon and Joanne went out to meet Laura and Tina to complete the post orientation visit. They had dinner with Laura to catch up and spoke with Tina.

Between the two and based on conversations, they have made a decision to move Laura.

We were fortunate to find a family quickly and Elaine and Joanne facilitated the interview of the family. Laura has been placed with her new family. It has been only a short time but all seems to be going well.

Wurzburg: Bob Wason

No report as there is no student from Germany.

Iquitos: Barb Pellicano

Nothing to report.

Arequipa: Tom Greiner

AO Zahra is coming home from Arequipa, returning next Wednesday 10/12/2016.

Novgorod: Marina Sweany/Debra Allwell

Debra - Milana is doing very well and her host mom says she is delightful. She enjoyed orientation last week and has started to get used to a routine at home and at school. She was having some health issues and low energy but that seems to be turning around. She is attending school now on a regular basis and doing her homework. She even made a birthday cake for her Aunt, the first one ever!

Marina -

Dasha is doing well in school. She enjoys her film class and thinks it is really challenging to do public speaking in English, but she loves it. In her Art class she is working on a big project that she loves. She was sick recently and can't understand why students return to school if they are not fully recovered. Her family is really happy with her. They do something together every weekend.

Krakow: Randy Peacock

I met with Mateusz on Saturday September 17. Deborah Allen joined us for part of the meeting and I visited with Mateusz alone for a period of time.

Mateusz reported to me that he has settled in well with the Allen family. He seemed to feel very comfortable in the house and reported that he was very busy with schoolwork. He also looked to be healthy. He continues to participate in the high school play production of the Adams Family. He is not participating in any sports at the present time.

Most of my communications have been with Deb Allen via email. Mateusz does not have a cell phone so I can only contact him via email or the Allen family house phone. Mateusz has not been good at answering my emails. I have asked Deb Allen for her help in encouraging him to send me a response, even if it is a short one.

During my visit we completed the two week visit checklist. I reminded Mateusz of the overnight at the Isgrigg's condo and also reminded him of the importance of carrying his ATAD identification with him. I explained the importance of taking his DS2019 form with him for the

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weekend overnight for a signature by Sue Isgrigg and then bringing it with him if he traveled into Canada.

While visiting with Mateusz I obtained a copy of his passport and of his school schedule. (I have not been able to locate the schedule sheet so I have asked his high school counselor for a copy of it.)

Old business:

Result of the three College Fairs

Greece Ridge Mall - Alicia made contact with a few people - some for host families and some were interested in studying abroad.

Sue Isgrigg and Rosalba attended the fair at Marketplace Mall. Two families were mildly interested in hosting a student and they gave the contact information to Elaine. Very good and productive event and will recommend to participate in the future.

Rosalba proposed to have allocated budget for marketing and advertising. George proposed that advertising through social media is a better and much more affordable option that can measure results as well.

Report of the overnight event at Sue Isgrigg's house

Students had a good time. It is a nice group of students that are willing to spend time together and connected with each other really well.

New business:

Communication from Olga from Krakow – has to be forwarded to Michael Leach

Reminders:

- Program chairs please call, e-mail, meet with your students and keep working on your binders. No form is required for independent visits.
- Gary Simon Scholarship request – deadline 12/31/2016
- Reach out to schools, spread posters in October and November
- Open positions – AO's CSET, Policies and procedures, French Program Chair and always looking for new board members.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:24 PM on October 4, 2016.

Respectfully submitted,

Iva Doser