

ATAD Board - Minutes of Meeting

September 8, 2014

FINAL

Present: Debbra Allwell, Dean Ekberg, Pedro Gomez-Pupo, Tom Greiner, Sharon Garofanello, Karen Grover, Sue Isgrigg, Leslie Knox, Peggy Lull, Elaine Morel, Millie Poventud, Marina Sweany, Tonya Thompson, Alicia Ward, Bob Wason.

Call to order: The meeting was called to order at 6:54 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 June 2014 meeting will be sent with the current draft minutes to be approved by the Board Members at the October meeting.

Treasurer's report: Dean Ekberg

Attached are standard Budget vs. Actual and Balance Sheet reports.

Our annual financial review has been completed by EFP Rotenberg, LLP and both our Federal 990 form and NYS CHAR500 form have been filed. You will also find attached a copy of the Financial Statements for our 2013-14 fiscal year.

2 International Students made use of our PayPal account to take care of their IS fees, 2 others used wire transfer, and one brought cash. All are paid in full. Everyone is also insured.

Host Families: Karen Grover & Debbra Allwell

I have distributed to the Board Members the roster of international students and their host families.

I have received 2 responses for evaluation and phone calls from the parents of past year students. In general, the parents were satisfied with our program.

I have sent José's short blurb to the Fairport, Pittsford schools and the McQuaid High School. Tom Greiner received a call from McQuaid saying that they wanted to give first choice of placement to ATAD. Tom has a family interested in having an exchange student. He will continue to keep contact with the person in Administration at McQuaid High School.

If you are a Program Chair of a current student, please insert the checklist that Karen gave you, in the folder containing the student's info.

Americans Overseas: Peggy Lull

Sharon and I met this summer with Maya's former host parent. She is possibly interested in joining the Board. Peggy thinks she is a real asset considering that she has marketing expertise which could help ATAD become more prominent in the community.

State Department: Sue Isgrigg

This summer three required reports were filed electronically with the State Department. They are: Change of Placement Report, Annual Report, and Placement for 2014-2015 Report. Six DS2019s were issued for students. Five students arrived. One student from Russia withdrew. The FedEx costs were greatly reduced by sending documents through the FedEx account of

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Nixon Peabody. Nixon Peabody has been reimbursed for these costs. This practice will be evaluated and future decisions about mailings are pending.

We need to keep up-to-date with our training. Everyone is on a different schedule and it is important to follow the rules that the Government requires of people in contact with youth.

CSIET: Pedro Gomez-Pupo

For those who were absent at the June meeting, ATAD is no longer required to provide an audit of its program. We have decided to continue as we did before but re-negotiate the deadline for a different price. Chairs, keep the binders up-to-date, it will be business as usual. They will be included with our annual report. Next March, we are renewing our designation as a non-profit exchange student program.

Policies and Procedures Committee: Peggy Lull

No report.

Website development: George Morgan

No report. Barb has asked to access forms from the website.

Social Media: Michael Lauria

No report.

Outreach: Alicia Ward

There is one prospective American Overseas applicant, a Gary Simon Memorial Scholarship candidate. There is also a City of Rochester family residing in the Corn Hill Area interested in serving as a host family - Michael and Vanessa Singer.

Activities: Sharon Garofanello

Attached is the 2014-2015 Activities Agenda which I have already sent out to the board. I will bring copies this evening for the attendees as well. Our first event will be the mandatory post arrival orientation which is scheduled for Saturday, October 4th & Sunday, October 5th, 2014. The Meet/Greet sleepover & orientation for the parents and the students is at Sue Issgrig's summer cottage, located at Bristol Harbor, from 10:30am Saturday to 4:00pm Sunday.

Our next event is the Annual ISCOR Reception on October 8. This is a mandatory event which includes a visit with the Mayor at the City Hall. There will be an optional dinner at the Dinosaur Barbecue afterwards. Each family pays their own. ISCOR annual reception will be from 5:30-7PM. The mayor is scheduled to be there, as will some other dignitaries. There may be a delegation from one of our sister cities, too. Our group will be recognized in the course of the program.

The mayor will visit Wurzburg in November. Let Dean know this week if you are interested to visit with the delegation.

We would like to start planning early for the New York trip in April. Last year, we ran over budget. For example, if we could have a number of students locked in, we could travel at a lower cost and with a better budget.

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Programs:

Rennes: Millie Poventud

No report.

Krakow: Leah Stormo

No report.

Majorca: Sharon Garofanello

Maria and Neus travelled together from Majorca this year. Both great girls. Neus is attending Mendon HS and residing with the Kealey Family. Maria is attending York Central and residing with the Morgan Family. They are doing well. Both arrived on the 25th of August. Neus is pursuing the cross country track team and Maria is deciding what activities she would like to join. She recently went horseback riding on the land where she lives as the family has horses. Maria has met quite a few new friends already.

Caltanissetta: Rosalba Pisaturo

No report.

Bamako: Tonya Thompson

No report.

Wurzburg: Bob Wason

Liz Hartman arrived safely. Bob is still looking for a paediatrician for her.

Arequipa: Tom Greiner

We are hoping to get a student named Jose Ignacio López. We are looking at three schools and trying to get a family. This is for the second semester (January 2015).

Iquitos, Peru: Barb Pellicano and Sharon Garofanello

Carito arrived from Peru on the 25th of August. Dean was gracious to meet her at the airport and catch up with her host family, the Whittemore's, where she will stay this year. She will be attending Hilton High School. She has already done quite a few things to date. She has canoed on the pond near her host family's home as well as visited a few places. The Whittemore's and Carito are all doing really well.

One of the students was not sure whether she had immunizations. This incident created much drama in the family and alarmed the Program Chair. All is now well. It is interesting to note that parents gravitate to the interesting part of the application, such as the Letter to the Host Family, rather than read the medical records.

Sue Isgrigg mentioned that the student's name is Alexandra Spiritu but she prefers to use the name Carito.

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Novgorod: Marina Sweany

Russia is letting us know that they are interested in having a full-time American Overseas student who is willing to learn to speak Russian.

Alexandra who came earlier in August, loves her time in Rochester. She has connected very well with her host family. They are keeping her very active. She is learning to wake up early for school.

Old Business

Millie is volunteering for the independent visits to host families, done within the first 2 months following the student's arrival.

New Business

Some schools have an internal policy not to accept students in the second semester, perhaps due to the New York State testing requirements. There are fewer problems placing full-time students or first semester students. However, we hope to have an opportunity to place the boy from Peru.

Immunizations should match the New York State requirement. The nurse at the school should let the family know whether the student's file is in order. Millie will check whether the ATAD form specifies which immunizations are required and pass it to Marina.

Peggy says that the Program Chairs should be doing the one-week post arrival visit to Host families and their student now.

The ISCOR Board received a discounted rate for their background check. Dean thinks it is a good deal and we might consider using the same company. At present, ATAD has a group rate, and 6 checks remain to be used. This amount takes care of our needs for the year.

Karen is away from September 19 to October 13 – Debbie Allwell will take on her responsibilities during her absence. Sue Isgrigg is away from September 17 to 27.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM on September 8, 2014

Respectfully submitted,
Elaine Morel, Secretary