

ATAD Board - Minutes of Meeting

September 13, 2016

Final

Present: Debbra Allwell, Sharon Garofanello, Iva Doser, Dean Ekberg, Sue Isgrigg, Peggy Lull, George Morgan, Barbara Pellicano, Rosalba Pisaturo, Bob Wason, Joanne Funk, Randy Peacock, Tonya Thompson, Marina Sweany

Call to order: The meeting was called to order at 7:02 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 June 2016 meeting without changes.

Treasurer's report: Dean Ekberg

Attached are standard Budget vs Actual and Balance Sheet reports.

Annual financial review by EFPRGroup has been completed. Financial Statements will be available next week. IRS 990 and NYS CHAR500 filings will be completed in the next few days. I will email PDFs of the Financial Statements to the board when I receive the final copy.

All IS fees have been received with the following exceptions: (Rosalba and Joanne, please advise)

- Dell'Utri, Elena
- Navarro Gomez, Laura

Host Families: Karen Grover, Debbra Allwell & Elaine Morel

We placed 6 international students for the 2016-17 school year. The school districts are: Geneseo, Brighton, Pittsford, School of the Arts in Rochester and Penfield. The host families attended a pre-orientation at the Ruth Brahman room at the Penfield Library on August 24th except Ms. Fredrick (host to Milana from Russia) who was unable to attend due to a previous engagement. Elaine Morel met with her two days later for the pre-orientation. Most students arrived late in August and early September and were met by their host parents at the airport. Host parents scheduled classes for their students, and prepared them for school. Some parents enjoyed showing them the local sights during the Labor Day weekend.

Daria Zhogina from Russia changed from her first host family on August 26th to live with her second host family, Sarah and Michael Shaw of Penfield. The Shaw's have a 5-year old who has already bonded with his host sister, Dasha.

The Host Family roster for 2016-17 was distributed to all board members on August 26, and to the families at pre-orientation. However, due to the change of host family for Daria, another copy will be given at ATAD's first meeting in September. Please let me know if there are other changes to be made to the list. We have great families this year – Cheers to all!!

Americans Overseas: Peggy Lull

I have received an inquiry from a potential AO who is interested in a gap-year experience in Caltanissetta. She is currently working her application and we have agreed to stay in touch while she completes the process.

ATAD Board - Minutes of Meeting

September 13, 2016

Final

State Department: Sue Isgrigg

Over the summer, three more students were registered for a total of six students this fall. Three required reports were submitted to State on time. These are the annual report, the change of placement report and the fall summary of international students. Board members have been renewing their annual training on the new Gyrus website. Sue Isgrigg sends reminder e-mails for people who are overdue. New board member, Randall Peacock, has completed this training.

CSIET:

Policies and Procedures Committee:

No report.

Website development: George Morgan

The website is up to date, brochures and posters available for distribution to schools.

Social Media:

No report.

Outreach: Tonya Thompson

RSCC College Fair, September 20, new strategies planned for this year

Activities: Barbara Pellicano

Barb has sent list with all the activities planned for the year 2016-2017. The mandatory post arrival orientation is scheduled for September 24 and 25. Only two students have responded that will participate at Rock Ventures. By Friday 09/09/2016 we need to reply with number of attendees. Programs chairs need to reach to host families with reminder for the mandatory meeting and the attendees count for the activity.

Programs:

Caltanissetta: Rosalba Pisaturo

Elena Dell'Utri arrived on Monday, August 22nd and was warmly welcomed at the airport by the Green family and myself. She started school at Brighton High School and is adjusting very well both at home and at school. Her English is very good and she should not have any problems with her classes. I sent the letter of introduction to her Guidance Counselor and I will follow up in a month. I paid a visit to the Green's on August 31st and I was impressed on how well they all have bonded in the household. The Greens are traveling to Ireland during Thanksgiving break to visit their son and they will take Elena with them. The natural parents have given their permission and later they will fill out the necessary forms.

Rennes: Ellaine Morel

Millie Poventud resigned from the Board in June 2016 due to personal reasons. I stepped in as Chair for France and am now representing Damien LE VASSEUR for the 2016-17 school year. Damien's host parents are Deborah Uman and Michael Sander. They have 3 children: Phoebe (15) Clara (13) and Jonah (5). Damien's family in France and his U.S. host family corresponded during the summer so Damien made an easy transition to his new home in Pittsford.

ATAD Board - Minutes of Meeting

September 13, 2016

Final

Damien paid his insurance fees in full. The funds are now in the hands of the ATAD Treasurer. Damien is settling in nicely with the family. On Thursday, September 8th, I met him at the Pittsford Dairy and had a one week post-arrival check-in meeting. He told me that all is well; he is registered for his courses at school, and he met the Counselor and some teachers.

I've introduced myself by email to Damien's father and to our Liaison, Mrs. Patricia Veillard in France. I will meet the Pittsford school counselor in the near future. We all look forward to this year!!

Majorca: Joanne Funk

Since Laura's arrival on the 31st, I've been in communication quite a bit with host mom, Laura and Alfonso. A couple issues have arrived, but they are being dealt with.

1. There is a school trip to Peru being offered during Thanksgiving break. Laura was insistent on going, the family felt very differently. They thought she should be there for Thanksgiving to see this great celebration.

2. There was a large amount of money spent on Laura's credit card to buy a purse. The host family felt a little uncomfortable with this so I wanted to check with the biological family to make sure it was okay.

3. Laura has a tendency to second-guess the host mother and not want to accept no for an answer. I have been in contact with Alfonso about these concerns and the host Mom Tina has also been in contact with the biological mom.

Next week I have dinner plans with Laura to recap her first couple weeks here. She is participating in Cross Country and there have been a few changes to her schedule.

Laura's host sister Alexis expressed an interest of being an AO next summer in Mallorca.

Wurzburg: Bob Wason

No report as there is no student from Germany

Iquitos: Barb Pellicano

AO Elijah Goldberg was placed and had a great time in Peru.

Arequipa: Tom Greiner

No report.

Novgorod: Marina Sweany/Debra Allwell

Debra - I am acting as the temporary Program Chair for her as Milana is Marina's niece.

Milana arrived August 22, 2016 and was met at the airport by her host mom Kristine Fredrick and Marina Sweany.

I met with Kristine and Milana on August 31st and Milana was still getting acclimated to her new home. All is going well, she is registered for her classes at SOTA, and has made some friends. She did miss school on Thursday however as she had some pain and side effects from the vaccines she received.

Kristine is getting her out to social events, yoga, dancing, Global Connections Picnic on Sept. 11th.

Marina - Daria started school. She is very excited about her subjects and the choices of clubs that Penfield High school offers. She already visited many places in Rochester, went camping with a family and went to a State Fair. She thinks all the teachers are wonderful, and her counselor is very

ATAD Board - Minutes of Meeting

September 13, 2016

Final

helpful. She made some friends in school. She likes that international students have lunch at the same time.

Krakow: Randy Peacock

Mateusz arrived in Rochester late in the evening on Friday, August 26th. My wife and I met the Allen family at the airport and had a great conversation with them during the 30 minutes or so that Mateusz's flight was delayed. We shared with them a great deal about our experience hosting last year.

Mateusz looked tired and a bit frazzled as he exited the airport gates. He was greeted by the Allen's with a welcome sign and we all made our introductions. I gave him my contact information and left them waiting for the luggage.

The day before Mateusz arrived here in Rochester I had the pleasure of meeting my counterpart in Krakow, Olga Druszkiewicz. We enjoyed lunch together with Sharon and several other board members. It was pleasant to get to know Olga after much emailing between us. (She visits Rochester often as she has a son who lives here.)

I have tried on several occasions to contact Mateusz's guidance counselor at Geneseo High School but have been unsuccessful. I have left messages with contact information but she has not returned my calls. I will make a new effort at this.

I am planning to meet with Mateusz and the Allen's this coming weekend. I have been in contact with Deb Allen via email on several occasions. She has reported that Mateusz has settled in well with their family and had begun attending school at Geneseo High School. Deb reported that Mateusz (they call him Matt) has auditioned for and will be performing in the The Addams Family at the high school this fall.

The Allen's had planned to take Mateusz to the Jersey Shore after his arrival but canceled those plans due to the hurricane the weekend before last. In lieu of that trip they took him on several local day trips including Fair Haven State Park, Watkins Glen State Park, a place called Panama Rocks, and the Corning Museum of Glass.

Deb Allen had been communicating with Elaine Morel with regard to a concern that arose earlier about Mateusz's orthodontic care. I believe that Deb now understands that she should be communicating with me. (I do recall from my experience last year with our student that you often do not know who to speak to within the ATAD organization as you deal with different groups of people throughout the application and vetting process.) The Allen's has asked if the ATAD student insurance policy covered orthodontics (it does not). They have since made arrangements with Mateusz's parents to cover the cost of any orthodontist visits and they are making arrangements with their orthodontist to set up visits.

Bamako: Alicia Ward

No report.

New Business:

College Fairs are taking place at Marketplace Mall on Wednesday, September 21 and Greece Ridge Mall on September 22 at 6:30pm. Rosalba will help out Sue Isgrigg on Wednesday and Tonya will attend the fair in Greece.

Reminders for Program Chairs:

- Start your log and have your binders in place

ATAD Board - Minutes of Meeting

September 13, 2016

Final

- Complete your 2 weeks check in with the students and have pictures of their home and rooms
- Obtain a copy of student schedule and their insurance card, copy of their passport, ticket and itinerary

Independent visits need to take place in the next two months. One parent has to be present along with the student. Remember to complete the form and the check list during those visits.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:42 PM on September 13, 2016.

Respectfully submitted,

Iva Doser