

ATAD Board - Minutes of Meeting

April 7th, 2020

Final

Present: Sharon Garofanello, Iva Doser, Guillaume Yoboue, Les Knox, George Morgan, Peggy Lull, Randy Peacock, Rosalba Pisaturo, Dean Ekberg, Debra Allwell, Mary Jane Starks, Barb Pellicano, Sue Isgrigg, Alicia Ward, Tonya Thompson

Call to order: The meeting was called to order via Zoom at 7:04 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 the minutes from February 2020 without change.

Treasurer's report: Dean Ekberg

Attached are standard Balance Sheet and Budget vs. Actual Reports. In addition is a report I prepared in response to the suggestion Les made about a discussion on ATAD's assets. I'll probably need about ten minutes on the agenda to put things in context and answer any questions that might come up. I think it might be helpful for people to have that report in front of them during the meeting. Let me know if you'd like me to send a PDF to everyone, or if it would be just as easy to share it on the screen at the time, we're discussing it.

Host Families: Sue Isgrigg

At this time we have stopped working on finding host families for September. It is possible that we will not have students for next school year. Sue will deliver Thank You gifts to host families when it is safe to do this in person. Do we need to notify school districts that our students have returned home?

Americans Overseas: Peggy Lull

Nothing to report.

State Department: Debby Allwell

I participated in the call on March 27th with the Department of State regarding the impact of the Covid -19 for all exchange visitor program sponsors. Not a whole lot of new information but I was surprised regarding the high school students that many programs had questions about the return or shelter in place for the students. The recommendation was that the host family, the biological parents as well as the organization should weigh all the factors before sending the students home. It was also recommended that consideration be taken into account regarding the cities that the students would be flying through and the safety that went with it.

It was also brought up that if they did not want to return for other reasons, such as requesting asylum, they needed to fill out a form at www.uscis.gov/i539.

Routine visas procured by the exchange students have currently been canceled. If the student paid the fee already no refunds are being given. There is a one year extension on all payments however made for the visas so when they go in to apply again there will be no fee.

To date:

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- We have cancelled our program for the 2019-2020 academic year
- ATAD completed the recommendation of entering “shorten program” in the Sevis website.
- We have sent all five of our children home
- As of Sunday March 29, 2020 all five of our students have returned to their home countries
- All five were from Europe and could take commercial flights home
- None of them or their host families tested positive or had been quarantined for the Covid-19

CSIET:

All fees are paid for another year.

Policies and Procedures Committee: Peggy Lull

Nothing to report.

Website development: George Morgan

No report.

Social Media: Mary Jane Stark

Nothing new to report.

Outreach: Tonya Thompson

No report.

Activities: Barbara Pellicano

No report.

Programs:

Bamako: Alicia Ward

No report.

Wurzburg: Randy Peacock

Nothing to report.

Arequipa: Barb Pellicano

No report.

Iquitos, Peru: Barb Pellicano

Nothing to report.

Novgorod: Marina Sweany

No report.

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Rennes: Guillaume Yobo **February 2020 Report:**

Saturday 2/29/20 Conference Call 8:00 pm

Florian came back from Orlando and Miami, FL on Wednesday 2/26. He also visited the Florida Keys: Girardo, Key West, Universal Studios. It was nice for him to meet his natural family, visiting from France.

Went to Everglades, saw alligators close, iguanas, turtles and lizards.

Florian is now back to homework. Still doing Robotics and piano. Nordic cross-country will end with a banquet on Sunday 3/1 from 5:00 to 8:00 pm, following ATAD's International Dinner scheduled for 3:00 to 5:00 pm.

Overall, everything is good at home. Florian will do Spring track and field, starting on 3/9. Will probably do 100 meters. Not really crazy about long distance. Will be in Robotics competition on 3/12 thru 3/14 at RIT.

Host Mother Carol is happy with Florian. Carol plans to take Florian to Washington DC for Spring Recess in April. Carol would like to take the two Russian ATAD students as well on the trip. Would like to know if that's allowed by ATAD. Carol will go see her daughter in Arizona on 3/12 thru 3/18. Florian will stay at the house with her boyfriend Carl and daughter Paige at the house.

March 2020 Report:

Conference Call Saturday 3/21/20, 4:00 pm

All county schools are closed due to COVID-19. Florian cannot do much because everyone has to stay home. He has been playing a lot of video games at home. Today, Florian went to run around the block in order to get ready for track and field if and when school reopens. He has also been playing the piano at home. Cannot do much. He has been talking to his family in France on a regular basis to give them and obtain an update with regard to the Coronavirus.

Florian is a little sad that ATAD student Mikki and two students from Italy are abruptly returning home. But he understands, given the uncertainties surrounding the pandemic.

Host Mother Carol had to cancel the Spring Recess trip to Washington DC because of the pandemic. Her daughter Cory is returning home from Phoenix, AZ where she is an AmeriCorps official.

I informed them that we will talk on the phone now and on a regular basis because of the Coronavirus, for safety reasons. Everyone understands: Better safe than sorry!

Krakow:

Nothing to report.

Majorca: Barbara Pellicano (interim)

Miquel Amengual Verdera returned to Mallorca on March 22, 2020.

Caltanissetta: Rosalba Pisaturo

As schools closed on March 16th due to COVID-19, Marina's parents requested that she needs to go back home and purchased her a return ticket. Marina left on Saturday March 21st and had safe trip from

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Rochester to Palermo. I have e-mailed her to remind her to continue to do any work online because there is a possibility that she might still get credit for the academic year. I have also contacted her Guidance counselor and I am waiting to hear of the school will give Marin any credit. We have received files of two female IS for next year but at the present time everything is on hold.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 PM April 7th, 2020.

Respectfully submitted,

Iva Doser