

ATAD Board - Minutes of Meeting

March 5, 2022

Present: Sharon Garofanello, Guillaume Yoboue, Suzanne Isgrigg, Barbara Pellicano, Marina Sweany, George Morgan, Deb Allwell, Peggy Lull, Mary Jane Stark, Alicia Ward, Les Knox.

George recorded the Zoom meeting and is taking minutes.

Call to order: The meeting was called to order via Zoom at 7:09 PM by President Sharon Garofanello. Sharon mentioned that she forgot to add Jodi to the invitation list.

Treasurer's report and the minutes from our February 1, 2022 meeting are approved, with the one adjustment of adding George's help with the upcoming rock climbing/pizza event for students.

Treasurer's report: Mary Jane submitted the financial report for review.

Budget: There was no budget officially for this year. Most fees are program fees. We are about even for the year so far. Sharon commented that we are not getting American students to go abroad and that is a problem financially for the future. Maybe Jodi can help get the word out about our local, terrific, affordable programs. We need to encourage American students to go abroad or we will run out of money eventually. MJ also commented that it would be good to have a second person to look over the finances to co-chair ATAD's Treasurer position. Sharon thanked MJ for bringing that up.

Host Families: Sue Isgrigg

Great news on finding families for 1 girl from Italy and 2 girls from Spain. The Allen family asked to host Lara from Spain. The school has accepted her. They (the Allens). are getting host references together now. Sharon found us a host family from Irondequoit. Sue reached out to Eastridge HS. Carla from Italy is the likely student placement. Currently working on paperwork. Now we are working on finding a home for the other Laura this weekend in Webster at the event.

One concern is the potential amount of time it may take from student to go to the US Embassy and get visas to the US, since there is a crush of Ukrainian applications.

We should have a party for our students. Sue booked the Spiegel Center in Pittsford for the event. George can run and get pizza. Students and host siblings will attend. I want ATAD to pay for all of this. We are talking about \$10 per kid plus pizza and soda. Sue asked twice if anyone knew of other exchange students to invite. Marina may know of a few prospective students to invite. Transportation might be an issue. Marina will investigate one Swedish student.

Marina asked if the State Department might still accept Russian students. Deb has not heard anything yet. Sue suspects that families might be wary of accepting Russian students this year.

Sue suggests that we make all our paperwork to be able to be filled in electronically. Sue also asked about whether we still need to file all forms as paper documents. Sharon replied that all other programs are doing filing electronically.

Sue then asked about adults being able to be alone in a room with a student. Peggy responded that the meeting has to happen in a public space, or on a porch or with a door open. There was discussion about a family that was of particular concern.

CSET:

Nothing to report.

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State Department:

Deb asked Sue if she had received Deb Allen's host background check request. Sue said that all three family members have cleared their reports.

Deb sent out the test for the State Department to all of us. We all need to complete it by April 30th. All test materials, the answers and info are supplied in today's email. We just need to report back to Deb with our score.

Website Update: George Morgan

George billed MJ for the year in service fees. Otherwise, it has been a light month of traffic.

Guillaume

Sarah is well. The family will drive to Washington D.C. and South Carolina for Spring break the weekend of April 16. Sarah is doing well in school, getting straight A's. The Cardella family is trying to introduce Sarah to neighbors' daughter who is in 10th Grade at Brighton High School. Sarah is attending Dance classes on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Sarah got a cell phone and uses WhatsApp to contact her parents and friends in Australia.

Overall, Sarah likes her school. Her favorite classes are Psychology and Photography. She also likes her Dance classes and made a couple of friends. She is really excited for the upcoming trip to DC and SC. With her cell phone, Sarah talks to and texts friends and family members in Australia almost daily.

Sharon suggested that maybe Sarah could involve herself in more clubs and activities in Brighton to "ground herself" locally.

Alicia asked if the Australia exchange will be a one-shot exchange, or an ongoing thing. Sue responded that maybe the family would be good prospects as reps in Australia but that it is a little early to ask.

Rosalba – no report

Barbara Pellicano - Spain

Manu continues to do well. The family is going to the Outer Banks, NC for spring break. The family just got back from California. He enjoys watching sports on the couch with his host Dad. He is doing well in school.

Other Business

Sue mentioned that we need more volunteers for this Saturday's event in Webster to promote ATAD and find host families.

Les Knox reminded us that we need to vote on ATAD paying for the event fees for the kids to go rock climbing and have pizza on May 1st. George seconded and all approved the expense.