

ATAD Board - Minutes of Meeting

April 4 , 2023

FINAL

Present: Sharon Garofanello, Iva Doser, George Morgan, Suzanne Isgrigg, Deb Alwell, Jody Lehr Waite, MJ Stark, Les Knox, Marina Sweany, Guillaume Yoboue.

Call to order: The meeting was called to order via Zoom at 7:02 pm by President Sharon Garofanello. The minutes from March 2023 meetings were approved.

New business:

Nominations for the Rosalba Pisaturo Outstanding Service Award are due to Sue Isgrigg by April 27. Voting will take place by email the week of April 28-May 4. The award will be presented at the ATAD Annual Meeting in June. We will invite Rosalba's daughters to make the presentation of the award.

Treasurer's report:

\$65 fee was brought in from AO student.

Intellicorp charges of \$43.20

Host Families: Sue Isgrigg

So far we have school acceptances from Webster Schroeder for Theresa and Mendon High for Lucia. A host family has requested Axel and we need to discuss this as a board. Earlier this year the board agreed to accept Axel's application but to place him if we could find homes for the students from our partners. Asked for Board approval to place Axel.... approved.

Finding host families is a struggle but we are making progress.

A family from France reached out to us and wished to send their daughter to Brighton High School for the fall semester. They have family friends that have agreed to host. Her application was accepted and sent to Brighton. We do not have an active liaison in France so we took this girl without the usual interview.

We are signed up to have a table at the Webster PTSA day at Schroeder High on Saturday, April 15. This is a chance to meet families and ask them to host. Since it is 10:00 to 4:00, I thought we could break it in half and have two people at 10:00 and two people at 1:00. Jody, Sue, MJ and George as back up have volunteered. We also have Bennet family that will be there to support us. Please reach out if you'd like to attend/help.

Nazareth College Fair occurs yearly in March – looking into this for next year

CSET:

Nothing to report.

State Department:

New initiatives from the BridgeUSA Secondary School Student Program:

--The U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Department of Education have come together to promote the BridgeUSA Secondary School Student Program. Both the Secretary of State, Antony Blinken, and Secretary of Education, Miguel Cardona, have co-signed a letter, which is

ATAD Board - Minutes of Meeting

April 4 , 2023

FINAL

attached, promoting our programs. This letter will be shared with all U.S. secondary school superintendents across the country.

--Additionally, the Office of Private Sector Exchange Designation has updated and posted the 2023 advisory letters for the secondary school category. They include the Secondary Student School Admin Appreciation Letter, the Secondary Student Host Family Appreciation Letter and the Secondary School Student Letter. ATAD sends out these letters to the School Admin early in the exchange students school year.

--The U.S. Department of State has also announced that designated sponsors for the Exchange Visitor Program (EVP) can now digitally sign and electronically transmit the *Certificate of Eligibility for Exchange Visitor Status (J-Nonimmigrant)* (Form DS-2019), effective April 27, 2023. The new regulation will reduce costs, improve efficiencies for exchange program sponsors, and streamline Department of State exchange visitor visa processing. Prior we had to print out and send via USPS to the student, at a significant cost to ATAD

-

The Association for Teen-Age Diplomats, Inc.'s current designation expires on 8/27/2023. ATAD must file for redesignation no more than six months and no fewer than three months before the designation expiration date. The most recent financial report will be required as well as certification from the President.

The Redesignation also requires that all sponsors complete the yearly Sevis State Department training so we can stay compliant with State Department training. It is mandatory training and in the next few weeks I will be sending out the test in the same format as last year. 20 questions and all the material needed to complete the 20 question test. The answers and the explanation of the answers are also included in the attachment, and it will be able to guide you through the test.

Activities: Randy Peacock

Nothing to report.

Americans Overseas: Peggy Lull

One student has been accepted. Marley from Brighton HS. She has been invoiced and will go to Spain or Italy. She has been given \$750 in merit funds

Website Update: George Morgan

March minutes have been posted.

We have seen some small problems with hackers – working on keeping an eye out.

Sharon – Italy

Alba asked if she could travel along – answer is no! She will be going to Canada with her host family.

Marina – Spain

ATAD Board - Minutes of Meeting

April 4 , 2023

FINAL

Laura is doing really well. She participated in the musical. It was a fun event. She also participated in a Global conference in Nazareth college and presented about her experience as an exchange student to other high school students. Her grades are very good, and she goes to Spanish class as a teaching assistant.

Alicia – Bamaco

No report.

Barbara Pellicano - Spain

No report

The meeting was adjourned at 8:04 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

MJ Start for Iva Doser