GAPP Meeting Minutes

January 18, 2016

Attendees:

Ashbeck Family Metcalf Family

Becker Family Pawelski Family

Bohn Family Pierce Family

Bord Family Preuss Family

Coulthurst Family Renner Family

Dachel, Joanne Riebe Family

Grundhoffer Family Rustad, Family

Gustin Family Sullivan Family

Newton Family

Absent:

Beenken Family Jungwirth Family

Dolan Family Tiernan/Baumgart Family

Matott Family

**Exchange Dates Reminder: Wednesday, March 23rdh – Thursday, Apri. 13th 2016**

Germans arrive in Wisconsin Rapids on Wednesday, March 23rd at approximately 4:30 p.m. and will depart from AHS on Thursday, April 13th. Frau Timmermann does not have return flight times yet from her German partner. Families were asked to have someone here by 4:30 p.m. so that each German student has a family member here to welcome him/her.

**Communication**

Frau Timmermann distributed the participants’ list. Attendees were asked to make updates to the information as needed. A final list will be distributed in March. Frau Timmermann reminded families that this also serves as the phone tree in case of delays while on the field trips.

Frau Timmermann reminded attendees to stay in regular contact with their partners, either via e-mail or Facebook. She also expressed her hope that families have communicated with one another to assure the German parents that their children will be welcome and well-cared for. If there are concerns about lapses in communication, please let Frau Timmermann know so that she can share this concern with her German colleagues and get the situation resolved.

There will be many questions regarding our dress code and prom. The Germans have a copy of our dress code and our prom dress code from the 2014 exchange, but Frau Timmermann will be re-sending this information to her GAPP colleagues. Frau Timmermann did get an exemption for the German boys so that they are not required to purchase collared shirts to wear while they are here. For prom they have been advised to bring their own shoes. Girls do not have to wear a long dress. In the past dresses have been borrowed from others. Shopping for a prom dress has also taken place here in Wisconsin.

**Bus Ridership**

Those students who ride the bus were asked to sign up so that their partners may also be transported during that time. Frau Timmermann needs to submit this list to the school districts involved with our bussing.

Those who signed up are:

Riebe, S.

If you missed signing up, please contact Frau Timmermann so that she can take care of this with the bus companies.

**Hot Lunch Accounts**

Frau Timmermann asked families to make sure that there is sufficient money in their hot lunch accounts to pay for the Germans’ lunches.

**GAPP Fundraisers**

Frau Timmermann shared the success of our fall fundraising activities. Monies in the fund have been temporarily used to make down payments for the Germans’ program items in Chicago. This money will be refunded to us before they return to Germany. Addtionally, money from the GAPP fund will also pay for our half of the two joint trips, Madison & Cashton and our half of the coach bus to Green Bay/Manitowoc. Frau Timmermann is asking that each family contribute $20 per American family to pay the entrance fees to Lambeau Field, the Maritime Museum, and ice cream at the Washington House in Two Rivers. Frau Timmermann will need an exact count of students who plan on participating in this field trip so that the tickets can be ordered. There are no refunds once the tickets have been purchased. This payment should be made out to ACS and can be sent in any time. Students will need money for a fast food stop on the return trip.

Ideas for spring fundraiser, e.g. the Port Edwards Garage Sale on Saturday, May 21, Culvers’ Night or Taco John’s were suggested. Mrs. Rustad offered the use of their business’ parking lot. The group will not be parking cars at the State Water Ski Show since there were not enough adults last summer from AHS to assist with the event. The Ski Show Board went with a different organization. No one volunteered to coordinate any spring fundraisers.

**Cell Phones for German GAPP Chaperones**

Mrs. Hunn agreed to check into cell phone options for our GAPP chaperones. Previously, we were able to borrow cell phones from U.S. Cellular and Verizon. There were no fees involved for calling and use as long as they did not call Germany on them.

**Assumption Wear Order**

Frau Timmermann shared with the group the practice of placing a special Assumption Wear order for the German students. Sometimes a special design or logo was created. No one expressed interest in this.

**Itinerary**

Frau Timmermann distributed the itinerary in both calendar and outline formats. Typing errors were noted and will be corrected. She went over the various items in the program and highlighted the following:

*General:*

The itinerary is still tentative as most of the reservations have not been finalized, i.e. there are not times listed. Frau Timmermann went over the itinerary and shared general times based on previous exchanges. Final times will be available at the March 7th meeting.

*Dinners:*

The Welcome Dinner will be held on Wednesday, March 23rd at 5 p.m. Volunteering to coordinate this event are the Coulthurst, Metcalf and Sullivan families. Typically, a pot luck has been held in our cafeteria. Frau Timmermann has requested this date with the kitchen. More assistance will be needed with ready for the dinner. Watch your e-mail for a sign up list. Finalization will happen at the March GAPP meeting.

The Farewell Dinner will be held on Wednesday, April 13th again at 5 p.m. Volunteering to coordinate this event are the Becker, Rustad and Newton families. This event has been held in different locations, CERA park and our cafeteria. Neither charged a fee for our use. In the past this dinner has been a pizza party, grill out or a pot-luck. The type of dinner and the sign-up will take place at the March meeting. Frau Timmermann has also requested use of the school’s kitchen and cafeteria.

With both of these events it is key to remember that we will be serving over 100 people. Dishes to pass need to serve at least 10-12 people. Sign ups will take place via e-mail and at our next meeting.

*Drivers for Germans’ Field Trip : April 6 th*

Except for this date all trips have transportation planned. The Germans are scheduled to walk to the court house for this field trip. Frau Timmermann will solicit drivers in case of inclement weather. We need to transport 25 people, plus drivers.

*Joint Trips:*

The first joint trip will be on Thursday, March 24th to Madison. There is room for everyone on the bus. If seats are available, parents may join the group at no fee, except for their ice cream. The costs for this trip are taken out of the GAPP account. Students will be on their own for lunch on State St. and should bring a sack lunch.

Monday, March 28th is the trip to Green Bay/Manitowoc. Parents who ride along, room permitting, will need to pay their own entrance fees. Students should bring a sack lunch, snacks and beverages for the ride. Each American student will need to bring in $20 for the entrance fees and ice cream.

*Prom:*

Prom is on Saturday, April 9th . All German GAPP guests are invited to attend prom. They do not have to have a date. Students have typically purchased their own tickets. Discussion was held about hair appointments and how payments were handled. Some families paid for the guest, others had their guest pay for this expense herself.

**Other Things to Do**

Frau Timmermann handed out a sheet with happenings in the surrounding areas and other activities to do with your GAPP guest. She emphasized that the Germans do not need to be entertained around the clock. Hanging out, playing card and board games, watching TV and movies, playing ping pong or pool or even video/computer games (but not to excess) are wonderful ways to spend quality time with the German guest. Caution and care were urged with those families who have firearms and want to allow their guest the opportunity to handle and fire the gun. Likewise, paintball events are not allowed for minors in Germany. If such an event were to be planned, the American parents will need permission from the German families in order for the German guest to participate.

Many families take their guests to the Mall of America. Some have done this on Easter weekend, while others have picked the 2nd weekend of their stay to do this. In the past a family has volunteered to reserve a block of rooms in order to get a better rate. Other times, families have made arrangements amongst themselves. Another outing families have planned is an overnight at a waterpark in the Dells. Due to the time of year, there is no planned German trip to Wisconsin Dells.

Final Topics:

**Next Meeting will be Monday, March 7th at 6:00 p.m.** in Room 214. Tentative Agenda Items include Cultural Differences, Sign Ups for the Welcome and Farewell Dinners, Technology Access/Use.