GAPP Meeting Minutes

January 27, 2014

Attendees:

Austin, Jim & Robyn Milkey, Karen

Baumgart, Sarah Newton, Ed & Sue

Becker, David Oertli, Kari

Bohn, Jill Pawelski, Greg

Clark, Mary Quinnell, Patti

Dachel, Joanne Renner, Mrs. Charles

Erdmann, Jodi Rustad, Rick & Shamaine

Hepp, Patricia Smith, Lori

Hunn, Tom Stetz, Chris

Weiland, William

Absent:

Beenken Family.

Gudelis Family

Matott Family

**Exchange Dates Reminder: Wednesday, April, 16th – Thursday, May 8th 2012**

Germans arrive in Wisconsin Rapids on Wednesday, April. 16th at approximately 4:30 p.m. and will depart from AHS on Thursday, May 8th after lunch.

**Communication**

Frau Timmermann re-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. This information has been relayed to the German participants. They will question us about it, but please advise them as to what our expectations are. They must adhere to our dress code while they are with us. 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:

Becker, L, Dachel, D., Hunn, J., Oertli, M. Pawelski, M., and Rustad, A.

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

**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. The Green Bay/Manitowoc trip is an extra joint field trip this year and is not in our normal budget. Frau Timmermann is asking for $50 per American family to pay for our portion of the trip, which includes entrance to Lambeau Field, the Maritime Museum, and ice cream at the Washington House in Two Rivers. This payment should be made out to ACS and can be sent in any time.

New fundraising ideas such as a brat fry at Copps (Mrs. Beenken has more information) the Port Edwards garage sale, Little Caesar’s pizza kits, and a dance were all suggested. No plans were finalized

**Cell Phones for German GAPP Chaperones**

Mr. Hunn agreed to check into cell phone options for our GAPP chaperones. Frau Timmermann will also check to see if there is a need or if both of them will be getting new SIM cards and will be bringing their own phones from Germany. 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**

After some discussion it was decided that no special GAPP attire order would be placed. Instead, GAPP families were encouraged to purchase some type of Assumption wear either through Royal Parents or the Athletic Association. Mrs. Newton was going to check on getting a date extension for the Royal Parents order form.

**Itinerary**

Frau Timmermann distributed the itinerary in both calendar and outline formats. 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.

*Dinners:*

The Welcome Dinner will be held on Wednesday, April 16th at 5 p.m. Volunteering to coordinate this event are the Hepp and Rustad 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, May 7th again at 5 p.m. Volunteering to coordinate this event are the Baumgart and Austin 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 29 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 24 people, plus drivers.

*Joint Trips:*

The first joint trip will be on Thursday, April 17th 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, April 21st 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 $50 for the bus, entrance fees and ice cream.

*Prom:*

Prom is on Saturday, April 26th . 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 green colored 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. Mrs. Hepp said she would be willing to reserve a block of rooms. She will e-mail families with the location and pricing.

Another outing families have planned is an overnight at a waterpark in the Dells. The Germans will be taking an Upper Dells boat trip, but will not be spending time on this day at a waterpark. Coordination with that bus trip on Friday, May 2nd might be possible. The bus will be back by the end of the school day.

Final Topics:

**Next Meeting will be Monday, March 31th at 6:00 p.m.** in Room 214. Tentative Agenda Items include Cultural Differences, Sign Ups for the Welcome and Farewell Dinners, Technology Access.