

A Manitowoc International Relations Association (MIRA) meeting was held 1/12/2017 in the Planning/Engineering Conference room at City Hall, 900 Quay Street, Manitowoc at 6:00 PM.

In attendance was Cindy Kaeserman, MIRA President, Wanda LeClair, MIRA Vice-President, Lori Denk, MIRA Secretary, Justin Nickels, Mayor, Jim Larson, Kay Larson, Kelly Meyer and Debbie Gainey.

Meeting was called to order at 6:05 PM. The first item discussed was the 2016 Student Exchange Program (SEP) and how it went well. Dates for the 2017 SEP program will be as follows: Manitowoc students departing July 21, 2017 and returning July 31, 2017 with the Kamogawa students. The Kamogawa students will then be in Manitowoc from July 31 and depart on August 9, 2017. The SEP brochures are currently being updated for 2017 and will be distributed to the Manitowoc high schools by the end of this month. Emails will be sent to other area high schools to try to get a large enough group for the exchange.

The adult delegation from Kamogawa will visit Manitowoc July 1-July 5, 2017. The Holiday Inn will be contacted to reserve rooms. A list of possible activities for the delegation was distributed and discussed. Places are being looked into for availability and their hours during the delegation's visit due to the dates being on a holiday weekend.

The delegation that visited Kamogawa in October 2016 brought back two books from Kamogawa for the Library Exchange. The books were a calligraphy book and an origami book. Mayor Nickels took the books and will present them to the Manitowoc Public Library. Books will be chosen soon to send to the Kamogawa library, possibly a photo book with pictures of Manitowoc.

The pen pal program began again in September 2016 between the 6th grade class at Jackson Elementary school in Manitowoc and an 8th grade class from Kamogawa.

Artwork has arrived from students in Kamogawa. It will be displayed at the Rahr West Museum later in the year during student art month.

Committee meetings will be set up soon to plan the student exchange and the delegation visit. The meeting was adjourned at 7:00.