

APPROVED Minutes and Proceedings
Wednesday, February 1, 2017
Allegheny Intermediate Unit
Local Task Force
475 East Waterfront Drive
Homestead, PA 15120-1144

Members Present

Ms. Cindy Duch
Mrs. Penny Gardner
Mrs. Janice Geniviva
Ms. Rebecca Hahn, Chairperson
Mr. Clint Hauser
Ms. Sharon Janosik
Ms. Natalie Krall, Recording Secretary
Mrs. Theresa Lydon
Ms. Heidi Sasson
Mr. Edward Wehrer
Mr. Brian Welles
Ms. Judy Winschel
Mrs. Susan Wuenstel

Guests Present

There were two guests present at this meeting.

Ms. Rebecca Hahn, Chairperson of the Local Task Force on the Right to Education (LTF) called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM on Wednesday, February 1, 2017.

I. Welcome, Introductions, Excused Members

Members and guests introduced themselves and their affiliations.

The following members have been excused from this meeting: Mary Evrard, Amy Guthrie and Iris Heiser.

II. Speaker

Mr. Matthew Sousa – State Director - Best Buddies Program

Mr. Susidan informed the membership about the Best Buddies Program in Pennsylvania. The Best Buddies Program is an international organization dedicated to ending the social, physical, and economic isolation of the 200 million people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The three pillars of the organization include:

- One to One Friendships
- Integrated Employment
- Leadership Development

The Best Buddies Program in Pennsylvania works with a variety of schools and colleges in the Pittsburgh, PA area and will be holding their annual Best Buddies Ball on Friday, March 24, 2017 at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center.

III. Review/Acceptance of the Minutes of January 4, 2017

The minutes from the January meeting were reviewed. A motion was made to accept the minutes with changes. Motion was made by Janice Geniviva and seconded by Cindy Duch.

IV. Treasurer's Report – Ms. Rebecca Hahn

Ms. Hahn reviewed the February treasurer's report with the membership. There were no concerns.

V. Family Empowerment – Ms. Rebecca Hahn

Ms. Hahn informed the membership about some more ideas she has to recruit new members to the LTF:

- (1.) Designing a website for parents as a discussion board and calling it Inclusive Villages.
- (2.) Having parent coffees at Panera Bread.
- (3.) LTF brochures being given to parents at their child's IEP Meeting.
- (4.) Ms. Hahn will be speaking to all Special Education Liaisons at their monthly meeting at the AIU about getting their families involved with the LTF.
- (5.) Having business cards for members to distribute to potential new members.

VI. Consumer Concerns

There was a concern discussed about how school districts obtain their substitute teachers. Several members of the LTF stated that school districts use temporary services and maintain their own lists of eligible substitute teachers.

VII. Informational Items

A. OID – Office of Intellectual Disability – Mrs. Mary Evrard

Mrs. Evrard was not in attendance at this meeting.

B. AIU – Allegheny Intermediate Unit – Mr. Brian Welles

Mr. Welles informed the membership that a group of students who participate in the Unified Sports Program at Carlynton, Baldwin, and Elizabeth Forward School Districts presented to the special education liaisons at their monthly meeting. The Unified Sports Program is sponsored by Special Olympics and pairs students with disabilities with students without disabilities to play bocce or run track.

Mr. Welles also informed the membership that Terry Kennedy from the Boy Scouts of America also presented to the special education liaisons at their monthly meeting. He discussed their Champions of Transition Program which consists of eight transition based classes that are free of charge to all school districts. Boys and girls can both be enrolled in the program.

C. Awards Banquet – Mrs. Penny Gardner

Mrs. Gardner informed the membership that the Scott E. Folmer award nomination form information was sent via e-mail to all superintendents and special education liaisons.

D. Superintendent Update – Mr. Edward Wehrer

Mr. Wehrer did not have any new information to share with the membership.

E. LTF/STF Update – Ms. Rebecca Hahn

Ms. Hahn informed the membership of the following events:

- Early Learning 101 Training Course – February 13, 2017 – 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM
- St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church
- How to Get Around with a Blind Square – PATTAN Pittsburgh – May 10, 2017 – 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM
- Assessment for Students Who Are Deaf or Hard of Hearing Webinar – March 1, 2017
- www.pattan.net
- NAMI Child and Mental Health Conference – March 31, 2017 – Pittsburgh Airport Marriott
- The Basics of Special Education Law – February 10, 2017 – ACHIEVA
- PA Department of Special Education Conference - March 8, 2017 – March 10, 2017 – Hershey Lodge and Convention Center
- The Social Scoop Program – February 9, 2017 – 8:30 AM – 3:00 PM – AIU Central Office

- PA Community on Transition Conference – August 9, 2017 – August 11, 2017 – Penn State Conference Center and Hotel – www.pattan.net
- COPAA Conference – March 2, 2017 – March 5, 2017 – Fairmont Hotel in Dallas, TX
- Dan Miller Disability Summit – March 22, 2017 – March 24, 2017 – Beth El Congregation
- Transition Coordinating Council Meeting – March 6, 2017 – 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM – AIU Cental Office

H. Allegheny County Mental Health Children’s Team – Mr. Clint Hauser and Ms. Heidi Sasson

Mr. Hauser and Ms. Sasson informed the membership that the Allegheny County Mental Health Children’s Team is currently rebidding student assistance programs for several school districts. School districts must sign a letter of agreement before services are implemented at their district.

I. Right to Education – Ms. Amy Guthrie

Ms. Guthrie was not in attendance at this meeting.

VIII. Committee Update

A. Parent Assistance Line – Mrs. Iris Heiser

Mrs. Heiser was not in attendance at this meeting but she will report all calls made to the Parent Assistance Line in the month of January to the membership at the March LTF meeting.

B. Cyclical Monitoring – Mrs. Janice Geniviva

Mrs. Geniviva informed the membership of the schedule for Cyclical Monitoring for the 2016-2017 school year:

2/13/17 - Fox Chapel School District
 2/13/17 - Quaker Valley School District
 3/16/17 - West Jefferson Hills School District
 3/20/17 - Keystone Oaks School District
 3/27/17 - Hampton Township School District
 4/3/17 - Elizabeth Forward School District

5/8/17 - South Allegheny School District

VII. Old Business

Susan Wuenstel informed the membership that the Penn Hills Charter School for Entrepreneurship started their parent satisfaction survey on January 3, 2017. That survey will wrap up this week. Keith Focht, State Task Force Chairperson, will get a data report from Pattan and it will be shared with LTF members at the March meeting. Debra Efke is currently in discussion with Montour School District to start the Parent Satisfaction Survey at that district.

VIII. New Business

There was no new business discussed at this meeting.

X. Membership Rounder

Cindy Duch informed the membership that the Peal Conference will be held in conjunction with the Dan Miller Summit on March 22, 2017 at Beth El Congregation. She also informed the membership that her son Alex will attend Slippery Rock University next fall.

XI. Adjournment

A motion was made for adjournment.

Motion was made by Janice Geniviva and seconded by Penny Gardner.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:30 PM.