# **APPROVED** Minutes and Proceedings

Wednesday, January 8, 2020

Allegheny Intermediate Unit

Local Task Force

475 East Waterfront Drive

Homestead, PA 15120-1144

# **Members Present**

Mr. Regis Charlton

Ms. Cynthia Grace Devine-Kepner

Mrs. Cindy Duch

Mrs. Debra Efkeman, Chairperson

Mrs. Mary Evrard

Mrs. Penny Gardner

Mrs. Janice Geniviva

Ms. Amy Guthrie

Ms. Sharon Janosik, Co-Chairperson

Ms. Ruth Ann Koss

Ms. Natalie Krall, Recording Secretary

Mrs. Leanna Lawson

Ms. Sue Moyer

Ms. Heidi Sasson

Mrs. Susan Wuenstel

Ms. Christina Yauch

Ms. Heather Zak

# **Guests Present**

There were six guests present at this meeting.

Mrs. Debra Efkeman, Chairperson of the Local Task Force on the Right to Education (LTF #3) called the meeting to order at 6:35 PM on January 8, 2020.

**I. Welcome, Introductions, Excused Members**

Members and guests introduced themselves and their affiliations.

The following members have been excused from this meeting: Marci Katona, Marie Spence and Brian Welles.

**II. Review/Acceptance of the Minutes of December 4, 2019**

The minutes from the December meeting were reviewed. A motion was made to accept the

minutes with changes. Motion was made by Cynthia Grace Devine-Kepner and seconded by Sharon Janosik.

**III. Treasurer’s Report – Mrs. Debra Efkeman**

Mrs. Efkeman reviewed the January treasurer’s report with the membership.

**IV. Consumer Concerns**

A concern was brought up regarding Montour School District. A parent informed the membership that her son is currently a student at Parkway Center Vo-Tech and would like to withdraw and attend classes in the school district. Her son currently has a 504 plan and the district is prohibiting him from withdrawing from Parkway Center Vo-Tech the student will lose credits. Several members of the LTF informed the parent that a student can withdraw from a vo-tech school at any time. They informed the parent to contact the school district to begin the withdrawal process and enroll her child back in the school district for classes. Members advised the parent to ask for a written policy concerning withdrawal from the program and loss of credits.

A concern was brought up by a parent who currently has her daughter enrolled in a small private school. Her daughter currently has both auditory and sensory processing disorders and she would like to find a public school that can assist her with both of these disorders. The parent had testing for her daughter for a GIEP (Gifted IEP) by Woodland Hills School District which is her local district and they stated that her daughter was not eligible for a GIEP. Several members of the LTF suggested that the parent research school districts around the Pittsburgh area by visiting them and talking with teachers, special education directors, and parent to gain their views on the school.

A concern was brought up by a parent from the Highlands School District who has two sons who have been disciplined from the district. Her first son was suspended 3 days for horseplay and currently has an IEP. Several members of the LTF suggested that the parent check the school district’s code of conduct to see if anything is different for children with IEP’s. Her second son given 45 days of out of school placement for sensory/safe space issues and currently has a 302 from the school district. Several members of the LTF suggested that the parent continue working with the Education Law Center (ELC) since she is currently working with them at this time.

**VI. Informational Items**

1. **OID – Mrs. Mary Evrard**

Mrs. Evrard covered the following information with the membership:

* OID brochures
* PA Family Network (in collaboration with AIU, LTF3 and OID) Creating a Vision for A Good Life and Self Advocate United As 1 workshops series.
* PA Family Network ODP Waivers: Supporting Families and Everyday Lives
* The Community of Practice: Supporting Families across the Lifespan through the LifeCourse Framework overview document
* Disability and Mental Health Summit registration is open

1. **AIU – Special Education – Mr. Brian Welles**

Mr. Welles was not in attendance at this meeting.

1. **– AIU – Training and Consultation Program – Mrs. Leeanna Lawson**

Mrs. Lawson informed the membership about the Youth Transition Age Summit which is taking place at the Dan Miller Summit on March 3, 2020 at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center. There is currently 400 kids/staff members registered for the conference and there is a few more spots left at this time. The following information will be covered during the conference:

* Registering Self Advocacy
* Youth Perception
* Students Statements to State Legislators
* Youth Keynote
* Youth Resource Fair

1. **Superintendent Updated – Ms. Sue Moyer**

Ms. Moyer informed the membership that she is currently working on getting people in her district to participate in the upcoming US census and is currently coming up with different strategies. The US census affects how federal funding is allocated to school districts and other community agencies. She also informed the membership that she is having a planning meeting on January 29, 2020 at 3:30 PM for the Duquesne City School District Resource Fair that will be held in May 2020 and everyone is invited to attend at this time.

**E. LTF/STF Update – Mrs. Debra Efkeman and Ms. Sharon Janosik**

Mrs. Efkeman informed the membership that the Dan Miller Summit will be held on March 3, 2020 will be held at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center. The LTF will have a resource table there and needs volunteers to sit at the table. Please sign the sign in sheet if you are interested in volunteering at the table.

Ms. Janosik informed the membership that the PDE State Conference will be held from March 9, 2020 to March 11, 2020. There are parent scholarships available if you would like to attend to attend the conference.

Ms. Janosik informed the membership that the State Task Force held their meeting today and it the main subject was the Positive Behavior Support Plan and she had handouts available for the membership.

1. **MH Update – Allegheny County MH Children’s Team – Ms. Ruth Ann Koss and Ms. Heidi Sasson**

Ms. Koss and Ms. Sasson informed the membership about their collaboration with Highlands School District. Through this collaboration Community Cares will be providing five mental health specialists at Highlands Elementary School to assist the students in the school.

1. **Right to Education – Ms. Amy Guthrie**

Ms. Guthrie informed the membership the Achieva Family Trust will be having a

presentation on Protective Services on Friday, January 10, 2020 from 9:30 AM – 11:30 AM.

1. **Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) – Ms. Marci Katona**

Ms. Katona was not in attendance.

1. **Disability Options Network – Mr. Regis Charlton**

Mr. Charlton informed the membership about the Disability Options Network and what services they offer at this time.

**VII. Committee Update**

1. **Parent Assistance Line**

There was one call in the month of December to the Parent Assistance Line and it was from an advocate from Achieva. They were calling regarding a Highlands Middle School student that the school district was refusing to give an evaluation for a 504 plan. It was suggested that the request for the evaluation be made in writing by the parent. If the school district does not comply with the request than an complaint must be submitted to the state.

1. **Cyclical Monitoring – Mrs. Janice Geniviva**

The Cyclical Monitoring Schedule for the 2019-2020 school year is as follows:

January 13, 2020 – McKeesport School District

January 13, 2020 – Deer Lakes School District

February 3, 2020 – Brentwood School District

February 10, 2020 – Allegheny Valley School District

February 17, 2020 – West Mifflin School District

February 24, 2020 – Propel Charter School – Northside

March 2, 2020 – West Allegheny School District

March 30, 2020 – Mt. Lebanon School District

April 27, 2020 – Propel Charter School – McKeesport

Please contact Ms. Geniviva if there is any information about any school districts being monitored at this time and she will pass this information along to the state.

1. **Parent Satisfaction Survey – Mrs. Susan Wuenstel**

Ms. Wuenstel informed the membership that Hampton School District has agreed to the do parent satisfaction survey and will be sending letters to parents to inform them about the parent survey.

**VIII. Old Business**

There was no old business presented at this meeting.

**IX. New Business**

Brianna Stalder from Apraxia Kids introduced herself to the membership and explained to the membership about her organization and what they do for children with apraxia.

**X. Membership Rounder**

Everyone wished each other a Wonderful New Year!

**X. Motion for Adjournment**

A motion was made for adjournment.

Motion was made by Cindy Duch and seconded by Penny Gardner.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:30 PM.