# **APPROVED** Minutes and Proceedings

Wednesday, June 5, 2019

Allegheny Intermediate Unit

Local Task Force

475 East Waterfront Drive

Homestead, PA 15120-1144

# **Members Present**

Mrs. Emily Born

Mr. Regis Charlton

Mrs. Debra Efkeman, Chairperson

Mrs. Mary Evrard

Mrs. Penny Gardner

Ms. Amy Guthrie

Ms. Sharon Janosik, Co-Chairperson

Ms. Marci Katona

Ms. Natalie Krall, Recording Secretary

Ms. Leanna Lawson

# **Guests Present**

There were no 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 7:05 PM on June 5, 2019.

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

Members and guests introduced themselves and their affiliations.

The following members have been excused from this meeting: Cynthia Devine-Kepner, Cindy Duch, Janice Geniviva, Sue Moyer, Susan Wuenstel, and Michelle Walker.

**II. Nomination and Election of Chair and Co-Chair**

A motion was made to nominate Debra Efkman as Chairperson and Sharon Janosik as Co-Chairperson of the Local Task Force #3 for the 2019-2020 School Year.

Motion was made by Penny Gardner and seconded by Regis Charlton.

Motion was discussed.

Motion was passed unanimously.

**III. Review/Acceptance of the Minutes of May 1, 2019**

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

minutes with changes. Motion was made by Penny Gardner and seconded by Sharon Janosik.

**IV. Treasurer’s Report – Ms. Sharon Janosik**

Ms. Efkeman reviewed the June Treasurer’s Report with the membership.

**V. Consumer Concerns**

There were no consumer concerns discussed at this meeting.

**VI. Informational Items**

1. **OID – Mrs. Mary Evrard**

Mary Evrard shared a binder / copies of resources and upcoming events including.:

* If you need information about supports for individuals with autism and / or intellectual disability reach Mary at 412-253-1251 or [mevrard@alleghenycounty.us](mailto:mevrard@alleghenycounty.us)
* To find information on the OID webpage, including signing up for the OID Key Communicator email list visit  <https://www.alleghenycounty.us/Human-Services/Programs-Services/Disabilities/Intellectual-Disability-Autism.aspx>

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

Mr. Welles was not in attendance at this meeting.

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

Ms. Lawson provided an update to a question from the membership regarding the number of students who attend career training centers from the AIU center based schools. There are currently 5 students from Mon Valley School, 4 students from Sunrise School, and 0 students from Pathfinder School.

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

Ms. Moyer was not in attendance at this meeting.

**E. LTF/STF Update – Ms. Sharon Janosik**

Ms. Janosik informed passed around the minutes from the State Task Force Meeting. She informed the membership about the presentations at the meeting and about various initiatives that the State Task Force is considering for the next school year.

1. **MH Update – Allegheny County MH Children’s Team – Mrs. Emily Born**

Mrs. Born informed the membership that Wesley Spectrum Program held at Highlands School District will be moving to Deer Lakes School District next school year. Students will have mental health services for half a day and education services for the other half of day.

Mrs. Born also informed the membership that the Allegheny County MH Children’s Team is organizing a meeting between school based mental health providers and outside mental health providers so that they can have some consistency with the issues that children across Allegheny County are experiencing at this time.

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

* Ms. Guthrie informed the membership of the following items:
* Self Advocacy Group Meeting – June 6, 2019 – 5:30 PM – 7:30 PM – Achieva Office
* Advocacy – Legislative Level – House Education Committee is voting on charter school

Expansion bills.

* PA Transition Conference - July 17-18, 2019 – Scholarships are available for parents.

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

Ms. Katona informed the membership that the OVR Board approved OVR’s recommendation to close the Order of Selection in March due to a lack of financial resources.  OVR is awaiting final approval from the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) to implement the closure of the Order of Selection effective July 1, 2019.  Under an Order of Selection Closure, services will continue for current OVR customers with an Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE) in place by July 1, 2019, as well as Pre-Employment Transition Services for students with disabilities, as required by federal law. Any individuals who apply to OVR and are determined eligible for OVR services after 7/1 will be placed on a waiting list.  The waiting list begins from the date of application.  OVR will continue to evaluate or test students as appropriate to determine eligibility for OVR.  OVR will evaluate its financial resources quarterly to determine its capacity to open the order and serve individuals on the waiting list.  Ms. Katona will provide an update regarding the status of OVR at the September LTF meeting.

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

Mr. Charlton did not have any new information to report to the membership.

**VII. Committee Update**

1. **Parent Assistance Line**

The following calls were made to the Parent Assistance Line for the months of February – May:

A parent from the West Allegheny School District called regarding issues with her son’s IEP. Contact information was provided to this parent for the Allegheny MH Children’s Team.

A grandparent from the Allegheny Valley School District called regarding her grandaughter’s emotional disturbance label and is having issues with guidance counselor breaching confidentiality. Contact information was provided to this grandparent for the Allegheny MH Children’s Team and the Peal Center for assistance with this matter.

A message was left for a parent who has a daughter with emotional and academic needs. Contact information was provided for the Peal Center for assistance with this matter.

A parent from Moon Area School District called regarding her son who has developed seizures and has a 504 plan for health related services. The parent would like academic accommodations for her son. Contact information was provided to this parent for the Peal Center and the Family to Family Project for assistance with this matter.

A parent from Penn Hills School District called about her son’s IEP being transferred to the City of Pittsburgh since they just moved there and the IEP was not transferred there. Contact information was provided to the parent for the Allegheny MH Children’s Team so they can provide their assistance with this matter.

A parent from the West Jefferson Hills School District called regarding their daughter who has an intellectual disability and has been put in a life skills program at school. The parent feels the child is regressing and would like her daughter back in a learning support classroom. Contact information was provided to this parent for an advocate who is familiar with the school district.

A parent from the North Allegheny School District called regarding her son who has ADD. He has a 504 plan and struggles with math. He is currently receiving tutoring and is still having issues. Contact information was provided to this parent for the Peal Center for assistance with this matter.

1. **Cyclical Monitoring**

The Cyclical Monitoring Schedule for the 2019-2020 school year will be presented at the September LTF meeting.

1. **Parent Satisfaction Survey – Mrs. Debra Efkeman**

Mrs. Efkeman informed the membership that she will be meeting with the Special Education Director at Woodland Hills School District to go over the results of the LTF parent satisfaction survey.

**VIII. Old Business**

There was no old business presented at this meeting.

**IX. New Business**

A few new ideas were presented regarding LTF for the 2019-2020 school year:

Proposed marketing material for the LTF for next school year includes pens, magnets, and an LTF welcome toolkit for newly identified special education students to be distributed to school districts.

Zoom meetings were proposed for next school year so LTF meetings can be streamed online.

Dinner served before all LTF meetings was proposed as well as an earlier start time for the meetings.

A social media platform such as Edmodo was proposed for the LTF to use for communicating information to members.

**X. Membership Rounder**

Everyone wished each other a wonderful summer.

**X. Motion for Adjournment**

A motion was made for adjournment.

Motion was made by Penny Gardner and seconded by Sharon Janosik.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:15 PM.