**APPROVED** Minutes and Proceedings

Wednesday, May 1, 2019

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. Debra Efkeman, Chairperson

Mrs. Mary Evrard

Ms. Jeanette Geary

Ms. Janice Geniviva

Ms. Amy Guthrie

Ms. Sharon Janosik, Co-Chairperson

Ms. Christa Jones

Ms. Marci Katona

Ms. Natalie Krall, Recording Secretary

Ms. Leanna Lawson

Mrs. Theresa Lydon

Ms. Sue Moyer

Ms. Heidi Sasson

Ms. Marie Spence

Mr. Brian Welles

Mrs. Susan Wuenstel

# **Guests Present**

There were two 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 May 1, 2019.

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

Members and guests introduced themselves and their affiliations.

The following member has been excused from this meeting: Penny Gardner

**II. Guest Speaker – Ms. Christine Craig-Seppi – International Dyslexia Association of Pennsylvania and Ms. Maria Paluselli – Provident Charter School**

Ms. Craig-Seppi informed the membership about the International Dyslexia Association of Pennsylvania and the services they provide for the community including:

* Dyslexia Simulation
* Dyslexia Hot-Line and E-Mail Support
* Dyslexia and the myths about dyslexia.
* Elements of testing for dyslexia.
* Teaching techniques for children of dyslexia.
* Websites for information regarding dyslexia and special education rights.

Ms. Paluselli informed the membership about the Provident Charter School which is a charter school in Pennsylvania for children with dyslexia. Provident Charter School currently services students in grades 2 thru 6 (48 students per grade) from 35 school districts in Allegheny County. Ms. Paluselli informed the membership that Provident Charter School will service students in grades 2 thru 7 in the 2019-2020 school year and grades 2 thru 8 in the 2020-2021 school year. She informed the membership about the school and the various activities that they have for the students at this time.

**III. Review/Acceptance of the Minutes of April 3, 2019**

The minutes from the April 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.

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

Ms. Janosik reviewed the May Treasurer’s Report with the membership.

**V. Consumer Concerns**

A parent from the Highlands School District brought up a concern regarding how her child’s IEP was implemented by the school district. The parent talked with school district about this and they are bringing in a behavioral consultant to observe her child from the AIU. The parent wanted to know how this worked and Leanna Lawson from the AIU Teaching and Learning Department explained how the process works when a school district contacts the AIU for an observation.

A parent from Highlands School District inquired about special education training for parents. Several members informed the parent to contact the PEAL Center.

**VI. Informational Items**

1. **OID – Mrs. Mary Evrard**

Mrs. Evrard informed the membership about the following information:

* Updated brochure on OID Services from Allegheny County.
* Passed around information binder on services and events to the membership.

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

Mr. Welles did not have any new information for the membership at this time.

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

Ms. Lawson informed the membership that Mary Evrard from the Office of Intellectual Disability (OID) along with herself will be planning a variety The Community of Practice: Supporting Families across the Lifespan through the LifeCourse Framework Tools workshops along with Hosted Community and Resource Information tables starting in the fall at the AIU. The sessions will be held at various times to accommodate families and stakeholders.

Ms. Lawson also informed the membership that she has implemented various issues discussed at the LTF meetings in the AIU Special Education Plan for the 2019-2020 school year.

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

Ms. Moyer informed the membership that Duquesne City School District will be sponsoring a Community Resource Fair on May 15, 2019 from 4:00 PM – 7:00 PM. There will be 35 organizations represented to provide their support to the community.

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

Ms. Janosik informed the membership that McAndrews Law Office will be opening an office in Pittsburgh, PA for representation in educational law cases.

1. **MH Update – Allegheny County MH Children’s Team – Ms. Heidi Sasson and Ms. Jeanette Geary**

Ms. Sasson informed the membership that there will be an Early Intervention Training at Rodef Shalom on May 9, 2019.

Ms. Geary informed the membership that the Allegheny County Mental Health Children’s Team will be sponsoring parent trainings this summer. If you are interested in having them train your group, please contact them.

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

Ms. Guthrie informed the membership of the following items:

Medicaid extension bill has passed.

A bill for fully funding IDEA is in the process of being voted on at this time.

National Down’s Syndrome Conference will be held in Pittsburgh, PA on 6/27/19 through 6/30/19.

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

Ms. Katona informed the membership that OVR will be having a transition program at Robert Morris University.

Ms. Katona also informed the membership that OVR Early Reach Coordinators will be holding OVR Launch Academies this summer at:

CCAC Allegheny Campus – June 17, 2019 thru June 21, 2019.

CCAC South Campus – June 24, 2019 thru June 28, 2019

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

Mr. Charlton informed the membership that he will be attending the following events and wanted to share them with the membership:

May 7, 2019 – Transport Pittsburgh Conference

May 18, 2019 – Pittsburgh Center for Autism Advocacy Resource Fair – Children’s Institute of Pittsburgh

May 23, 2019 – Where to Turn Resource Fair – David L. Lawrence Convention Center

**VII. Committee Update**

1. **Parent Assistance Line**

The calls made to the Parent Assistance Line for the months of April and May will be reported at the LTF June Meeting.

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

Mrs. Geniviva informed the membership of the upcoming Cyclical Monitoring schedule:

5/6/19 – Propel Charter School - Homestead

1. **Parent Satisfaction Survey – Mrs. Susan Wuenstel/Mrs. Debra Efkeman**

Mrs. Wuenstel informed the membership that the Parent Satisfaction Survey was conducted with the parents of Woodland Hills School District. There was 94 parent surveys returned and Mrs. Wuenstel passed the results around to the LTF membership. Mrs. Efkeman will arrange a meeting in the summer with Jennifer Johnson – Special Education Director from Woodland Hills School District to discuss the results.

**VIII. Old Business**

There was no old business presented at this meeting.

**IX. New Business**

The following LTF members will be on the nominating committee to choose LTF officers for the 2019-2020 school year: Cynthia Grace Devine-Kepner, Debra Efkeman, and Sharon Janosik.

**X. Membership Rounder**

Sharon Janosik informed the membership that she recently attended a Supported Decision Making Training class at Rodef Shalom and will share her notes via e-mail with the LTF membership.

Cynthia Grace Devine-Kepner informed the membership that there will be PTA Connected Conference at the AIU on Saturday, May 11, 2019 from 11:00 AM - 2:30 PM. Everyone is welcome to attend.

**X. Motion for Adjournment**

A motion was made for adjournment.

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

Meeting was adjourned at 9:30 PM.