**ACCEPTED** Minutes and Proceedings

Wednesday, September 5, 2018

Allegheny Intermediate Unit

Local Task Force

475 East Waterfront Drive

Homestead, PA 15120-1144

# **Members Present**

Mrs. Amy Allkind

Mrs. Emily Born

Ms. Cynthia Grace Devine-Kepner

Mrs. Cindy Duch

Mrs. Debra Efkeman, Chairperson

Mrs. Mary Evrard

Mrs. Janice Geniviva

Ms. Amy Guthrie

Ms. Sharon Janosik, Co-Chairperson

Ms. Marcie Katona

Ms. Natalie Krall, Recording Secretary

Ms. Leanna Lawson

Ms. Cindy Rosentreter

Ms. Kelly Spanos

Ms. Michelle Walker

Mr. Brian Welles

Mr. Edward Wehrer

# **Guests Present**

There was six guests present at this meeting.

Mrs. Debra Efkeman, Chairperson of the Local Task Force on the Right to Education (LTF) called the meeting to order at 7:10 PM on September 5, 2018.

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

Members and guests introduced themselves and their affiliations.

The following member have been excused from this meeting: Cheryl Coughanour, Penny Gardner, Iris Heiser, and Valerie Zipay.

**II. Review/Acceptance of the Minutes of June 6, 2018**

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

minutes with changes. Motion was made by Cindy Duch and seconded by Sharon Janosik.

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

Mrs. Efkeman reviewed the September treasurer’s report with the membership. She informed the LTF membership how much the budget was for the 2018-2019 school year. She also informed the membership that she wanted to order LTF brochures and letterhead for the upcoming school year.

**IV. Consumer Concerns**

A concern was brought up regarding a North Allegheny student who is now attending the St. Anthony’s School at Duquesne University. The school district informed the parents that they will only pay for the program if they sign off on the rights to the North Allegheny School District diploma. Various members of the LTF urged the parent to contact the school district superintendent and the school board.

A parent has 40 year old daughter who has medical and behavioral needs and is in need of respite care. The daughter has consolidated funding and the parent does not know where to send her daughter for respite care. Mary Evrard from the Allegheny County Office of Intellectual Disability said that the parent can contact her for assistance.

A concern was brought up from a parent regarding their son who attends a private school and is having their IEP meeting on September 13, 2018. The parent has contacted the private school for assistance and they informed her to contact her home school district for assistance. Various members of the LTF urged the parent to contact her home school district special education director for assistance in this matter.

**V. Informational Items**

1. **OID – Mrs. Mary Evrard**

Mary asked the membership to consider visiting the Neighborland website and will follow up with sending the link for distribution:

**What do you think is needed to better support and encourage individuals with intellectual disability and / or autism to fully participate in their communities?** Please take a minute to join this conversation by sharing your idea. If you’ve already commented, check back to see what others have said and add your thoughts. <https://neighborland.com/alleghenycounty-oid/about> Your time participating and sharing the opportunity with others is appreciated!

Mary Evrard shared a resource binder with the most recent information being:

  ACHIEVA Family Trust speaker series

  Technology open house at CLASS

  APPRISE / Allegheny Link 2018 Lunch and Learn Series

  Speaking Up meetings

  Cash Assistance program flier

  PA Work Incentives Planning and Assistance (WIPA) Program

  CCAC Special Needs Program Fall 2018

  Health Care Quality Unit Cares Newsletter

  October Life Sharing Conference flier

  Act 53 flier

  Tips for siblings packet

  Early Childhood Home Visiting info

  Latest ODP newsletter

  Latest ASERT newsletter

If you need information about the above or supports for individuals with intellectual disability and / or autism reach Mary at 412-253-1251 or [mevrard@alleghenycounty.us](mailto:mevrard@alleghenycounty.us)

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

Mr. Welles explained the services of the AIU Special Education department to the membership. He explained that the AIU special education department offers hearing, vision, speech, OT/PT, and psychological services to the 42 school districts in Allegheny County. He informed the membership about the PRIDE program at Pathfinder School. He also informed the membership about the Grow Program at Sunrise School.

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

Ms. Lawson informed the membership about the Training and Consultation Department and the various services that they offer the 42 school districts in Allegheny County. The services that they offer at this time include:

* Academic Support
* Behavior Support
* Intensive Interagency Coordination
* Inclusive Practices
* Assistive Technology
* Autism
* Transition
* Academic Support Literacy
* Academic Support Mathematics

1. **Superintendent Update – Mr. Edward Wehrer**

Mr. Wehrer informed the membership that he is stepping down from being the superintendent representative from the LTF. He thanked the LTF for teaching him so much about special education and being supportive of him.

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

Mrs. Efkeman and Ms. Janosik passed around sign up sheets for volunteers for bringing in refreshments and the parent assistance line for the new school year.

The LTF would like to be involved with cyclical monitoring and would like to write a letter to Ann Hinkson-Hermann- Director of the Bureau of Special Education asked the membership for their support.

A motion was made to write a letter to Ann Hinkson-Hermann regarding the design of the current cyclical monitoring program.

Motion was made by Debra Efkeman and seconded by Sharon Janosik.

Motion was discussed.

Motion was passed unanimously.

Mrs. Efkeman and Ms. Janosik also informed the membership that they will be discussing the LTF with special education directors and school district superintendents at their upcoming meetings.

Mrs. Efkeman and Ms. Janosik also informed the membership about the guest speakers for the LTF meeting for the upcoming months:

October 2018 – Alyse Baker - Speech/Language Pathologist – She designed a sentence mosaics app with students from CMU.

November 2018 – Best Buddies – Discussing school based programs.

December 2018 – Pittsburgh Center for Autistic Advocacy

Mrs. Efkeman and Ms. Janosik also informed the membership the State Task Force Meeting schedule and the subjects for the new school year:

September 26, 2018 – Legislative Process – Anne Yanikov

November 7, 2018 – Sexual Abuse in the Disability World and What Can Be Done

January 9, 2019 – How to Write A Transition Plan

March 27, 2019 – School Wide Positive Support and Individual Positive Behavior Support Plans

May 15, 2019 – Suspensions and Expulsions as it Relates to Chapter 14 and Chapter 15.

1. **MH Update – Allegheny County MH Children’s Team – Mrs. Emily Born and Ms. Kelly Spanos**

Mrs. Born and Ms. Spanos informed the membership that Mt. Lebanon School District held an active shooter training drill over the summer.

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

Ms. Guthrie informed the membership of the following items:

* Achieva Family Trust Training
* Arc In Touch Newsletter
* Arc National Convention – Nashville, TN
* Tax Reform Affects ABLE Accounts, Saver’s Credit, and 529 Rollovers
* 21 and Able Events
* Special Olympics – Pennsylvania

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

Ms. Katona and Ms. Rosentreter informed the membership about the services of OVR and what programs they currently have available at this time including:

Vocational Rehab – Serves students in high school through adults.

OVR 101 – Pre-employment transition program services (PETS) which services individuals ages 14-21 years of age.

They also informed the membership that they can go to [www.pacareerlink.pa.gov](http://www.pacareerlink.pa.gov) to sign up for OVR services.

**VII. Committee Update**

1. **Parent Assistance Line – Ms. Sharon Janosik**

Ms. Janosik informed the membership about calls made to the Parent Assistance Line during the summer:

A parent from the Upper St. Clair School District called to request an advocate that could assist with 504 plans. Ms. Janosik provided the parent with resources.

A parent called that needed assistance with a child with ADHD. Ms. Janosik returned the call but never received a call back.

1. **Cyclical Monitoring – Ms. Janice Genviva**

Mrs. Geniviva informed the membership of the 2018-2019 Cyclical Monitoring Schedule:

11/12 East Allegheny SD

11/12 Riverview SD

1/14 Plum Borough

1/14 Upper St. Clair

2/18 Highlands

2/25 Wilkinsburg Borough

3/4 Propel CS/Braddock Hills

3/11 Avonworth SD

4/15 Cornell SD

5/6 Propel CS Homestead

1. **Parent Satisfaction Survey**

Recent information will be presented at the October LTF Meeting.

**VIII. Old Business**

There was no old business presented at this meeting.

**IX. New Business**

A motion was made to nominate Michelle Walker as a new member of the LTF.

Motion was made by Sharon Janosik and seconded by Debra Efkeman.

Motion was discussed.

Motion was passed unanimously.

**X. Membership Rounder**

Janice Geniviva informed the membership that the Best Buddies Event will take place on Monday, November 5, 2018.

Mary Evrard informed the membership that the Mon Valley School Open House will be on September 26, 2018.

**X. Motion for Adjournment**

A motion was made for adjournment.

Motion was made by Janice Geniviva and seconded by Sharon Janosik.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:00 PM.