# **ACCEPTED** Minutes and Proceedings

Wednesday, April 1, 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. Debra Efkeman, Chairperson

Mrs. Mary Evrard

Mrs. Penny Gardner

Mrs. Janice Geniviva

Ms. Amy Guthrie

Ms. Sharon Janosik, Co-Chairperson

Ms. Marci Katona

Ms. Natalie Krall, Recording Secretary

Mrs. Leanna Lawson

Mrs. Theresa Lydon

Ms. Sue Moyer

Ms. Joanna Patterson

Ms. Heidi Sasson

Ms. Lorraine Stanek

Ms. Brian Welles

Ms. Heather Zak

# **Guests Present**

There were five 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 April 1, 2020.

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

Members and guests introduced themselves and their affiliations.

The following members have been excused from this meeting: Cindy Duch and Susan Wuenstel.

**II. Review/Acceptance of the Minutes of March 4, 2020**

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

minutes with changes. Motion was made by Debra Efkeman and seconded by Penny Gardner.

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

There was no treasurer’s report at this meeting.

**IV. Consumer Concerns**

There were some concerns expressed by parents regarding online learning for their children since schools are closed due to COVID-19. Many of the concerns included privacy using various websites such as Zoom and Google Hangouts. Another concern that was brought up was that many children can’t learn virtually. Members and representatives from various organizations gave the parents advice on how to handle their issues with online learning with their school districts.

**VII. Informational Items**

1. **OID – Mrs. Mary Evrard**

Mrs. Evrard shared the following items with the membership:

* [PA](https://www.alleghenycounty.us/WorkArea/linkit.aspx?LinkIdentifier=id&ItemID=6442470284) Family Network – Zoom Meeting Information
* PA Able – Savings Webinar
* Office of Developmental Programs – COVID-19 Information

Mrs. Evrard informed the membership that ODP made some previsions for increased provider rates due to the COVID-19 for some goods needed as part of the COVID-19 response.

Mrs. Evrard also informed the membership that some intellectual disability/autism waiver providers are offering remote services. Supports coordinators will be remotely ‘meeting’ with individuals and families. When this is not possible there are rules in place about interactions.

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

Mr. Welles informed the membership that supervisors from the Special Education and Pupil Services Division from the AIU are meeting with schools districts as well as the AIU special education schools to provide special education services via real time video and pre-recorded video. They are also putting together websites and mailing packets out to students and families

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

Mrs. Lawson informed the membership that the AIU Training and Consultation department has been assisting school districts with consultations regarding their distance learning issues.

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

Ms. Moyer informed the membership that it has been hard for the students in her school district to get accustomed to online learning. However, the teachers in her district have been assisting the students and have gone over and beyond the call of duty.

Ms. Moyer also informed the membership that she is speaking with school district superintendents from around Allegheny County daily to discuss the issues that are occurring in their districts.

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

Mrs. Efkeman informed the membership that the PDE Conference was cancelled this year due to the COVID-19 virus.

Ms. Janosik informed the membership that the March State Task Force meeting has been cancelled.

Mrs. Efkeman informed the membership that the ELC (Education Law Center) wants to make sure that all students are continuing to receive their education due to the COVID-19 epidemic and have written a letter to our state governor as well as the PA Department of Education. They have requested that our LTF sign this letter and a vote was taken by the membership:

A motion was made to sign the Education Law Center letter by LTF #3 to send to Governor Wolf and the PA Department of Education.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

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

Ms. Sasson and Ms. Patterson informed the membership that the Allegheny County MH Children’s Team is currently working remotely at this time. They informed us that the Resolve program is currently having mobile visits and phone visits. They also informed us that their SAP (Student Assistance Program) is holding virtual meetings via Zoom and Microsoft meetings. The outpatient therapy program is being held by tele-health for mental health services.

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

Ms. Guthrie informed the membership that she is currently assisting families with problems

that they are having educating their children at home.

She also informed the membership that ARC has been advocating for people with disabilities

so they will not be discriminated against for COVID-19 treatment.

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

Ms. Katona informed the membership that OVR is under the governor’s direction to work from home since March 17, 2020. All employees are having meetings and providing services virtually to their clients.

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

Mr. Charlton informed the membership that he is working from home and can be reached at 412-353-3863. He has resources to assist disabled individuals with food, COVID-19 testing, and any type of assistance at this time.

**VIII. Committee Update**

1. **Parent Assistance Line**

March calls to the Parent Assistance Line will be reported at our May 2020 meeting.

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

Cyclical Monitoring has been cancelled for the rest of the school year due to the school closures at this time.

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

Mrs. Efkeman informed the membership that Susan Wuenstel will be checking with Keith Focht to see if all of the results from the parent satisfaction surveys conducted with Hampton Area School District parents have been completed at this time.

**VIII. Old Business**

There was no old business covered at this meeting.

**IX. New Business**

Debra Efkeman informed the membership that 11 people at the Dan Miller Summit signed up to be on the LTF e-mail list.

**X. Membership Rounder**

Debra Efkeman shared that her daughter was getting tele-medicine appointments and things have gone well for her at this time.

Heather Zak shared how virtual learning was going for children.

Sharon Janosik shared that there are a lot of great webinars on the PEAL website.

Mary Evrard shared her e-mail which is [mevrard@alleghenycounty.us](mailto:mevrard@alleghenycounty.us) in case anyone needs assistance at this time.

Marci Katona shared her office phone number which is 412-392-4950 in case anyone needs her assistance at this time.

Cynthia Grace Devine-Kepner shared that the PA State PTA had a very productive day on Capital Hill during their visit a few weeks ago.

**XI. Motion for Adjournment**

A motion was made for adjournment.

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

Meeting was adjourned at 9:15 PM.