



Commissioner's Task Force on Holocaust Education

Annual Meeting

September 22, 2020

1:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Location: Zoom Virtual Meeting

Meeting Notes

Attendance

Barbara Goldstein, Miriam Klein Kassenoff, Maureen Carter, Cheri Arnette, Pam Kancher, Linda Medvin, Rositta Konigsberg, Urszula Szczepinska, Elizabeth Gelman, Sharon Horowitz, Beth Harvey, Eileen Shapiro, Yael Hershfield, Rebecca Jefferson, Patrick Coggins, Jonathan Grant, Alissa Stein, Jacob Olivia, Alex Kelly, Michael DiPierro, Adam Brink, Holly Edenfield, Terry Pendleton, Mickey Moore, Kori Street, Cate Wilson, Mallory McGovern

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. By Laws approval – led by Barbara and Mickey Moore (consultant working with the Task Force Chair)
 - Major By-Law Points
 - o Introducing Membership requirements
 - o Term limit, ambassadors, and emeritus
 - o New Positions
 - o Standing Committees
 - Discussion
 - o Questions from Linda Medvin (Former Chair, FAU Center for Holocaust and Human Rights Education)
 - What do the term limits look like for existing members?
 - Answer
 - o Existing members could be grandfathered in (allowed to continue on the task force with one more three-year term)
 - o In the process of creating a matrix for expiration
 - o Will add to procedures (not the by-laws)
 - How will designated sites be represented on the Task Force? What happens if someone is running out of their term but they run a site?

- By-laws do not currently require a designated site representative to be on the board (and ultimately nominations come from the Commissioner's office)
 - Rositta Kenigsberg (Former Chair, Holocaust Documentation and Education Center)
 - Proposal to keep on past Chairs on Task Force in perpetuity
 - Echoed the importance of having an individual from each designated site on at all time
 - Conflict of Interest
 - Anyone with a conflict of interest should not be on the task force site
 - Would like to have 1-2 survivors on the board
 - Gives credibility
 - Committees are a good idea
 - Can have people prove if they are capable to be on the Task Force
 - Additional Question from Linda Medvin
 - By-law requirement for yearly in-person meeting – in light of COVID concerns
 - Decided it is not an issue as long as the meeting still remains public
 - Will adjust for circumstances
- By-Law Changes
 - Change to include that every Task Force site should be represented
 - Not necessary to add in the by-laws → but include in procedures to add the grandfather idea
 - Going to vote by email to approve by the end of the week

3. Standards Expert Committee Update – Michael DiPierro, FLDOE

- Jacob Olivia – introducing Michael, introducing the civics review process at the state level
- Standards Presentation (sent as a PDF to all attendees following the meeting)
 - Process Steps
 - Process began in August → survey 1
 - Survey 2 (current survey, sent to Task Force members) → getting closer to what will be presented to senior leadership
 - September 25th and 29th – webinar
 - Take data from survey 2, present to webinar, discuss what is appropriate/not
 - Get public feedback

- Rule development
 - Want standards in rule before the next textbook adoption
 - Would require publishers to include information on the Holocaust in their books
 - Introduced board of experts
 - Next Steps
 - Fixing Standards
 - Grade Level Appropriateness, Content Appropriateness
 - Webinars will fix this
 - What strand of social studies strand is most appropriate? (US History, World History, Psychology)
 - Make sure it aligns to K-12 existing standards
 - Get to senior leadership by early October
 - Discuss curriculum
 - Working Standards Document
 - Benchmarks PowerPoint– walking through data collected from survey so far
 - Immediate Next Steps for Task Force Members
 - Complete survey 2 by September 23, 2020
 - Webinars
 - Discussion
 - Are the civics benchmarks going to be integrated into these or do they stand alone in a different place? - Linda
 - With each draft standard, we have to determine where it should be placed in the greater standards
 - Ex: US History Grade 8, Civics Grade 8
 - Will decide where to put the benchmarks by subject matter
 - How do we make sure the 9-12 information is assessed on the end-of-course exams? – Patrick (concern over enforcement)
 - Michael
 - With the mandatory required instruction, adopted standards, and curriculum/professional development, this will raise enough excitement to see more people teaching it
 - Is it possible to get an executive summary out to Task Force members (data that the state is collecting on what has been taught)?
 - Available at requiredinstruction.org – Letter H & Letter G
4. Project Based Funding Application new revised form – Terry Pendleton, TCC Fiscal Agent
 - Still waiting for the award to drop, then will roll out the application publicly
 - Changes to the Application

- Changed language to open up process to more organizations
 - Rolling applications
 - Shorter application
 - Added expense page (page 6)
 - Submission signatures pages (page 7)
 - Reimbursements
 - Still finalizing this detail
5. Professional Development Antisemitism – Everfi
- Proposed by Miriam Klein Kassenoff (University of Miami/M-DCPS)
 - Anti-Defamation League product hosted on Everfi
 - Program will be posted for M-DCPS online – used for lesson plans, etc.
 - Target audience: students
 - Cost: Everfi is a free service
 - Worth adding to programs and expanding on
 - Program is still in the final drafts stage, but it will be completed soon
6. Survey – Echoes and Reflections
- Sharing this survey in response to the survey that has become popular in the past week
 - 2017 survey sponsored by the Task Force referenced in the Echoes and Reflections survey
7. Website/Social Media
- Proposed revisions to be done by Mallory McGovern (Staff Assistant)
 - Combine “About Us” and “Commissioner’s Task Force on Holocaust Education Page”
 - “Designated Sites Page” will include contact and location information, redesigned to be more visually appealing
 - “Gallery” Page will collect more images from Task Force sites and be redesigned
 - “Holocaust Resources” page will be changed to “Education Resources” page
 - Will follow a similar structure to the Holocaust Education Week guidelines (categorize by subject matter, resource type, etc.)
 - “Membership Page” will remain mostly the same but will also indicate who is a designated site contact
 - “Museums and Permanent Exhibits” page will become a category on “Education Resources” page
 - Add an “Events and Sponsored Programs Page” to include flyers and events
 - Discussion
 - Museums and permanent exhibits should be highlighted
 - Linda Medvin has photographs that can be used (Barbara has access)
 - Recognizing Holocaust teachers – proposed by Patrick Coggins
 - Use as a way to market the page/get school districts involved
 - Can link out to sites/districts that award throughout the state

- Teachers can be listed as resources/contacts for teachers visiting the website
 - Can be added as another page
 - Potential to have recognized teachers work with the Task Force
- Designated Sites should also have their links included on the “Education Resources Page”

8. Shoah Foundation, THE CHILDREN OF WILLESDEN LANE – Kori Street

- Program Proposal
 - State-wide reading event
 - Working with multiple organizations to do a Mona program virtually
 - Elizabeth Gelman – about to launch an e-learning trunk, funded (does not require teachers to pay)
- Concern about overwhelming teachers (particularly teachers not back in school yet in South Florida) - Linda & Miriam
- Kori Street (USC Shoah)
 - Flexibility in the program so that we can avoid overwhelming teachers
 - Can be accessed throughout the year
 - Materials can be adapted for all ages
 - Play more for late elementary/middle school
 - Can always add in more activities later in the year
- Cost: covered by USC Shoah foundation except for the books
- Task Force agreed to accept this program
- Rolling out the program
 - Contact districts from the FLDOE level ideally
 - Send a copy to all task force members
 - Need to figure out what platform (Zoom, Teams, Skype, etc.) that school districts are having students use to access this

9. New Task Force Chair Role discussion

- Rositta Konigsberg – cooperation of site, may need more people to do the job
- Proposal to Disband - Miriam
 - Replace with an advisory council on Holocaust education
 - Appoint an honorary chair
 - Staff person hired to do all the paperwork, emails, etc. that have been put on the chairperson
 - Advisory council will include every director/leader of a Holocaust site/museum within the state
 - Put those contacts online for teachers to ask advice
- Against the Proposal to Disband
 - Patrick Coggins

- More power/influence as a Task Force
 - Will be doing the people of the district a disservice
 - Need the expertise of the people on the Task Force
 - State does need to increase the budget to hire a staff person to do the work
- Eileen Shapiro
 - Against disbanding but want a staff person
 - Recommended Maureen Carter to be the Chair
- Linda Medvin
 - Funding could be in jeopardy if no longer a task force
 - Task force secures funding → Advisory Council does not
 - Where will the funding come from for a staff person?
 - Pay cuts into funding for sites
- Barbara Goldstein
 - Clarification that there is a staff person already
 - Clarification that nominations have to go through the Commissioner of Education
- Information on the African American Task Force – Patrick Coggins
 - Full-time staff out of the \$100,000 → \$70,000 for sites
 - Other funding from FAMU
 - Chair of the Task Force has a stipend but remains unpaid
 - Recommends asking the Commissioner for more money
- Rositta Konigsberg
 - Warranted to ask for more money
 - Do not want to give up the power
- Patrick
 - Proposing a regional Zoom conference with a person from each school district
 - Talk to them about their survey responses
 - Rositta
 - Want a direct source to each district
 - Linda
 - There are districts we cannot and have not been able to break into since 1996
 - Only in the districts where we can work from the top-down where it works
 - Think we need to get to superintendents and board members
 - Moves that we do not disband and make a statement on that
- Sharon Horowitz

- Asks Chair suggests to the commissioner that it warrants a full-time paid position to help the chair
- Final Suggestions for the Commissioner
 - Suggestion to bring in a paid chair person
 - Need expert to speak to schools, have Holocaust knowledge
 - Avoid a political appointment
 - Suggestion of a co-chair
 - Split the responsibilities
 - People will send recommendations to Barbara via email for names to propose to the Commissioner

10. Other business

11. Adjournment