



Supporting the Development and Retention of a World Class Workforce

Jeffrey S. Swartz, Executive Director

Robert Weil, Chair

LITERACY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, JULY 17, 2018

ATTENDANCE – LITERACY COMMITTEE

MEMBERS		8-Aug-17	13-Sep-17	10-Oct-17	14-Nov-17	3-Jan-18	6-Feb-18	6-Mar-18	3-Apr-18	1-May-18	5-Jun-18	17-Jul-18	7-Aug-18
Brahl, Ken CHAIR	Ravitz Family Shoprites	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	
Burnell, Mariya	TD Bank												X
Del Vale, Jennifer	Hispanic Family Center			X									
Doblick, Duke	Literacy Access Fund											X	
Druce, Jennifer	Camden County Library South County Branch										X	X	X
Goodman, Steve	Volunteers of America	X	X		X	X	X		X	X		X	X
Kalitan, Marilyn Vice Chair	Kalitan Consulting	X		X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Knopf, Dick	Marketing Professional Services	X	X	X	X		X			X	X	X	X
Maguire, Laurie	Camden County One-Stop, Workforce Learning Link		X					X	X		X	X	X
Lisa, David	Camden County Library System							X	X	X		X	X
Lynch, Dawn	NILWD												X
Martinez, Dr. Marilyn	Intrum Dean, CCC						X	X	X				X
Mintz, Jackie	CCC								X				
Mitchell, Danielle	RobinsNest Inc								X	X	X	X	
Page-Soncrant, Jeanne	Business Service Rep, LWD						X						
Rimby, Donna	Clementon Memorial Library		X	X									
Strobl, Holly	Council Women, Clementon Borough	X		X				X		X		X	X
Young, Jennifer	Verizon								X				X
Swartz, Jeffrey S.	WDB, Executive Director	X		X	X	X		X					X
Varallo, Kathleen	WDB, Admin Assistant	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Williams, Leslie J	WDB, Comptroller												
Robert Weil	WDB Chairman							X					

WELCOME

Ken Brahl, Literacy Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:40 am, welcomed attendees and asked for round table introductions. Ken thanked Jennifer Druce and David Lisa for hosting the meeting at the Winslow Township Library. Ken also welcomed guest, Duke Doblick, Director of Fundraising, Literacy Access Fund. (LAF). The LAF was created in 2016 to provide financial support to public libraries nationwide. The goal of the LAF is to award grants of underfunded public libraries to increase access to early literacy skills regardless of economic factors. Duke offered his assistance to any library to help access funds. He may be reached by email: doblickd@literacyaccessfund.org.

LITERACY SERVICES UPDATES

Kathleen Varallo, WDB Administrative Assistant, reported that the guide is growing and she hopes to have it ready for distribution at the upcoming Literacy events. She asked that all committee member continue to research and report back to her any Literacy classes, English as a second language or Adult Basic Skills classes they find being conducted around the County.

LEARNING LINK PILOT PROGRAM

Laurie Maguire, Learning Link Manager, submitted a proposal to the committee that would allow participants to register for services and be able to attend classes online by logging in during pre-determined hours at certain

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library locations and be monitored by instructors. The One-Stop gets State funding for short term literacy programs to move customers toward employment or into advanced training. The program is used to increase the literacy skills of an individual and match it with their occupational goals. The curriculum is AZTEC and may be supplemented by other curriculum. The curriculum also prepares the individual for the HIGH SET test or high school equivalency test. The One-Stop Career Center does cover the cost of this test for customers once eligibility has been established. She said the State has issued 150 licenses to the County for use to provide services to customers. Last year we only used 100. Connecting the Learning Link services with the County Library system may help increase usage of the program or level of service by offering multi-location access. The Committee discussed ways to establish a schedule and easy access intake process at the library. Ken said this is the reason for planning these events in outreaching areas of the county and making it easy to access job-seeking services. The Library system is the perfect venue for connecting these services and it provides a safe comfortable environment. Marlyn Kalitan asked if the learning link services can be provided remotely and can individuals work from home and also is the program self-directed or monitored. Laurie said the program is self-directed although she hopes the new program coming out next year will allow instructors to monitor progress on the time of participation. The current system allows instructors to monitor progress after the individual has logged out.

Laurie said there are certain requirements and paperwork associated with the program. The standard requirements call for a minimum of 20 hours per week. If the individual is working or has child care issues, the amount of hours per week can be adjusted to accommodate them. The eligibility requirements are relatively easy however if an individual is collecting unemployment, they must adhere to the 20 hours per week minimum. Marlyn suggested setting up a certain day and time, once per month, that a counselor could be set up at the library to register. David Lisa suggested contacting the Literacy Volunteers Office located at the Voorhees Library location. Laurie said there is an LVA office located at the One-Stop and they are in regular communication. He also asked what keeps an individual to log-in from any location, not having anything to do with the library. Laurie said that once the plan is approved by the WDB and One-Stop it will become part of the Learning Link Policy to allow an individual to log on-remotely but with strong recommendation as to the approved locations. It cannot really limit access once the individual is assigned log-in information. David said the library computers are always busy. He expressed concerns about reserving any one particular computer solely for Learning Link access. Jennifer said it would depend on scheduling.

CAREER CONNECTIONS UPDATE

Kathleen reported that she contacted Dawn Lynch, NJ Department of Labor, who oversees implementation and use of the Career Connections website around the State. Based on the conversation, she wrote a letter to Dawn describing the work of the Literacy Committee and included the LNA. Dawn is scheduled to attend our meeting on Tuesday, August 7th at the WDB Office.

COMMUNITY PLAY DAY

Jennifer Druce, Manager, Winslow Township Library, described the Community Play Day that has been presented in the past by the Camden County Library System. While it has not yet taken place at this library location, it has successfully drawn a number of families to a variety of activities and sensory stations and family

games. Steve Goodman asked how the event is advertised. Jennifer said the Community Day is usually advertised by e-mail blast to subscribers and would be advertised in the Fall Newsletter as well. David Lisa said he will be contacting the County Public Relations Department to help in promoting the event.

LITERACY FAMILY DAY UPDATE

Holly Strobl, Councilwoman, Clementon, reported that she checked in with the Fire Department about their date for hosting this year's "Fire Prevention Day" on Saturday, October 6th. It was decided by the Committee that hosting the Literacy Family Day at that Library would be more successful by partnering with this event. She said that flyers going home with young students from the school will work well to promote the event. Danielle Mitchell, Program Supervisor, Robin's Nest Inc., suggested that Holly should contact the Family Success Center in the Clementon area. Holly was not aware it was there but said she would follow up with them. Danielle said there is also a mobile Family Success Center that will probably visit both events. Steve suggested that the sign-in sheets from last year's event be used to contact the families that attended and invite them back.

Holly said that a Family Literacy Night has been established as a result of a connection made at last year's event. The Clementon Memorial Library has also established some literacy help services using a volunteer, Jackie Mintz, recommended by the Literacy Committee.

Ken said he was very satisfied with the direction the Committee is taking toward working with the Library to bringing workforce development services closer to the customer. Members of the Literacy Committee are making important connections. Ken suggested that the committee take a walk through the library to look at how the Community Play day will be able to flow. The Committee toured the library, with the assistance of Jennifer Druce, and discussed the logistics of the Committee Playdate, to be hosted on Saturday, September 29th, 10am-12pm. There was plenty of room in this well-kept library to feature a children's free book give-away, self-directed sensory stations, and story time while parents are directed toward tables containing information about adult literacy services and work readiness help.

NEXT MEETING: The Literacy Committee will meet on Tuesday, August 7th, 2018 at 8:30am at the WDB Office.

Submitted by

Kathleen Varallo,

Administrative Assistant