



Supporting the Development and Retention of a World Class Workforce

Jeffrey S. Swartz, Executive Director

Matthew Verney, Board Chair

LITERACY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2021
ZOOM MEETING

ATTENDANCE – LITERACY COMMITTEE

MEMBERS		1-Jun-21	6-Jul-21	3-Aug-21	14-Sep-21	5-Oct-21	7-Dec-21
Brahl, Ken CHAIR	Ravitz Family Shoprites		X	X	X	X	X
Cirii, Frank	Local Area Operations Director, Camden County One Stop		X	X	X	X	X
Dann, Carol	Hopeworks Camden			X	X		X
Daunoras, Heidi	Pine Hill School District	X	X	X	X		X
Druce, Jennifer	Camden County Library	X					
Fugee, Antoinette	Center for Family Services, Inc.					X	
Hill, Lauren Dr.	Camden County College		X	X	X	X	
Kalitan, Marlyn Vice Chair	Kalitan Consulting	X	X	X			X
Knopf, Dick	Marketing Professional Services		X		X	X	X
Mitchell, Danielle	RobinsNest Inc						
Strobl, Holly	Council Women, Clementon Borough		X	X			
Walker, Eric	RobinsNest Inc		X	X			
Young, Jennifer	Verizon		X		X		X
Levitt, Alex	WDB		X	X	X	X	X
Swartz, Jeffrey S.	WDB	X	X	X	X	X	X
Varallo, Kathleen	WDB	X	X	X	X	X	X

WELCOME

Ken Brahl, Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:40am. Ken asked the committee to review the minutes dated Tuesday, October 5, 2021. He said he did not get a chance to review them and asked the committee if they could be approved at the next meeting. Marlyn Kalitan, Board of Trustee member, made a 1st motion with Frank Cirii, Camden County One Stop, making a 2nd motion. By unanimous vote to the affirmative, the motion was carried, and the minutes for October 5th, were tabled until the next committee meeting in January.

ONE-STOP & LEARNING LINK UPDATES

Frank gave an update on the One-Stop and Learning Link. He said that outreach is still going strong via email with lists and other referrals provided by Kristi Connors and her team in ES. He did emphasize he wished there were more referrals but continued to say the One-Stop is doing ok. Learning Link is also prepared for all new referrals. Frank said he put in the paperwork to have the One-Stop approved for being a GED and High SET testing site. The process could be 2-3 months, but they are in line and should be approved by 2022. Frank informed the committee that Patti Beach, One-Stop, is no longer there and that someone will fill their position eventually at the Learning Link. Any inquires can go to Frank or Nidia Sinclair. Frank added most of the

training's occurring at the One-Stop have been focused on attaining a Commercial Driver's License (CDL) or training in medical fields. He explained that both options for customers are appealing as it requires quicker learning and attaining credentials to go into the workforce.

LITERACY NEEDS ASSESSMENT 2022

Ken continued with the agenda and brought up the need to update for 2022 the Literacy Needs Assessment (LNA). Ken and Jeff Swartz, WDB, discussed bringing on an intern to assist with the updates to the LNA including gathering data from the previous census. Ken said January's meeting would be dedicated to looking at the previous LNA. Jeff added that a detail to consider exploring in the LNA is the idea of working virtually as it wasn't a component previously.

TALES FOR TAILS

Ken continued and mentioned Tales for Tails Reading Program, an opportunity for young readers to provide shelter pets with socialization and human interaction by reading aloud to them. Ken said Shoprite made a \$10,000 commitment to the Animal Wellness Association (AWA) to provide resources such as books for their program. This could be a potential outreach opportunity for the committee.

OUTREACH

Ken asked if members of the committee had any outreach updates:

-Heidi Daunoras, Pine Hill School District, said her local Book Smiles passed along 750 books to the Clementon Food Pantry.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

-Kathleen Varallo, WDB, will be leaving the Workforce Development Board on December 17th. The committee wished her all the best in her new endeavors.

-Ken thanked the committee for all their hard work and wished everyone a happy holiday and new year.

-No further updates were provided.

NEXT MEETING: The next Literacy Committee Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 4th at 8:30am. The WDB will send out meeting materials and Zoom conferencing information prior to the meeting.

Submitted by

Alex Levitt,

Administrative Assistant