



Supporting the Development and Retention of a World Class Workforce

Jeffrey S. Swartz, Executive Director

Matthew Verney, Board Chair

LITERACY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2023
ZOOM MEETING

ATTENDANCE

COMMITTEE INFORMATION AND ATTENDANCE								
NAME	ORGANIZATION	TRUSTEE MEMBER						
			5-Jul-22	6-Sep-22	4-Oct-22	6-Dec-22	3-Jan-23	7-Feb-23
Brahl, Ken CHAIR	Ravitz Family ShopRites	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Abrams, Larry	BookSmiles						X	X
Beach, Patti	Goodwill		X	X	X	X	X	
Chisolm, Victoria	Literacy Volunteers of America					X		X
Cirii, Frank	Camden County One Stop	X			X	X	X	X
Dann, Carol	HopeWorks Camden				X	X	X	X
Daunoras, Heidi	Pine Hill School District		X		X	X	x	X
Druce, Jennifer	Camden County Library							
Egrie, Gabrielle	Watermark Communities				X	X		X
Fithian, Danielle	Goodwill					X		X
Fugee, Antoinette	Cooper Healthcare						X	
Hill, Lauren Dr.	Camden County College				X	x	X	
Kalitan, Marlyn Vice Chair	Kalitan Consulting	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Knopf, Dick	Marketing Professional Services		X	X	X	X	X	X
Mauro, Jennifer	Goodwill		X	X	X	X	X	X
McKelvey, Christopher	Councilman, Clementon Borough						X	X
Norman, Tahja	Orchards Family Success Center							
Rutzler, Eugene	Literacy Needs Assessment Intern		X	X		X		
Sinclair, Nidia	Camden County One-Stop				X			
Soira, Lizette	Orchards Family Success Center							
Strobl, Holly	Councilwoman, Clementon Borough							
Young, Jennifer	Verizon				X			X
Wilmann, Michael	WMSH						X	X
Levitt, Alex	WDB		X	X	X	X	x	X
Swartz, Jeffrey S.	WDB		X	X	X	X	X	X
Vaughn, Debra	WDB			X	X	X	X	X

WELCOME

Ken Brahl, Chair, greeted the attendees and opened the meeting at 8:32 am. He asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the January 3, 2023 meeting. Motion was made by Michael Willman, seconded by Heidi Daunoras. By majority vote to the affirmative, the motion carried, and the minutes for January 3, 2023 were approved.

ONE-STOP & LEARNING LINK UPDATES

Frank Cirii, Camden County One-Stop Career Center, Local Area Operations Director

- The GED-required cameras have been installed. Upon completion of the certification process, testing can begin. HiSET testing is available for scheduling online.
- The Chromebook Loaner Program is in service for TANF clients with referrals for education, training and job search activities.
- The Board of Social Services relocation to the One-Stop complex is complete, with shuttle service being provided between the Voorhees Town Center bus hub, PATCO Woodcrest Station and the One-Stop complex.
- The DOL has been distributing Q & A informational material to assist people having trouble resolving their issues with ID.me. Chris McKelvey pointed out that NJ MVC does offer mobile services for individuals in need of a NJ driver license or state-issued ID.

- The Incumbent Worker Training Program (IWT) has been going well and expanding.
- There has been no increase of COVID-related incidents at the One-Stop.
- The One-Stop will hold a job fair at the Cherry Hill Mall on March 3rd from 10:00 am until 2:00 pm. A link will be shared for employers and job seekers to register. Another job fair will be held at the Cherry Hill Mall on September 15, 2023.

COMMITTEE UPDATES/COMMENTS

Ken Brahl, Committee Chair

- The committee will host its Clementon Library reading event on Thursday April 20, 2023 from 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm. The event program will include a book drive/collection.
- Chris McKelvey offered the Clementon Fire Hall and the Clementon Library as venues for the event. He noted the library is being prepared for reopening, and also offered to speak to the town treasurer about any community funding that might be available to support the event budget.
- Heidi Daunoras will contact a storyteller to read to children attending the event. Efforts will be made to secure pro-athlete appearances as well as a student-athlete standout from Overbrook HS and local high schools (mentioned Haason Reddick, and a member of the Flyers) and a local author to attend the event. Larry Abrams suggested having a DJ to play music at the event.

Larry Abrams, BookSmiles

- BookSmiles will be on site at the literacy event to collect and distribute books, whatever is needed. He noted that the new book bank has established a way to receive books from Thrift Books, Better World Books and Goodwill. BookSmiles has, through a relationship with a book supplier, created donor packages that can provide age-appropriate, new and diverse children's books in English and Spanish.

Heidi Daunoras

- The high school is having a career day and holding a collection of professional attire until the end of February. The clothing is for 90 students to wear for their mock interviews.
- In response to questions raised about how to service the immigrant population or those in sanctuary churches, Heidi and Chris McKelvey suggested churches known to them in Pine Hill. Heidi and Mike Willman will have a conversation about tools that can be shared to improve access to reading materials.

Ken Brahl, Committee Chair

- The Literacy Committee will hold an event in late April on the grounds of the Clementon Library, which will include book distribution and services, and possibly with a local sports figure or author in attendance. The February meeting agenda will include literacy event planning and exploring other literacy organizations.

Jeff Swartz, Workforce Development Board

- The WDB has submitted its grant application to fund a Summer Youth Employment Program. Participating youth, aged 16-24, will earn a stipend of \$15 per hour during the 8-week program, which includes a 1-week of work-readiness training workshop. The participants will be assigned to employer work sites in Camden County.
- Volunteer professionals will be sought to teach the provided work-readiness curriculum for the Summer Youth Employment Program. Marlyn Kalitan volunteered to teach a course. Jen Mauro expressed interest in having Goodwill participate as a work site as well as providing a facilitator for a work-readiness course. She also offered classroom space and necessary equipment at Goodwill's transportation-accessible Stratford location for the work-readiness training workshop.

ADJOURNMENT

Marlyn Kalitan, Vice-Chair, asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. A motion was made by Heidi Daunoras and seconded by Dick Knopf. By majority vote to the affirmative, the motion carried, and the meeting adjourned at 9:43 am.

NEXT MEETING

The next Literacy Committee meeting will be held Tuesday, March 7, 2023, at 8:30am via Zoom. Meeting materials and Zoom conferencing information will be distributed prior to the meeting.

Submitted by:

Debra Vaughn

Administrative Assistant to the Executive Director