



Supporting the Development and Retention of a World Class Workforce

Jeffrey S. Swartz, Executive Director

Matthew Verney, Board Chair

LITERACY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, JUNE 14, 2022
ZOOM MEETING

ATTENDANCE

COMMITTEE INFORMATION AND ATTENDANCE									
NAME	ORGANIZATION	TRUSTEE MEMBER							
			4-Jan-22	1-Feb-22	1-Mar-22	5-Apr-22	3-May-22	14-Jun-22	
Brahl, Ken CHAIR	Ravitz Family ShopRites	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Beach, Patti	Goodwill			X	X	X	X	X	X
Chisolm, Victoria	Literacy Volunteers of America								X
Cirii, Frank	Camden County One Stop	X	X			X	X	X	X
Dann, Carol	HopeWorks Camden					X			X
Daunoras, Heidi	Pine Hill School District			X	X	X	X	X	X
Druce, Jennifer	Camden County Library								X
Egrie, Gabrielle	Watermark Communities							X	X
Fithian, Danielle	Goodwill			X					
Fugee, Antoinette	Center for Family Services, Inc.		X						
Hill, Lauren Dr.	Camden County College		X	X	X	X	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	
McKelvey, Christopher	Councilman, Clementon Borough			X	X	X	X	X	X
Mitchell, Danielle	RobinsNest Inc								
Norman, Tahja	Orchards Family Success Center							X	
Rutzler, Eugene	Literacy Needs Assessment Intern					X	X	X	X
Sinclair, Nidia	Camden County One-Stop							X	
Soira, Lizette	Orchards Family Success Center			X	X				
Strobl, Holly	Councilwoman, Clementon Borough								
Young, Jennifer	Verizon		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Levitt, Alex	WDB		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Swartz, Jeffrey S.	WDB		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Vaughn, Debra	WDB			X	X		X		

WELCOME

Ken Brahl, Chair, greeted the attendees and opened with comments about the Youth Job Fair in Clementon on May 4th. He thanked everyone and expressed his feeling that it was one of the best job fairs he'd attended, also that he looked forward to doing it again next year and suggested a time change to 2:30pm to 5pm. Committee members offered positive feedback on the great turnout of employers and youth in attendance. Jeff Swartz and Ken thanked Clementon Councilman, Chris McKelvey, for arranging the use of the Clementon Fire Hall. Ken then asked for a motion to approve the minutes for the May 3, 2022, meeting. Heidi Daunoras made the motion, seconded by Marlyn Kalitan. By unanimous vote to the affirmative, the motion carried, and the minutes were approved.

FRANK CIRII - ONE-STOP & LEARNING LINK UPDATES

- The Learning Link is live with HiSET testing. The process of finalizing certification for GED includes the installation of required monitoring equipment and storage lockers for personal items. in the Learning Link. In addition, county paralegals are being cross-trained to on-call to avoid interruption of Learning Link services for CASAS, HiSET, etc.
- Frank continues work with the State on the purchase of 125 Chromebooks with insurance for TANF/SNAP/GA clients, primarily for those in G-Jobs but available for upskilling education and job searches. The Chromebooks will also be used by the Youth Work Experience. Frank mentioned all Camden County Libraries offer a rented Chromebook for up to 4 weeks. Chromebooks will not have

access to Microsoft Office Suite but will have basic applications and wi-fi enabled for online access. They will not be linked to One-Stops network in any way.

- Frank mentioned that UI has been running smoothly. Currently, the One-Stop is averaging 60-65 UI appointments a day. There are technically no walk-ins, but nobody is being turned away.
- Learning Link funding was cut by \$33,000 to \$62,000 for this year, but another infusion of funds later in the year may be possible. Participants in the Learning Link are being co-enrolled to qualify for use of other funds. The One-Stop is committed to the success of the Learning Link and will use available funds to fill as much of the deficit as possible.

LITERACY NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Eugene Rutzler, Literacy Needs Assessment Intern, provided an update on his reports for the 2022 Literacy Needs Assessment.

- With the information collected so far, Eugene has compiled data into border and notable categories and formulated an overall index score for schools. A point-system was assigned in four indicators to determine a school district's overall score: (1) high school graduation rates, (2) percentage of households that speak languages other than English at home, (3) household poverty rates, and (4) percentage of residents without a high school diploma or a General Education Diploma (GED). Using this information, school districts scored between 4 or below, or 6 to 8. No school scored a 5. Bellmawr was identified in a decline, going from 5 to 7.
- Statistical criteria, based on the four indicators, were used to categorize Camden County municipalities as bordering or notable. A bordering community will be defined as one that is lower than the average provided. A notable community will be defined as one that is significantly lower than the average provided.
- Carol Dann raised the question of whether the renaissance/performing arts, Promise, Leap Academy schools or Camden City Charter Schools and were included in the 59.8% graduation rate and commented that Camden Charter Schools are reporting higher graduation rates than public schools. Eugene said he would formulate a weighted average for the Camden charter schools.
- Ken Brahl asked if Eugene would be able to create a final draft of his document in time for the July Literacy Committee Meeting. Jeff Swartz asked if Gene could include one or two take-aways in his report and invited him to the Quarterly Board Meeting on June 22nd. Dr. Lauren Hill thanked Gene for sharing the information and an update on the literacy resources, HACC is not providing resources. Carol Dann noted that Eugene did a great job working with the data provided and thanked him. Dick Knopf asked if there was any outreach to Chesilhurst.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

ADJOURNMENT

Ken asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Heidi Daunouras made the motion, it was seconded by Dick Knopf. By unanimous vote to the affirmative, the motion carried, and the meeting adjourned at 9:35am.

NEXT MEETING: The next Literacy Committee Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 5, 2022, at 8:30am. The WDB will send out meeting materials and Zoom conferencing information prior to the meeting.

Submitted by:

Alex Levitt, Administrative Assistant