



Supporting the Development and Retention of a World Class Workforce

Jeffrey S. Swartz, Executive Director

Carl A. Donato Jr., Chair

LITERACY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, AUGUST 1, 2023
ZOOM MEETING

ATTENDANCE

COMMITTEE INFORMATION AND ATTENDANCE							
NAME	ORGANIZATION	TRUSTEE MEMBER					
			4-Apr-23	2-May-23	6-Jun-23	11-Jul-23	1-Aug-23
Kalitan, Marlyn Chair	Kalitan Consulting	X	X	X	X	X	X
Abrams, Larry	BookSmiles			X		X	X
Beach, Patti	Goodwill			X		X	X
Chisolm, Victoria	Literacy Volunteers of America					X	X
Cirii, Frank	Camden County One Stop	X				X	X
D'amato, Greg	Pine Hill School District			X			X
Dann, Carol	HopeWorks Camden						
Daunoras, Heidi	Pine Hill School District			X		X	X
Druce, Jennifer	Camden County Library						
Egrie, Gabrielle	Watermark Communities		X	X			
Fithian, Danielle	Goodwill						
Fugee, Antoinette	Cooper Healthcare						
Hill, Lauren Dr.	Camden County College			X	X	X	
Knopf, Dick	Marketing Professional Services		X	X	X	X	
Mauro, Jennifer	Goodwill					X	
McKelvey, Christopher	Councilman, Clementon Borough		X	X	X		
Norman, Tahja	Orchards Family Success Center						
Page-Soncrant, Jeanne	Dept. of Labor		X				
Petty-Ford, Shawnee	HopeWorks Camden					X	
Rutzler, Eugene	Literacy Needs Assessment Intern						
Sinclair, Nidia	Camden County One-Stop		X				
Soira, Lizette	Orchards Family Success Center						
Strobl, Holly	Councilwoman, Clementon Borough						
Young, Jennifer	Verizon						X
Willmann, Michael	WMSH		X	X		X	X
Levitt, Alex	WDB		X	X	X	X	X
Swartz, Jeffrey S.	WDB		X	X	X	X	X
Vaughn, Debra	WDB		X	X	X	X	X

WELCOME

Marlyn greeted the attendees and opened the meeting at 8:35 am. She asked attendees to introduce themselves, after which, she asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the July 11, 2023 meeting. Motion was made Michael Willman, seconded by Jeff Swartz. By majority vote to the affirmative, the motion was carried, and the minutes for July 11, 2023 were approved.

COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

2023 – 2024 Activities

- National Night Out: The WDB will attend events in Cherry Hill and Pine Hill this evening and in Clementon on August 7th. Promotional materials will be provided for The Literacy Guide, One-Stop Virtual Services and Atlantic City Electric’s SPARK internship program.
- The committee will invite various literacy-related organizations to attend meetings. Greg D’Amato, Media Specialist for the Pine Hill Middle School Library, is present for today’s meeting. Father’s Read 365 will attend the committee meeting in September.
- Jeff asked Chris McKelvey to keep the committee informed of any event hosted by the Clementon Fire Department during September’s Fire Prevention Week or in October, with the suggestion that the Literacy Committee could host an event during one of those times.

Pine Hill School District

Heidi Daunoras

- Heidi stated that Larry Abrams will be at the Pine Hill's National Night Out to distribute books.
- Greg D'Amato, Media Specialist at the Pine Hill Middle School Library, spoke about library operations and his ideas going forward.
 - To start, the library will be open Monday 4 pm-8 pm, with daytime hours 8:30 am – 1:30 pm Tuesday through Thursday. There will be occasional Friday hours to make up a day for holidays or school closure days.
 - Greg hopes to have a mentoring program and a tutoring program. He plans to have some middle school students to assist with restocking bookshelves, helping him select books to order and watering plants. This year, the library has hosted a Teen-Tween Craft Event, a Kids Craft Corner and a Story Time which was geared toward children pre-k to grade-2. A read-aloud activity was supported by Camden County Library.
 - Heidi and Greg are seeking additional funding to support activities for the library.
- Marlyn Kalitan, Cherry Hill Library's Friends of the Library President, offered assistance to Greg D'Amato. She commented that resources of the Cherry Hill Library could be made available, such as volunteers for special presentations or projects or activity nights.

BookSmiles

Larry Abrams

- Larry stressed the urgency of early childhood literacy that begins with baby board books. The book bank distributes 50,000 books per month, and he welcomes non-profits and organizations to take advantage of his resources and pick up books to distribute to advance childhood literacy in areas that are considered "book deserts".
- BookSmiles has tens of thousands of quality books available at its Pennsauken book bank, located at 7300 North Crescent Blvd. #10, Pennsauken, NJ 08110.
 - The hours of operation are:
Monday- Friday 9:00 am - 5:00 pm
Sunday 9:00 am - 3:00 pm
- BookSmiles was invited to share space in Trenton with Mercer Street Friends. Books from Pennington, Lawrenceville and Princeton would flow into the satellite branch in Mercer County that would be distributed in Trenton. A BookSmiles warehouse, approximately 10,000 square feet, will eventually be built in Philadelphia to serve as a regional book source distributing 2 to 3 million books per year.

Camden County One-Stop Career Center

Frank Cirii

- In-person visits continue to increase, with approximately 70% of the visitors coming for UI services.
- The One-Stop's new customer flow protocol has been implemented for SNAP/TANF clients as of July 1st. It enables One-Stop staff to offer career plans and more individualized attention to people referred by the Board of Social Services.
- Efforts are being made to resolve the on-going parking lot issues which present safety issues for pedestrians visiting the One-Stop.
- All of the stand-alone local area network has been completed and GED software has been installed on designated computers for preliminary testing. The One-Stop's launch of GED testing is expected soon.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Jeff Swartz, Executive Director

- The Quarterly Board Meeting will be held on September 20, 2023 at 9:00 am via Zoom. The approval of the master budget is on the agenda, so a quorum is required. Suggestions for the program are welcome.
- Heidi inquired about the EMT Certification and other certification programs open to high school graduate. She asked for any available information about post-high school certification programs, so it could be shared with graduating seniors in Pine Hill.
- The Summer Youth Employment program is past its halfway point.
- Atlantic City Electric (ACE):
 - The WISE & GIE programs are on hiatus until more employment opportunities open for training graduates. Another class will likely start in January or February.
- Jeff reminded the meeting attendees to forward event flyers to Alex to be posted on the WDB's website and social media.

ADJOURNMENT

Marlyn reminded the committee that a Vice-Chair is needed, before asking for a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was made by Heidi Daunoras and seconded by Chris McKelvey. By majority vote to the affirmative, the motion was carried, and the meeting adjourned at 9:20 am.

NEXT MEETING

The next Literacy Committee meeting will be held Tuesday, September 5, 2023, at 8:30 am 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