



Supporting the Development and Retention of a World Class Workforce

Jeffrey S. Swartz, Executive Director

Robert Weil, Chair

LITERACY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2019

ATTENDANCE – LITERACY COMMITTEE

MEMBERS		6-Mar-18	3-Apr-18	1-May-18	5-Jun-18	17-Jul-18	7-Aug-18	4-Sep-18	8-Nov-18	4-Dec-18	8-Jan-19	5-Feb-19
Brahl, Ken CHAIR	Ravitz Family Shoprites	X	X		X	X		X	X	X		X
Burnell, Mariya	TD Bank						X					
Ciri, Frank	Local Area Operations Director, Camden County								X		X	
Dann, Carol	Hopeworks Camden								X	X	X	X
Daunoras, Heidi	Pine Hill School District							X	X			
De, Shyamoli	Camden County Library										X	
Doblick, Duke	Literacy Access Fund					X						
Druce, Jennifer	Camden County Library South County Branch				X	X	X		X			
Hill, Lauren Dr.	Camden County Youth One Stop							X	X	X	X	X
Kalitan, Marlyn Vice Chair	Kalitan Consulting	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X
Kinzy, Joanne	CCC								X	X		
Knopf, Dick	Marketing Professional Services			X	X	X	X					X
Levandowski, Andrea	NJ State Library											X
Lisa, David	Camden County Library System	X	X	X		X	X			X		X
Lynch, Dawn	NJLWD						X					
Mintz, Jackie	CCC		X									
Mitchell, Danielle	RobinsNest Inc		X	X	X	X						X
Page-Soncrant, Jeanne	Business Service Rep, LWD											
Rimby, Donna	Clementon Memorial Library											
Strobl, Holly	Council Women, Clementon Borough	X		X		X	X		X			
Young, Jennifer	Verizon		X				X		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
Williams, Leslie J	WDB, Comptroller											

WELCOME

Ken Brahl, Literacy Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:35am, welcomed attendees and asked for round table introductions. He welcomed Andrea Levandowski, Project Manager, Small Business Development & Technology, New Jersey State Library. He thanked her for coming to speak to the Literacy Committee about the services of the State Library. Ken said that the Committee began working with the Library system based on our Literacy Needs Assessment that revealed Literacy concerns not only in Camden City but throughout the County. The libraries provide a safe community space for individuals and families to visit for not just books but an array of other services including job seeking help. The Committee continues to be pleased to find more and more ways that having a library card can help individuals brush up on work readiness skills, create a resume and even start a business of their own. The Committee has made it a focus to drive more employment services into the county through the libraries. The Committee also initiated a Learning Link Pilot Program at the South County Branch, Winslow Township.

Jeffrey Swartz, Executive Director, WDB, further explained that this satellite program allows participants to register with the One-Stop Career Center upon meeting with a Counselor by appointment at the Library. They may be in need of brushing up on math and reading skills. The individual is tested with the Test of Adult Basic

Skills (TABE) to establish their reading and math grade level. Once levels are established, the Counselor works with each individual to create a plan that can be implemented using the computers at the library. The Counselor can monitor the progress of the individual online and plan in-person check points along the way. This service is especially good for an individual preparing to qualify for a training program or GED High Set test.

LEARNING LINK PILOT PROGRAM

Dr Lauren Hill, Acting Learning Link Manager, reported on the satellite Learning Link program at the South County Branch, Winslow Township. She said the pilot program has been off to a very slow start. There have not been any inquiries or appointments scheduled. She said that Kathleen Varallo, Administrative Assistant is following up on one call received by an individual who TABE tested at Camden County College and scored below the level required for the WDB, Atlantic City Electric Training Initiative. Kathleen said that the gentlemen called the WDB office and she is following up with the college to retrieve his scores. The college will release the scores to the individual but cannot release them to the WDB due to their student privacy policy. She said that she was able to speak about the pilot program during WDB welcoming remarks at an employment information session for the US Census held at the library on Tuesday, January 22, 2019. There were 30 jobseekers in attendance at the information session. Jeff said that the WDB will contact some of the faith based organizations in the Winslow Township area to provide information about the program. Lauren said that she is promoting the program when she attends outreach opportunities for the One-Stop. David Lisa, Associate Director, Camden County Library System, offered to arrange a conference call with Dr. Hill, and Jennifer Druce, Branch Manager, South County Branch, Winslow Township, to discuss options for promoting the Learning Link Pilot Program.

STATE LIBRARY VISIT

Kathleen Varallo, Administrative Assistant, WDB, introduced Andrea Simzak Levandowski, Library Consultant for Small Business Development & Technology, New Jersey State Library. She met her when she attended a Library workshop at the Garden State Employment & Training Association (GSETA) Conference in October, 2018. Andrea kindly agreed to present this information for the committee here today.

Andrea presented a power point presentation about the services of the New Jersey State Library. The New Jersey State Library, based in Trenton, New Jersey, was established in 1796 to serve the information needs of New Jersey's Governor, Legislature and courts. The State Library is also responsible to assist in the provision of library and information services to all New Jersey residents. (Follow link to read more about the State Library history.) <https://www.njstatelib.org/about/history/>

Services for the Public

The New Jersey State Library borrower's card provides residents of New Jersey with access to JerseyClicks, a portal of databases specially licensed for state residents. It also allows you to borrow books from their collections, and to use JerseyCat, a statewide interlibrary loan (ILL) system.

Obtaining a Library Card:

New Jersey residents, and those employed in New Jersey, may register as borrowers with the State Library. Residents may access the State Library's online services by following links provided on their local library website. Non-residents may purchase an annual membership which affords borrowing privileges from our collections. Registration must be done in person, at the Library circulation desk at: 185 West State Street, Trenton, N.J.

Research:

The collections and resources of the New Jersey State Library are available for use by the public. See the About Our Collections page for contact information and details about the Library's collections. Reference librarians will assist visitors in identifying and locating materials and provide research guidance.

Databases:

The State Library subscribes to a number of databases, including Job and Career Accelerator, specifically for the use of all citizens of the state. These databases may be accessed via JerseyClicks by anyone with a library card from their local New Jersey public library, or the State Library.

The State Library Information Center also subscribes to many additional databases that may be used onsite by anyone who visits the library.

Information about the statewide databases, including ReferenceUSA, Rosetta Stone, and Job & Career Accelerator, Andrea mentioned during her presentation can be found by following this link;

https://www.njstatelib.org/services_for_libraries/statewide_services/jerseyclicks/

Local links to the Camden County Library System can be found at the Camden County Library, 203 Laurel Road, Voorhees 08043, Phone: (856) 772-1636, website:

www.camdencountylibrary.org

Ken asked what services could be provided to local libraries that are opened for a limited number of hours during the week. Jeff said the Camden County Library system has eight branches throughout the county and there are also small municipalities like Clementon Borough and Cherry Hill that have their own independent libraries. Andrea said that local private libraries could access the services of the State Library as well through JerseyClicks. Any resident can access services by providing their library card number. Other services include basic skills development, resume writing, and language learning. The State Library has lots of service for an individual wanting to start their own business. Business services include business to business marketing, business search and data information about State registered businesses. David Lisa said that residents making a move to another location may find it helpful to research the area they are moving to. This can be accomplished online as well. Andrea said that some libraries offer three dimensional printers. Some libraries offer bakeware sharing and museum passes and some libraries even have a community garden. Some libraries also offer computer sharing or mobile hotspots for card holders needing internet Wi-Fi access at home. Marlyn Kalitan,

Vice Chair Literacy, said the Cherry Hill Library offers many of these services, made possible through a great group of “Friends of the Cherry Hill Library.” She teaches a LinkedIn workshop at that library.

Andrea said that while libraries do not replace the services of the One-Stops, they do compliment the services for jobseekers so she encouraged the committee to promote the idea of obtaining a library card for all jobseekers that register with the One-Stop for employment and training services.

Ken suggested the committee consider hosting a jobseeker information session or event at the local libraries for adults that would include workshops like improving a LinkedIn profile. The Committee has hosted events that draw families with the idea of improving reading skills by reading to their children. He said that maybe we can turn our focus directly to the jobseeker by hosting a Saturday morning event.

LITERACY COMMITTEE 2019 GOALS-Updates

Jeff reported that letter invites have been sent to the Mayors of Clementon, Pine Hill and Lindenwold. The letter will invite them to participate in a discussion about how the Workforce Development Board has been working to promote literacy services in their local area. Holly Strobl, Councilwomen, Clementon Borough, provided us with content for the letter invite. The Literacy Committee will host a spaghetti dinner at the fire hall behind the Library in Clementon Borough on Tuesday, March 12, 2019. All committee members are invited to attend this meeting.

Carol reminded the committee they have been invited to meet at Hopeworks on Tuesday, April 2, 2019. Visit <https://hopeworks.org/> for more information about Hopeworks.

Danielle Mitchell also offered to host a meeting at the Orchards Family Success Center, 416 Sicklerville Road, Sicklerville, NJ 08081. Kathleen asked if leadership of Robin’s Nest could be invited to the meeting as well. She said that all the family success centers in the county could be included in the efforts of the WDB Literacy Committee. They are all offering services complementary to the One-Stop and could provide a great referral system. Ken agreed and asked Danielle to reserve any regular Literacy meeting date in June or July that is most convenient for the center.

Ken thanked Andrea for attending the meeting and providing the Committee with great information about State Library services.

NEXT MEETING: The Literacy Committee will meet on Tuesday, March 5, 2019 at 8:30am at the WDB Office.

Submitted by

Kathleen Varallo,

Administrative Assistant