



## WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Supporting the Development and Retention of a World Class Workforce

Jeffrey S. Swartz, Executive Director

Carl A. Donato Jr., Chair

### Pathways to Literacy Committee April 1, 2025 Minutes via Zoom

COMMITTEE INFORMATION AND ATTENDANCE						
NAME	ORGANIZATION	TRUSTEE	1/7/25	2/4/2025	3/4/2025	4/1/2025
Kalitan, Marlyn Chair	Kalitan Consulting	X	X	X	X	X
Abrams, Larry	BookSmiles			X	X	X
Willmann, Michael, Vice Chair	WMSH	X	X	X	X	X
Allen, Mikala	One-Stop					
Beach, Patti	Goodwill			X	X	X
Chisolm, Victoria	Literacy Volunteers of America		X	X	X	X
Cirii, Frank	Camden County One Stop	X		X	X	X
Clark, Justin	Office of Adult Literacy (NJDOL)		X	X	X	X
D'amato, Greg	Pine Hill School District					
Dann, Carol	HopeWorks Camden			X		
Daunoras, Heidi	Pine Hill School District		X	X	X	
Rashawn Davis	Book Smiles				X	
Deprey, Brynn	NTIA					
Fithian, Danielle	Goodwill					X
Floyd, Kwame	Teacher Apprenticeship Network		X	X		
Fugee, Antoinette	Cooper Healthcare			X		
Green, Aurella	Camden County College				X	
Jenkins, Timothy	Camden Board of Education					
Johnstone, Brent	Fathers365					
Knopf, Dick	Marketing Professional Services			X	X	X
Mauro, Jennifer	Goodwill	X	X	X	X	X
McKelvey, Christopher	Councilman, Clementon Borough		X	X	X	
Petty-Ford, Shawneeq	HopeWorks Camden					
Robinson, Terrenny	Net America					
Sinclair, Nidia	Camden County One-Stop					
Staples, Akeiff	Fathers365					
Stewart, Queen	Volunteer UP					
Randall, Angela	Camden County OEO		X	X		
Thompson, Ryan	MidPenn Bank	X		X		
Michelle Rohan	WDB		X	X	X	X
Richelle Harbinson	WDB				X	
Swartz, Jeffrey S.	WDB		X	X	X	X
Williams, Leslie	WDB					
Vaughn, Debra	WDB			X	X	X

### Welcome & Approval of the Minutes

Marlyn Kalitan, Literacy Chair, opened the meeting at 8:32am. She asked for a motion to approve April 1, 2025 minutes. The motion was made by Richard Knopf and seconded by Michael Willmann. By majority vote to the affirmative, the motion carried, and the minutes were approved.

### Next steps

Dick to pick up books from Larry's facility and deliver them to the One Stop in the next month.

Michelle to add "Book pickup and delivery" as a monthly agenda item for future meetings.  
Frank to email Dick the contact information for Brian Ferguson (facilities guy) at One Stop.  
Jeff, Frank, and Jenn to have a follow-up conversation with Kelly from Burlington County about the adult literacy grant and potential regional services.

Michelle to share the free/reduced lunch statistics spreadsheet with the committee members.



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Committee members to use the free/reduced lunch statistics to plan future literacy events and target specific areas in Camden County.

Jeff to provide more information about the upcoming June 18th quarterly in-person meeting at Camden County College.

### **Summary**

#### **Book Distribution Plans Discussed**

Larry confirmed the availability of books for distribution at the One Stop location. Jeffrey mentioned plans to set up a book distribution point at the Board of Social Services, which is next door. Marlyn shared her daughter's positive experience visiting the facility. Larry expressed openness to book distribution and to aid those willing to help. Larry proposed a plan to distribute 10,000 books into Camden County each month, with the goal of increasing to 50,000. Rhonda mentioned the installation of a book arc at Cooper's Point School with plans to install more. Larry suggested the county could obtain book arcs and have volunteers to stock them with books.

#### **Learning Link's Partnership and Book Project**

Frank discussed the status of Learning Link, which is currently out of business, awaiting a decision on a Burlington County grant. He mentioned that they are partnering with the college and pre-existing partners to help clients. Frank also mentioned that they are conducting GED tests on Tuesdays and Thursdays, averaging forty clients a month. He also discussed an upcoming job fair at Cherry Hill Mall on May 16th. Frank proposed a partnership with Book Smiles to stock the shelves with books, but Larry expressed concerns about coordination and resources required. Marlyn suggested that the committee could take on the project to pick up books from Larry's facility once a month. Richard volunteered to pick up books next month, and Frank offered to coordinate with Brian Ferguson. Larry emphasized the importance of replicating the project and encouraged the committee to take ownership and stock the shelves.

#### **Summer Youth Work Experience Update**

Jeffrey provides an update on the Summer Youth Work Experience program, which is progressing well with nearly twenty work sites committed. He clarifies that their program is countywide for ages 16-24, distinguishing it from the city's program for Camden City residents aged 14-17. Jeffrey also reports that their internal audit was completed with no findings, and they had a constructive meeting with the State regarding monitoring. He mentioned that funding is expected to remain flat for the year and encouraged potential vendors to start the process of collaborating with them.

#### **Camden County Literacy and Poverty Rates**

Michelle presented data on free and reduced lunch percentages in Camden County schools, which correlates with literacy and poverty rates. The committee discussed the findings, noting the high percentages in Lindenwold, Pine Hill, and Overbrook schools,



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with some areas showing that over 80% of students are receiving free or reduced lunches. They

considered targeting these towns for literacy efforts and discussed recent outreach events at local libraries, which had low turnout. The group pondered reasons for the poor attendance and how to address this issue in future events.

### **Committee Prepares for Upcoming Meeting**

The committee discussed the upcoming quarterly meeting scheduled for June 18th at Camden County College. They also planned for the next meeting on May 6th. Rhonda was welcomed to join the committee.

### **Adjournment**

Marlyn asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was made by Richard Knopf and seconded by Michael Willmann. By majority vote of the affirmative, the motion carried, and the meeting adjourned at 9:03am.

Respectfully submitted by: Michelle Rohan, Committee Coordinator