Pathways to Literacy Committee
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, August 6, 2026 on ZOOM

ATTENDANCE

NAME	ORGANIZATION	TRUSTEE	1/6/2026	2/3/2026	3/3/2026	4/7/2026	5/5/2026	6/3/2026	7/7/2026	8/6/2026	9/1/2026
Willmann, Michael, Chair	WMSH	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Kalitan, Marlyn, Vice Chair	Kalitan Consulting	X	X				X		X		X
Abrams, Larry	BookSmiles		X	X	X						
Arreola, Enrique	Center for Family Services		X	X	X				X	X	
Beach, Patti	Goodwill									X	
Boaten, Roberta	NJ Dept of Health		X	X	X	X					
Chisolm, Victoria	Literacy Volunteers of America			X	X	X	X				
Cirii, Frank	Camden County One Stop	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X
Clark, Justin	Office of Adult Literacy (NJDOL)		X	X	X	X		X	X		
Daunoras, Heidi	Multiplicity Consulting LLC	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X
Rashawn Davis	Book Smiles										
Donato, Carl	WDB Board Chair							X			
Dorsey, Rachele	Atlantic City Electric	X								X	X
Fithian, Danielle	Goodwill										
Floyd, Kwame	Teacher Apprenticeship Network										
Garvin, Torrie	Your Community Foundation							X		X	X
Godorov, Lori	The Work Group					X			X		X
Green, Aurella	Camden County College		X	X	X						
Guttierez, Innocencia	The One Stop					X					
Hulnick, Jill	NJ Tutoring Corps							X	X		
Kidd, Kelly	New Jersey Department of Health							X	X		
Knopf, Dick	Marketing Professional Services		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Martin, Tom	Free Books Project										
Mauro, Jennifer	Goodwill										
McKelvey, Christopher	Borough of Clementon				X			X	X	X	X
Naroden, Eric	American Water						X	X	X		X
Peterson, Jyi	Youth One Stop					X					
Tiffany Probasco-Francis	Rowan University		X	X	X			X	X		X
Randall, Angela	Surviving in Strength			X	X	X			X		X
Rafferty, Joanne	Volunteer Literacy Advisor		X								
Roman, Xavier	Mid Penn Bank										X
Sinclair, Nidia	The One Stop					X				X	
Thompson, Ryan	MidPenn Bank										
Hamilton, Karen	BookSmiles										
Emily Loughlin	BookSmiles										
Richelle Hardison	WDB										
Swartz, Jeffrey S.	WDB		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Williams, Leslie	WDB										
Vaughn, Debra	WDB		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Swisa, Johnathan	WDB									X	X

Michael Willmann, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:03 AM. The minutes from the August 6, 2026 meeting were presented for approval.
Motion: Meghan Lynn Second: Janeene Martin Vote: Motion carried unanimously

One Stop Career Center, Frank Cirii

- Frank Cirii reported that the One-Stop does not currently receive dedicated funding for literacy programs, but it provides testing and career assessments.
- July activity included 72 GED tests, 117 CASAS assessments, and 11 youth orientation participants.

- Referral tracking remains difficult because systems used by different state departments are not fully integrated.
- Upcoming outreach includes a Cherry Hill Mall job fair on September 11 and continued participation in county food-insecurity events.
- Michael suggested developing a visual display of distribution data for future reports.

Workforce Development, Jeffrey S. Swartz

- Jeff announced a September 8 regional workforce-development meeting at Rowan College of South Jersey focused on Hanwha Shipbuilding Company's worker-pipeline needs and additional lay-down space at the Philadelphia Navy Yard.
- The summer youth work-experience program placed 95 interns.
- The next quarterly board meeting is scheduled for September 16th; members were asked to RSVP so a quorum can be confirmed.
- Partner agencies must complete the MOU/IFA extension required for Workforce Development Board certification.

Partner Updates

- **Rowan University English Language Program, Tiffany Fancis-Probasco:** Tiffany reported a successful boot camp with eight participants. One participant who was not fluent in English will continue receiving program support.
- **MidPenn Bank / Project BASTA, Xavier Roman:** Xavier reported on the Project BASTA event at the 2 Cooper Street branch and plans to meet with NJCC regarding expanded collaboration. BASTA's mission is to close the employment gap for first-generation students, help them launch careers, and change the face of workforce leadership.
- **Book Access Initiatives:** Members discussed BookSmiles' expansion and Dolly Parton's Imagination Library as examples of efforts that increase children's access to books and encourage home libraries.
- **Digital Literacy:** Jeff will obtain additional information about a digital-literacy grant awarded in South Jersey and share it with the committee

Strategic Planning Report and Camden County Literacy Plan 2029

Heidi and Michael presented the Strategic Planning Subcommittee's final 40-page report. The report sets out a coordinated vision for a literate, workforce-ready Camden County and proposes a phased implementation framework through 2029.

1. **Phase 1 — Prepare, Align, and Inform:** Engage stakeholders, map existing literacy resources, clarify partner roles, establish communication channels, and build a shared foundation for implementation.
2. **Phase 2 — Campaign and Connect:** Conduct literacy-awareness campaigns, develop accessible resource directories, and strengthen referrals and coordination across agencies.
3. **Phase 3 — Expand Access and Lead Regionally:** Broaden book-access programs, continue community research, convene collaborative literacy summits, and position Camden County as a regional literacy leader.

Discussion and Proposed Direction

The committee affirmed that collaboration should take precedence over competition. Members identified coordinated resource mapping, shared communication, and cross-agency planning as essential to avoiding duplication and closing service gaps. Jeffrey thanked Heidi, Aurelia, and Eric for their leadership in developing the proposal.

Members discussed presenting the plan to county leadership, including Lou Cappelli, and exploring potential funding. Jeffrey suggested drawing lessons from the county's existing "Camden County Rocks" summer program model. The group also discussed a possible "Camden County Reads" campaign as a recognizable platform for collective literacy efforts.

Regional Workforce and Upcoming Events

- **September 8th Regional Workforce Development meeting:** Scheduled for 9:00 a.m. at Rowan College of South Jersey. Hanwha Shipbuilding Company is expected to present regarding worker-pipeline needs and additional lay-down space at the Philadelphia Navy Yard. Jeffrey will resend the invitation to CCWDB and other interested members.
- **September 11th Job Fair:** Scheduled at Cherry Hill Mall.
- **September 16th CCWDB quarterly meeting:** Board members should RSVP promptly to support quorum.
- **October 6th Pathways to Literacy Committee meeting:** The committee will discuss feedback on the strategic plan and questionnaire responses.
- **GSETA Annual Conference:** Jeffrey will distribute conference information to committee members. The conference will be held at the Ocean Resort in Atlantic City, October 21-22, 2026.

Decisions and Agreements

- Committee members will provide feedback and complete the strategic planning questionnaire before the October 6 meeting.
- Future One-Stop updates should include testing counts and other relevant data, with consideration given to a clearer visual presentation.
- Jeff will plan outreach to county leadership regarding the literacy strategy and a potential "Camden County Reads" campaign.

Action Items

Owner	Action	Timing
Frank	Provide testing counts and other relevant One-Stop data in future committee updates.	Future meetings
Jeff	Resend the invitation and details for the September 8th regional workforce development meeting at Rowan College of South Jersey to CCWDB and other interested committee members.	Before September 8th
	Follow up on the digital literacy grant awarded to South Jersey and distribute information when available.	When available

Jeffrey	Distribute GSETA conference information to the committee.	As soon as possible
Jeffrey	Follow up with board members regarding RSVPs for the September 16th quarterly meeting to ensure a quorum.	Before September 16th
Committee Members	Review the full strategic planning report and submit comments, suggestions, and additional ideas. Complete the strategic planning questionnaire if not already submitted.	Before October 6th
CCWDB and Jeffrey	Discuss and plan outreach to county leadership, including Lou Cappelli, regarding the literacy plan and a potential "Camden County Reads" campaign.	Report at a future meeting

Adjournment

The next Pathways to Literacy Committee meeting is scheduled for October 6, 2026. The primary agenda item will be discussion of member feedback on the strategic planning report, questionnaire responses, and additional ideas for implementing the literacy plan.

Motion to adjourn: Frank Cirii Seconded: Monica McClintock Adjourned: 10:00 AM

The next quarterly board meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 16th at 9:00 AM on Zoom. Board members are asked to RSVP prior to the meeting to ensure a quorum.

Respectfully submitted,
Debra Vaughn, Executive Assistant