



Workforce Development Board
County of Middlesex

LITERACY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, June 13, 2017
550 Jersey Avenue
New Brunswick, NJ 08901
9:35 a.m.

Attendance

Present: Gloria Aftanski, Luke Miller, Tom Crane, Tracey Montani, Ana Class-Rivera, & Jessica Tomkins

Staff & Guests: Shamara Gatling-Davila; Wanda Segarra-Cruz and Kate Featherston

Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 9:35 am. Gloria asked everyone to introduce themselves and gave the committee time to look over the minutes from the last meeting.

Review of Minutes from March 28, 2017 Meeting

There were no concerns with the minutes. Wanda made the motion and Jessica seconded the motion for approval of the minutes. Kate Featherston abstained from voting on the minutes due to not being in attendance for that meeting. The minutes are to be filed as is.

Feedback/Updates on Title II Grant Application

Thomas Crane informed the committee he submitted the Middlesex County Adult Education Consortium (MCAEC) grant application on behalf of the partners involved: New Brunswick, Perth Amboy, East Brunswick, South River and the two new additions: Middlesex County College and Literacy NJ. He has not received any feedback on the status of the grant application. Last year a total of 1,270 students were expected to be served, but next year with an increase in funding, 1,490 students are expected to be served. Literacy NJ is expected to offer a more intense level of training to 25 of those students. There are 6 levels of ESL teaching, 3 levels of ABE teaching and at least one education grade level is expected per year. Many students exceed the one grade level gain within a year. Shamara will email the committee a copy of the Middlesex County Needs Assessment which is part of the grant application.

Discuss revising the Literacy Plan. What goals we want to accomplish.

The committee still needs to revisit Literacy Goals. A new plan still needs to be created and the statement of needs from the MCAEC will be used as a skeleton to help update the literacy plan. The literacy committee intends to meet on July 11, 2017, along with possible invitees from the Puerto Rican Action Board, Monmouth County WDB Literacy Committee and Camden County WDB Literacy

Committee. The purpose of this meeting is to brainstorm ideas and to start the literacy plan, if possible.

Update from those that were able to obtain info from/about other Literacy Committees

Gloria and Shamara were able to find a couple of literacy plans from online. Camden’s literacy plan is up-to-date, but many of the others found online are outdated. Jessica mentioned Monmouth County has a well put together plan and this committee should review theirs. As a result, the July 11, 2017, meeting mentioned above will be used to ask questions, get help/feedback from other literacy committees. The Middlesex County Literacy Program Directory is also a focus for the committee at this time. Jessica will email Shamara a list of all the programs Literacy NJ offers. Shamara asked all the committee members to send over any useful information for the directory.

Number of graduates from adult schools. Ways to increase graduation rate

The number of enrollments is great, but the number of graduates has slightly decreased for this year. The TASC is a more difficult test compared to the previous GED/HSE exam. Not as many people are passing as a result of that and the transition between hand written and online testing. Perth Amboy will receive Chrome Books in the near future. They will now have enough computers to adequately serve the amount of people that require assistance. Perth Amboy has 49 graduates among their programs & New Brunswick has about 175 graduates. More people are waiting to be tested prior to graduation.

The expected goals/possible barriers for the upcoming fiscal year

A future goal will be to research the public library grants and inquire how a possible collaboration will benefit the goals of literacy in Middlesex County. There were 11 library grants for the state of NJ. The library can be a great avenue for expansion of services. Currently, Rutgers is hosting the Rutgers Conversation Café in New Brunswick Public Library. Literacy NJ has already joined Woodbridge Library on their grant. Some students from other countries do not come to the USA with proof of their credentials. As a result, it either takes a while for them to get transcripts from their country or they choose to start over. ELL students take the HSE in Spanish and once the HSE is obtained, they take courses in English. The task MCAEC is facing at this point, like many other counties, is how to incorporate the Integrated Education and Training model.

Any old business

No old business was discussed.

Adjournment

No other questions or comments were made and Gloria adjourned the meeting.

<p style="text-align: center;">NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2017 – 9:30AM 550 JERSEY AVENUE, NEW BRUNSWICK, NJ 08901</p>
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