



Workforce Development Board
County of Middlesex

LITERACY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, March 10, 2020
550 Jersey Avenue
New Brunswick, NJ 08901
9:30 a.m.

Attendance

Present: Gloria Aftanski, Kyle Anderson, Roseann Bucciarelli, Jill D'Amico, Jasmina Dizdarevic, Jennifer Goodin & Margarita Mercado

Staff & Guests: Shamara Gatling-Davila

Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 9:35am. Gloria asked everyone to introduce themselves.

Review of Minutes from December 10, 2019 Meeting

Kyle made the first motion and Roseann seconded to approve minutes.

Update from Libraries and Other Literacy Agencies Present

Jill from South Brunswick Public Library: There has been a delay on fiscal calendar year. Started in January and resumed classes in February. English for ELL for Spring. Planning Summer and Fall now.

Roseann from Middlesex County College: Regarding ESL Literacy, all programs are still being offered. There are thirteen (13) spots available for HSE with open enrollment. There were seventy-one (71) students enrolled for January 2020. Forty-nine (49) are currently enrolled in the next round which starts in late March. The County Literacy Grant for thirty-six (36) participants started in February. The college is looking forward to the Youth Grant in the Spring. There will be more ESL classes in May.

Census 2020 Grants and Agency Involvement

United Way of Central Jersey is still working to increase ages 0-5 that are counted in Census. This is the targeted population with United Way. As a result, United Way hired 3 or 4 Census Specialist. Ten (10) municipalities will also hire specialist for hard to count areas. For those that need information on Kiosk space and chrome books, please visit UWCNJ.ORG.

New Brunswick and Perth Amboy are in the talks for possible kiosk locations. The plan is to be in various businesses on Thursdays and Fridays. New Brunswick County Officials are preparing to host events in town. United Way has reached out to churches, but they were not as welcoming due to fearing deportation. United Way will continue to market and hope for a good turn-out.

Kyle- Census education and round table meetings are trying to prepare schools to educate parents. Kyle will ask schools in what ways can they get the parents involved.

Middlesex County Office of Career Opportunity and County Organizational Restructure

Shamara informed every one of the office name change. The new name is Middlesex County Office of Career Opportunity. The Organizational Flow Chart for Middlesex County was also distributed to the attendees.

New or Old Business

United Way of Central Jersey worked with Jasmina to submit a transportation grant application for women and children in programs. LYFT Grant recipients should know by June 30, 2020. Currently, the average cost of a trip just under 8 miles is about \$30. With LYFT the cost is closer to \$20 for the same trip.

Literacy NJ- is working with those applying for citizenship, in addition to the following agencies for grants: PRIDE, YMCA Raritan Bay-Perth Amboy and Hyacinth foundation.

Jen (Jewish Family Services)- is interested in partnering with New Brunswick Public Library to host citizenship classes.

United Way's VITA Program: Is operating full swing with eighteen (18) sites. Feel free to visit the United Way of Central Jersey's website to schedule appointments. The number of people dropping off paperwork to pick up after it is complete, has increased.

Jasmina- Bob is now offering remediation and H.S.E preparation. WFNJ recipients are also using the learning link for SkillUp Middlesex and other soft skills training. Perth Amboy's Learning Link has open enrollment.

Kyle: Held an essay contest for 8th graders, juniors, and seniors. Two hundred and fifty-three (253) essays were submitted. A team of readers is now being chosen. The subject of the essay was: If you were a freeholder, what would you do and why? Carteret had the most submissions with one hundred and eighteen (118). Edison was 2nd with the next most submissions. The winner for high school will receive \$500 scholarship and \$200 for middle schoolers.

Adjournment

Meeting Adjourned.

**NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY, JUNE 9, 2020 – 9:30AM LOCATION/VIDEO CONFERENCE
PLATFORM TO BE DETERMINED**