

Literacy Committee

David Hollowell, Chair

January 20, 2010 at Morris County Library

Attendees: Leslie Drew, Miriam Faber, Marguerite Gadel, Maria Heaton, Polly Lacey, Nadine Scala (for Claudia Sandanato)

Staff: Jack Patten

The meeting was called to order at 9:25 a.m.

Learning Link Report

Nadine Scala reported on the following for Claudia Sandanato:

- The Dover Learning Link is at full enrollment and there is a waiting list for new students. Most of the students are taking English-as-a-Second Language or computer skills training.
- Franklin has 20 new students, most taking computer skills training. Eight recent Learning Link graduates obtained jobs, one received a GED, and two are enrolled in additional training.
- Phillipsburg reports increasing student enrollments with the expectation of full enrollment in the near future.
- Nadine and Phillipsburg Learning Link Instructor Andrea Argilia attended training on communicative strategies for teaching ESL. The training was given by the Center for Applied Linguistics in Newark.
- Fifty-six Morris-Sussex-Warren Learning Links completers achieved employment since July 1, 2009, the largest number in the state.

WIA Title II Report

Miriam Faber reported on the following:

- The LACES management information system for WIA Title II Adult Education programs continues to be problematic. There are persistent discrepancies between reported numbers and report contents.
- Adult Education staff and students remain critical of the BEST test. It is expensive, time-consuming, marginally accurate and cumbersome to administer.

Jack Patten and Miriam Faber agreed to visit the Department of Education to address problems with LACES and BEST.

Learning Link Funding

Jack Patten reported that the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development has notified the WIB that the WIB has access to \$53,000 in carry over funds from previous program years that can be used to fund Learning Links through June of 2010.

New Business

Polly Lacey reported on two programs available through the Morristown & Morris Township Library:

- Learning Express provides online tutorials in math, English and writing skills; test practice for academic licensing, certification, career and vocational tests; interactive computer skills courses; job and career help; and resources for Spanish speakers. Library patrons can use the program from the library or their home computer. Those without Morristown & Morris Township Library cards can use the program from the library only.
- The Library offers an online tutoring program in which an individual can get help with homework, preparing for tests, writing resumes, GED prep work, statistic problems, research papers, scholarship essays, biology lab and citizenship tests. To access the program, go to the Library website at www.jfpl.org and click on the “Get Help!” button.

The next Literacy Committee meeting is scheduled for April 28, 2010.