



Education Committee - Board of Representatives

Megan Cottrell, Chair

Ramya Shaw, Vice Chair

Committee Minutes

Date: Thursday, March 30, 2023
Time: 5:30pm
Place: *This meeting was held remotely.*

The Education Committee met as indicated above. In attendance were Chair Cottrell, Vice Chair Shaw, and Committee Member Reps. Mays, Pierre-Louis, and Shinn. Reps. Jean-Louis and Pollack were absent. Also in attendance was Alice Knapp, CEO, Ferguson Library; and one member of the public.

Vice Chair Shaw called the meeting to order at 5:31pm

Item No.	Description	Committee Action
1. E31.014	REVIEW; Role of the Public Library in Supporting the Educational Needs of Our Community—Both in Working with The Public Schools, Students, and Families and in Supporting Adult Education/Career Development 01/27/23 – Submitted by Rep. Cottrell 02/08/23 – Held at Steering	REPORT MADE

Ms. Knapp reviewed the [attached presentation](#) and there as discussion. Some points discussed:

The past few years much work has been done around digital equity. There was a grant that has been used up, but staff continues to work with people on this, and a system has been created. Although laptops and hotspots have been loaned out, many of the people helped in the past did not need equipment, but needed help with basic computer literacy.

Teachers can reach out to the library and have a customized package of materials selected and set aside on specific subjects with an extended loan time.

Many areas of Stamford do not have easy access to libraries for students. Students can now reserve books through their school ID and have them delivered to their school.

There is an extensive e-book collection that is easy to use. This is widely used with students beyond the fifth grade.

The Ferguson Library works closely with the Stamford schools in setting up the school year reading lists. Additionally there are summer reading programs for children, teens and adults.

Homework help is available through www.Tutor.com. These are remote, paid tutoring positions. All tutors are background checked and must be certified teachers. The students remain anonymous. Parents/guardians can call, email, or go into any library branch to find out more information.

Older youth can get assistance with the FAFSA student loan forms and youth employment opportunities. Workshops on resume writing are provided through outside organizations.

They work closely with adult continuing education and English language learners, complimenting what Literacy Volunteers does. The "Let's Talk" curriculum helps to practice conversation. There is support to prepare for the Citizenship test. There are classes about daily skills such as going to the bank and grocery store.

The Ferguson Library has to find 15 percent of its \$10 million budget through alternate sources. Some of these yearly sources include: passport services \$300K, Winfield Coffee Shop rent \$40K, and Friends of Ferguson Library bookstore and fundraisers provide \$100K. There are additional fundraisers and grants to cover the rest.

Many UCONN students use the main branch because of its proximity to the school. Students can get help working on research projects.

There are large databases of academic research materials which are very frequently used, such as ERIC, JStor, and Academic Premier.

The Ferguson Library works with new arrivals to encourage them to use the library, since many come from countries where the library system is not stable and there are fears about using it. Building One Community and the schools help to get the word out about using the library. There is also an ELL librarian, Yelena Klompus, who works with the community on this.

Vice Chair Shaw congratulated Ms. Knapp on her upcoming Stamford Public Education Foundation Leadership in Literacy Award.

2. E31.016	REVIEW; Overview of the Organizational Tree for the Board of Education from the BOE on down. 01/27/23 – Submitted by Rep. Cottrell	HELD
------------	---	-------------

Due to the unavailability of the invited guests, Item #2 was held.

Vice Chair Shaw adjourned the meeting at 6:04pm

Respectfully submitted,
Ramya Shaw, Vice Chair

This meeting is on [video](#).