

**Literacy Break-out Session: Facilitated by Dr. DA Graham**  
**Learning to Read and Reading to Learn (Our tag Line)**  
**Wednesday, January 27, 2016**

**Discussion Points:**

1) **What is the issue?** Reading well for education, employability, and life. 12% reading on grade level by third grade. 39% across grade level pass NJ ASK.

- Literacy starts way before formal education does.
- People are banking on children not meeting the mark and building prison cell instead of investing in education
- Little improvement that it changing
- Parents that have literacy skills are able to connect with child and be involved in their child's school experience
- Gaps in parent engagement and the connect
- Literacy is tied to income and employability
- Learning to read and then reading to learn is a process that does not occur for all students.
- A parallel process to develop parents' skills and children's skills. We have to involve the whole family. Families' needs are important and must be addressed income, housing, poverty, health, etc.
- Teachers who are not prepared or skilled at teaching reading skills. Teachers need to connect with the students and be connected.
- Lead poisoning level in the city impact education.
- Language barriers for parents that do not speak English to learning and reading is an issue.
- Parent work long hours and need supports
- One library for districts with the library closing. Schools do not have funds for transportation to have field trip to libraries. The community has to figure out how to increase access to the library and expand access.

2) **What do we want to accomplish?**

- Offer 1 hour afterschool to students that are struggling in reading. Research shows it can make a difference.
- We have to talk about how to raise the funds to develop the goal and its objectives through private-public venture.
- Creating accountability for children to be prepared for school and the opportunity to be successful.
- Short-term- Saturday reading circles with six children around the community

- Short-term- helping people have a shared vision about this issue and what will be the solutions. There is a 30 million word gap for children 0-3. Third grade is a long way off (early intervention, early emergent literacy).
- Short-term-Being deliberate about delivering literacy information to parents at the grocery store, WIC, churches, pediatrician's office, etc.
- Intermitted-term Alexecia reading Program, developing a reading appl,
- Intermitted- we blanket the city with words, reading, and the important
- Kalpan Academy-
- Comcast will provide Wifi to low income family for \$10.00 a month.
- We need a **strategic, comprehensive plan** that is clear, precise, and measurable. We need to know what we have (an environmental scan) before we say that we don't know. Benchmarks and celebrations when they are meet community wide.

### 3) What is my role?

- A Freedom School (summer program) that address reading loss that can be duplicated and a parent academy
- Trenton Makes Words (PNC \$1 million) to impact children's access to words and literacy
- Isles is committed to working with schools on lead poisoning
- Seed mentoring program partnering with schools to connect student with a mentor (one-to-one relationship)
- Adopt a school program
- The community needs to come together and collaborate with the board of school
- Young Scholars- Helping parents understanding their role. Train parents to be involved and effective
- We need to examine what happens during the school day and if it is working.
- After-school program organization and collaboration

### 4) How can we work together?

- Collaborations between organizations
- A community-wide comprehensive plan with everyone input

### Next Steps: Early childhood literacy 0-8 with parent involvement

- Environmental scan What do we have that are best practices
- A Community celebration about literacy that links with Trenton Makes Words "An Inspirational Day of Literacy
- Invite Trenton alumni, and leaders to come and read to children
- Focus groups with parents to see what are the barriers and what they need to support literacy or telephone survey

- Establish culture and climate committee with teachers, parents, and students to improve their schools and take on the issue of literacy.
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