

TZL Community & Education Initiative Literacy Task Force Meeting Minutes

Date: June 11, 2026

Time: 7:00 PM

Location: Virtual Meeting

Attendees:

- Nakisha Chaney AKA
- Matthew Coats AΦA
- Patrice LaGrand ΣΓP

Meeting Purpose

To begin scheduling the 2026–2027 literacy initiative calendar, identify chapter ownership responsibilities, discuss partnership opportunities, and assign action items related to literacy, storytelling, family engagement, and civic education programming.

Important School Dates & Breaks (2026–2027)

The committee reviewed the school calendar list Jason sent to assist with scheduling literacy activities throughout the academic year.

- First Day of School (Grades 1–12): August 27, 2026
- First Day of School (Pre-K & Kindergarten): September 8, 2026
- Labor Day Break: September 2026
- Thanksgiving Break: November 2026
- Winter Break: Late December 2026 – Early January 2027
- Spring Break: March–April 2027

Decisions Made

1. Book Distribution Events

Three annual book distribution opportunities were identified:

- YCS Back-to-School Bash (August 2026)
 - Lead Organization: Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.
 - Focus: Distribute books and literacy resources to students and families before the start of the school year.
- Carpenter School Brighter Day Event (November 13, 2026)
 - Lead Organization: Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc.
 - Focus: Literacy engagement and book distribution to participating families.

- Easter Egg Hunt Community Event (Spring 2027)

- Lead Organization: NPHC Collaborative Effort
- Focus: Family engagement, literacy promotion, and book giveaways.

2. Children's Storytelling Event

The group agreed to host one major annual storytelling event during the Kwanzaa season.

Proposed Partner:

Museum Partnership: African American Cultural and Historical Museum collaboration (AACHM)

- Confirmation of participation
- Availability during Kwanzaa season
- Event logistics and facility details
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Program Components:

- Interactive storytelling
- Cultural literacy activities
- Family participation opportunities
- Book giveaways

3. Monthly Reading Program

The committee agreed to implement a monthly reading initiative throughout the school year.

Program Structure:

- Rotating D9 Organization participation
- Shared responsibility among partner organizations
- Consistent literacy engagement opportunities
- Reduced workload for individual organizations

4. Book-to-Movie Clubs

The committee approved the development of age-specific Book-to-Movie Clubs.

Middle School Program:

- Fall Semester 2026

High School Program:

- Winter Semester 2027

Objectives:

- Improve reading comprehension
- Increase student engagement
- Promote critical thinking and discussion
- Connect literature to visual media

5. Life Literacy Workshops

The task force approved moving forward with life literacy workshops focused on parents and families.

Target Audience:

- Head Start families
- Preschool parents
- Community members

Topics Under Consideration:

- Family literacy
- Educational advocacy
- Community resources
- Civic engagement
- Voter education

The group also discussed hosting a virtual voter education workshop utilizing Zoom as the delivery platform.

Pending Confirmation

The following items require additional information before final approval:

Preschool Parent Meetings

- Schedule of parent meetings
- Opportunities for literacy presentations
- Potential partnership structure

School District Partnerships

- NAAPID Day participation opportunities
- Back-to-school events within local districts
- Additional literacy-focused community events

Voter Education Workshop

- Platform selection
- Partnership opportunities with the League of Women Voters
- Speaker and content development

Open Questions

Questions requiring further exploration:

- Is there an Ann Arbor equivalent to the Ypsilanti Back-to-School Bash that would provide similar community outreach opportunities?
- What day and time would maximize parent participation in virtual Life Literacy Workshops?

Action Items

Nakisha

- Contact AACHM regarding the Kwanzaa storytelling partnership.

Patrice

- Connect with Colongie regarding preschool program schedules and parent meeting presentation opportunities.
- Research webinar platforms for voter education programming.
- Explore partnership opportunities with the League of Women Voters.
- Email findings and recommendations to the group before the next meeting due to a scheduling conflict.

Matthew Coats

- Follow up with Jason regarding the free books program available through Ypsilanti schools.

Next Meeting

Date: Thursday, April 18, 2026

Time: 7:00 PM