

RAILS BOARD ADVOCACY COMMITTEE MEETING

September 25, 2019 | 1:30 p.m.
RAILS Burr Ridge Service Center
125 Tower Drive, Burr Ridge, IL 60527

MINUTES

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Michael Campbell, RAILS Advocacy Committee chair welcomed everyone at 1:30, and called the meeting to order.

Committee Members present:

Burr Ridge: Michael Campbell, Jay Kasten, Selina Gomez-Beloz, Thomas Stagg, Sarah McHone-Chase

2. Recognition of guests and announcements

Burr Ridge: Deirdre Brennan, Stacy Palmisano (designated minutes-taker), Mary Witt

3. Public Comments

Mr. Kasten inquired how the members were selected to be part of the Advocacy committee. Ms. Brennan answered that Mr. Mills designed the committees to have both new and existing board members included. The committee discussed inviting new board member Jenna Nemecek to join the Advocacy committee to include her input as a school librarian.

4. Adoption of Agenda

Mr. Kasten moved and Ms. Gomez-Beloz seconded, that the RAILS Board Advocacy committee adopt the agenda as presented. The motion carried.

5. Approval of Minutes of April 26, 2019 meeting

Mr. Stagg moved and Mr. Kasten seconded, that the minutes from April 26, 2019 RAILS Board Advocacy committee meeting be accepted as presented. The motion carried.

6. Discussion of progress on advocacy efforts and topics

Mr. Kasten, as a member of the ILA Library Trustee Forum (LTF) sent out trustee emails to 450 paid members, but unfortunately received no responses from the trustees other than returned email addresses. Trustee training is an important issue and there is a need to inform library trustees about RAILS and ILA training that is provided. At the ILA Conference held in Tinley Park on October 22-24, 2019 RAILS will provide an email sign-up sheet for trustees at the booth. Ms. Witt invited the Advocacy committee to join her team at the RAILS booth to meet and engage in conversations with our members and trustees. Mr. Stagg reported that the collaboration between the Peoria area public, special and academic libraries to engage with school libraries is going well and have several upcoming meetings scheduled. Mr. Campbell commented that at a meeting he heard numerous library stories of successful programs. Sharing library stories is a focus for RAILS and the *My Library Is* website and campaign was created to have a central

location for sharing. The topic of issuing library cards to teachers when they do not live in the district was discussed but a solution is not an easy one due to Illinois library law. Mr. Stagg is researching intergovernmental agreements as a possible solution. Ms. Brennan read the Advocacy Committee charge to give the committee a direction on how to proceed. A list of advocacy topics was created and assigned to each member. The list is as follows:

- School libraries- Mr. Campbell
- Library trustees and community stakeholders – Mr. Kasten
- Diversity and the 2020 census – Ms. Gomez-Beloz
- Minimum wage – Mr. Stagg
- Academic libraries – Ms. McHone-Chase

Ms. Witt presented the *My Library Is* website to the committee and gave an overview of the site and the advocacy related sections. Promoting the site to libraries will encourage sharing. RAILS is also working on talking points for each type of library aimed at topics like “Why do we need a school librarian.” This will be included soon on the website. Ms. Brennan gave an update on the upcoming RAILS video which will be themed, “Value of the library in the age of the internet”. Progress is being made and a meeting is set with the production company to review the script.

7. Next Meeting and Future Agenda Items

The committee agreed to meet on a monthly basis before board meetings when held at Burr Ridge. When the board meeting is held in a different location, then the meeting will be held the week of the board meeting. The agenda items will include reports from each committee member on school libraries, library trustees and community stakeholders, diversity and the 2020 census, minimum wage and academic libraries. Also on the agenda will be an update on the upcoming RAILS video.

8. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 2:44 p.m.

Advocacy Committee Members:

- Michael Campbell, Chair
- Selina Gomez - Beloz
- Jay Kasten
- Sarah McHone - Chase
- Tom Stagg
 - Ex Officio: Deirdre Brennan, Mary Witt