

## RAILS BOARD ADVOCACY COMMITTEE MEETING

January 17, 2020 | 11:00 a.m.

RAILS Burr Ridge and Videoconference Sites

125 Tower Drive, Burr Ridge, IL 60527 | 630.734.5000

### Minutes

1. Welcome  
Mr. Campbell, Advocacy chairperson, welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 11:06 a.m.
2. Designation of Minute Taker—Stacy Palmisano
3. Roll Call of Members  
*Burr Ridge:* Michael Campbell, Percy Harris, Sarah McHone-Chase  
*East Peoria:* Thomas Stagg
4. Introductions, Guests, and Announcements  
*Burr Ridge:* Deirdre Brennan, Joe Filapek, Gwen Gregory, Monica Harris, Stacy Palmisano  
  
Ms. Brennan introduced Monica Harris, RAILS new Associate Executive Director to the committee.
5. Public Comment  
No comments
6. Adoption of the Agenda  
Ms. McHone-Chase moved, and Mr. Harris seconded, that  
  
THE RAILS BOARD ADVOCACY COMMITTEE AGENDA BE ADOPTED.  
  
The motion carried.
7. Approval of the Minutes of the November 22, 2019 RAILS Board Advocacy Committee Meeting  
Mr. Harris moved, and Ms. McHone-Chase seconded, that  
  
THE MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 22, 2019 RAILS BOARD ADVOCACY COMMITTEE MINUTES BE APPROVED.  
  
The motion carried.
8. Discussion of progress on advocacy efforts and topics  
Ms. Brennan reported that she, along with Mary Witt and Joe Filapek attended a meeting in December with the Association of Illinois School Library Educators, (AISLE). They met with AISLE's President, Executive Secretary, and Interim Executive Secretary where the group agreed to meet on a monthly basis to continue collaboration. AISLE expressed concerns on how to get school library staff professional development hours for their members. The AISLE Board approved a partnership with RAILS to help provide those hours. Mr. Filapek gave the committee background information on how RAILS is not an approved provider of professional development

hours but can subcontract with the Illinois State Library that will issue the credit. To streamline the process RAILS is pursuing becoming an approved provider with the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE).

Mr. Campbell shared that he will speak at the next school board meeting in his community on the value of a certified librarian. To help library trustees to do the same at their local school board meetings he suggested that RAILS create a short advocacy piece listing the value of a certified librarian that can be shared directly to school districts. The RAILS communications team is currently working on advocacy “talking point” materials for all types of libraries that will be available on the My Library Is.. website.

Ms. Gregory and Ms. McHone-Chase reported on Academic Libraries. Many academic institutions are supported by state appropriations, and funds are heavily dependent on enrollment. In Illinois, enrollment has dropped at most institutions for the last several years with more Illinois high school students choosing to leave the state to attend college. Lower enrollment has a direct impact on academic institutions in the state. The Consortium of Academic and Research Libraries in Illinois, (CARLI) is the major consortium serving academic libraries in Illinois and due to budget cuts some universities have had to stop membership. Several suggestions were made in ways that RAILS can support academic libraries. A collaboration with RAILS and CARLI to offer continuing education (CE) classes such as catalog training and networking events that include training was suggested. Promote CE grants to academic libraries to be able to identify a training need, continue hosting RAILS sponsored meet ups and offer journal subscriptions and a core set of databases would be beneficial to academic libraries.

The committee reviewed the topic of equity, diversity, and inclusion in recruiting staff within academic libraries as well as ways to encourage library school to students. In the past academic libraries offered paid residencies to new librarians but due to the cost that is no longer the case. The committee discussed the possibility of RAILS providing funding for a scholarship/internship to library school students to be able to work in different types of libraries and be paid for their time. Ms. Gregory has previously applied for an Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) grant to have a UIC library intern and will share the grant information with RAILS. Mr. Harris suggested that an internship program on the local level with the public library and school district funding the program is a possibility.

9. Discussion of future meeting dates: March, April, May and June 2020

In February the committee will attend an ILA Legislative Meet-Up. A Doodle Poll will be distributed to determine the March meeting date. At the March meeting Mr. Harris will report on Library Trustees.

10. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:02

**Advocacy Committee Members:**

- Michael Campbell, Chair
- Selina Gomez - Beloz
- Percy Harris
- Sarah McHone – Chase
- Jenna Nemecek-Loise
- Tom Stagg
  - Ex Officio: Deirdre Brennan, Mary Witt