

VIRTUAL MEETING
RAILS BOARD ADVOCACY COMMITTEE MEETING

May 20, 2020 | 2:00 p.m.

Join Zoom Meeting to attend

<https://railylibraries.zoom.us/j/96386129412?pwd=cmdHa3J4MVZYVzZWbVvrK3AyQVVwQT09>

Meeting ID: 963 8612 9412

Password: 52020

Dial in number: +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

MINUTES

1. Welcome
Mr. Campbell, Advocacy chairperson, welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.
2. Designation of Minute Taker—Stacy Palmisano
3. Roll Call of Members
Committee members in attendance via Zoom: Michael Campbell, Sarah McHone-Chase, Jenna Nemec-Loise, Thomas Stagg

4. Introductions, Guests, and Announcements
Guests in attendance via Zoom:
RAILS staff - Deirdre Brennan, Anna Duff, Monica Harris, Stacy Palmisano, Mary Witt
Pembroke Public Library District – Veronica Thurman

5. Public Comments
No public comments.

6. Adoption of the Agenda
Jenna Nemec-Loise moved, and Tom Stagg seconded, that

THE RAILS BOARD ADVOCACY COMMITTEE AGENDA BE ADOPTED.

The motion carried.

7. Approval of the Minutes of the April 22, 2020 RAILS Board Advocacy Committee Meeting
Sarah McHone-Chase moved, and Tom Stagg seconded, that

THE MINUTES OF THE APRIL 22, 2020 RAILS BOARD ADVOCACY COMMITTEE MINUTES BE APPROVED.

The motion carried.

8. Discussion of progress on advocacy efforts

The committee discussed the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and the issues that all types of libraries are facing during this time. What will libraries look like after the pandemic and what will library advocacy look like? Academic libraries have seen a hurdle in getting research materials to the students/staff without physically coming into the library. The use of lockers have been

successful as well as scanning materials and sending to the students/staff digitally. Public and private schools are planning for the fall and spring semesters and school libraries need to participate in the planning process to advocate that the school library is essential. This is a prime time to advocate for all types of libraries to show how the library has flexibility and quick responsiveness to support patron's needs during the pandemic.

Ms. Nemece-Loise announced that she will be the chair of Continuing Education at AISLE, Association of Illinois Library Educators for the next year. Within this position she will be able to hear from the school librarian membership in what their needs are and see what RAILS can do for school librarians. Ms. Witt, RAILS Communications Director, and Ms. Nemece-Loise discussed working together along with Joe Filapek, RAILS, Director of Consulting and Continuing Education, on training for school librarians with a focus on "getting a seat at the table" when school discussions are being made to ensure that the library has a voice. They will also coordinate ways to have school librarians use the toolkits and advocacy talking points on the My Library Is... website.

Ms. Brennan reported that MLA, Massachusetts Library Association, recently held a virtual legislative day that was very successful. The committee agreed that this is a perfect time for RAILS to consider holding such a virtual meeting for Illinois. During this pandemic there has been a huge increase in attendance for virtual meetings since in person meetings are not being held at this time. RAILS, along with ILA and the Illinois Heartland Library System, hosted a webinar for trustees called Everything Library Trustees Need-to-Know COVID-19 on May 14. Over 700 people attended the webinar via Zoom. Mr. Stagg suggested holding a webinar having an elected representative on a county level to discuss public schools and funding. Ms. Brennan will research a virtual legislative webinar and report back to the committee at the June meeting.

The topic of the importance of having connectivity to Wi-Fi and its relationship to libraries and schools was discussed. The Illinois State Library is interested in this due to the lack of e-resources available in some Illinois libraries and ways to expand E-Read. Ms. Brennan will get an update from Greg McCormick, Illinois State Library Director on this issue for the next meeting. Anne Slaughter, RAILS Director of Technology Services is on the Illinois Broadband Advisory Council and is invited to come to the June meeting to give a report on the topic.

Ms. Witt mentioned the advocacy talking points that have been created and the goal of the communications team to get people to use them.

Ms. Nemece-Loise will push the My Library Is... website on the AISLE list serve to school librarians to ask them to submit stories and blog posts. Ms. Brennan invited Ms. Nemece-Loise to attend the RAILS and AISLE meetings to contribute on the topic of continuing education.

Ms. McHone-Chase will report at the June meeting on the best ways for RAILS to reach academic libraries to share the talking points.

The committee discussed the positive effects that has been seen in the high attendance rate of virtual meetings over the past few months. The convenience and accessibility of virtual meetings have been well received and will most likely continue. Ms. Nemece-Loise mentioned that her school is rethinking how the school year will look like to use in person learning as well as virtual learning. There is a state wide issue with the low number of students participating in virtual learning and being actively engaged.

9. Discussion of June meeting date
Plan on a virtual meeting in June. A doodle poll will be sent to the committee.
10. Adjournment
The meeting adjourned at 2:50 p.m.

Advocacy Committee Members:

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