

**VIRTUAL MEETING**  
**RAILS BOARD ADVOCACY COMMITTEE MEETING**

September 17, 2020 | 9:00 a.m.

Join Zoom Meeting to attend

<https://railslibraries.zoom.us/j/95420400102>

Meeting ID: 954 2040 0102

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

**MINUTES**

1. Welcome  
Ms. Nemec-Loise, Advocacy chairperson, greeted members and called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.
2. Designation of Minute Taker—Anna Duff
3. Roll Call of Members  
*Committee members in attendance via Zoom:* Sarah McHone-Chase, Jenna Nemec-Loise, Thomas Stagg  
*Absent:* Michael Campbell, Percy Harris
4. Introductions, Guests, and Announcements  
*Guests in Attendance Via Zoom:* Deirdre Brennan, Anna Duff, Monica Harris, Mary Witt
5. Public Comment via Zoom  
No public comments
6. Adoption of the Agenda  
Sarah McHone-Chase moved, and Thomas Stagg seconded, that  
  
THE RAILS BOARD ADVOCACY COMMITTEE AGENDA BE ADOPTED.  
  
The motion carried. Roll call was taken: Ayes: Sarah McHone-Chase, Jenna Nemec-Loise, and Thomas Stagg. Nays: none.
7. Approval of the Minutes of the August 27, 2020 RAILS Board Advocacy Committee Meeting  
Thomas Stagg moved, and Sarah McHone-Chase seconded, that  
  
THE RAILS BOARD ADVOCACY COMMITTEE AUGUST 27, 2020 MINUTES BE APPROVED.  
  
The motion carried. Roll call was taken: Ayes: Sarah McHone-Chase, Jenna Nemec-Loise, and Thomas Stagg. Nays: none.
8. Discussion of progress on advocacy efforts
  - a. Discuss ILA Virtual Conference session  
Ms. Brennan asked the Committee to decide who will speak at ILA. Ms. Nemec-Loise and Mr. Campbell were suggested as speakers from the Committee. The conference session will be held virtually from 3 to 4 p.m. on October 31, 2020. Ms. Brennan said she will be happy to act as moderator. Ms. Nemec-Loise volunteered to ask her School Administrator, Ms. Mary Fielder.

Ms. Fielder is the Assistant Head of School at North Shore Country Day. Mr. Stagg inquired if there were any schools in an intergovernmental agreement with a public library that could be included. Ms. Brennan relayed that she already has a lead on that front. She will speak to Katherine Yanikoski from Joliet Public Library tomorrow, in regards to finding a school librarian interested in speaking. Ms. Nemec-Loise suggested that Christy Semande, current AISLE president, also be asked. Ms. Brennan stated she will reach out to Ms. Semande. In terms of the session's content, Ms. Brennan said she will ask the speakers questions. Speakers will talk about successes and challenges. They will also have the opportunity to discuss what is happening with school librarian budgets, in order to make people aware of that issue. There will be time left at the end of the sessions for questions. Ms. Nemec-Loise said she considers what librarians have had to do during the pandemic is "crisis advocacy" as opposed to "everyday advocacy." With that in mind, it was suggested having that distinction be addressed and the session strike a balance between speaking to pandemic-related issues and more universally applicable, ongoing issues. Ms. Brennan pointed out that this program was put together before the pandemic as a result of RAILS hearing concern from all types of librarians regarding school librarians. The importance of the work school librarians do for students was discussed. Ms. McHone-Chase suggested academic librarians do not talk enough about the role school librarians play in the student's academic success. In advocacy efforts moving forward, it was proposed that the committee should work towards advocating for encouraging partnerships between academic librarians and school librarians to aid in students' academic success. For the ILA Conference Session, by Wednesday, September 23, 2020, Ms. Brennan and Ms. Nemec-Loise will contact one another to confirm speakers. They will communicate via email with Committee members regarding final details for the panel. Ms. Nemec-Loise offered to help create the PowerPoint and Ms. McHone-Chase offered to give feedback on the slides. Ms. Harris, Ms. Witt, and Ms. Brennan will talk about the content for the PowerPoint. Mr. Stagg recommended adding a link to the My Library Is... on the PowerPoint. Ms. Witt said she would add the link and the talking points.

b. Discuss ILA Trustee Forum

Ms. Brennan voiced her disappointment that there was not more of an actionable agenda with specific goals ILA would like to achieve this year as opposed to a general description of what they accomplish every year. Mr. Stagg pointed out that Joseph Filapek is the liaison with the ILA Trustee Form and always includes information trustees should know in the newsletter. That being said, he suggested that Mr. Filapek add school library information as well. He also suggested a trustee email list. Ms. Witt said she thinks ILA has a trustee mailing list and will reach out to ILA and Mr. Filapek about it. Mr. Stagg explained that the email list might be helpful to bring awareness of issues to trustees who have the ability to speak with local representatives. Ms. Brennan said RAILS will look into this and see if something can be done regarding a trustee list. She concluded that the Trustee Forum has a lot of potential and can be made more robust.

c. ILA Public Policy Committee meeting and ILA Advocacy Committee meeting update

Ms. Brennan announced that she shared a link to several Google docs with the Committee for members to see what Public Policy discussed at their August meeting. Essentially, legislation and budget proposals were put forward to the ILA Board to vote on as their priorities for the year. Ms. Brennan relayed that a couple were brought back from last year. The Statewide Database was one and CARLI put forward a proposal for funding in support of Open Educational Resource development. She said there were a number of proposals related to public libraries, districts, and merging. Ms. Brennan put forward again the proposal that would allow library boards to choose to waive nonresident fees for minors under 18. This is different from the mandate in the Cards for Kids legislation. Their next meeting will be October 5, 2020. She concluded that the

Advocacy Committee has been talking about virtual legislative meet-ups and advocacy training that Committee members might do.

9. Discussion of October meeting date

Ms. Brennan suggested that getting the session together and communicating with the Committee should be the priority and the next meeting can be scheduled for November rather than October. For the future agenda, Ms. Nemec-Loise suggested decompressing from the session, talking about items from the ILA Trustee Forum, and including ways to amplify better partnerships between secondary librarians and academic librarians. Mr. Stagg inquired when the next meeting between RAILS and AISLE might take place. Ms. Harris responded that she is working towards getting that meeting put together.

10. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:57 a.m.

**Advocacy Committee Members:**

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