

**VIRTUAL MEETING  
RAILS BOARD ADVOCACY COMMITTEE MEETING**

Thursday, April 8, 2021

**Minutes**

**1. Welcome**

Ms. Nemece-Loise, Advocacy chairperson, greeted members and called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m.

Ms. Nemece-Loise read the following: In accordance with the Government Emergency Administrative Act PA100-0640, the RAILS Board of Directors finds an in-person meeting is not practical or prudent and believes it is in the best interest of RAILS to hold a virtual meeting to perform essential business.

**2. Roll Call of Members—Karen Goyer**

*Telephone/Zoom:* Michael Campbell, Sarah McHone-Chase, Jenna Nemece-Loise, Thomas Stagg

*Absent:* Percy Harris

**3. Introductions of Guests and Announcements**

*Burr Ridge:* Deirdre Brennan (*ex-officio*)

*Telephone/Zoom:* Anna Duff, Karen Goyer, Carolyn Kinsella, Jennifer McIntosh, Mary Witt (*ex-officio*)

*Absent:* Monica Harris (*ex-officio*)

There were no announcements.

**4. Public Comment**

There were no comments.

**5. Adoption of the Agenda**

Ms. McHone-Chase moved and Mr. Campbell seconded, that

THE RAILS BOARD ADVOCACY COMMITTEE AGENDA BE ADOPTED.

The motion carried. Roll call was taken: Ayes: Michael Campbell, Sarah McHone-Chase, Jenna Nemece-Loise, and Thomas Stagg. Nays: none.

**6. Approval of the Minutes of the March 11, 2021 RAILS Board Advocacy Committee Meeting**

Mr. Stagg moved, and Mr. Campbell seconded, that

THE RAILS BOARD ADVOCACY COMMITTEE MARCH 11, 2021 MINUTES BE APPROVED.

The motion carried. Roll call was taken: Ayes: Michael Campbell, Sarah McHone-Chase, Jenna Nemece-Loise, and Thomas Stagg. Nays: none.

**7. Discussion of Progress on Advocacy Efforts and Topics**

**7.1. Discuss standards crosswalking with guests Carolyn Kinsella, AISLE and Jennifer McIntosh**

Ms. Nemece-Loise introduced guests Carolyn Kinsella (Association of Illinois School Library Educators) and Jennifer McIntosh (College of DuPage) and began the discussion suggesting standards be used as a common ground for partnership between high school librarians and

higher education librarians to build students' library and academic skills. A partnership based on standards can a first step to this committee's desire to do actionable work in the community.

Ms. McIntosh stated some work has already been done on partnerships between high school librarians and college libraries crosswalking ACRL (Association of College and Research Libraries) and AASL (American Association of School Librarians) standards.

Ms. Kinsella stated college and work readiness is important to high school administrators. AISLE developed the I-SAIL standards, which are aligned to the Common Core and other standards. While the I-SAIL standards received input and support from ISBE and ISL, there is not a mandate to implement the I-SAIL standards or to have a certified librarian in high schools. Many school librarians have been taken out of the library and assigned to a classroom this year due to COVID, and might not be assigned to the library next year in the absence of a mandate.

Ms. Brennan outlined the history of the RAILS standards project, explaining when RAILS was formed, the member standards that had been required by the legacy systems, were eliminated. ISBE requires a degreed librarian in certain grade levels but the requirement is not enforced. It is important to work on implementing standards but also important to work to ensure the staff member in the library is trained appropriately.

There was a discussion about the proposed House bill to allow high schools to include media literacy in their curriculum. It was noted the bill does not state how much instruction is required or who is required to teach it. This bill is an unfunded mandate, which AISLE does not usually support, however, AISLE plans to work with the authors of the bill to require that media literacy is taught by a certified librarian and that it have funding behind it.

Ms. McHone-Chase stated this committee's work on crosswalking standards should result in not only a document but should include a plan to implement our findings within our own institutions, making it stronger until it is a statewide conversation.

The committee discussed steps that need to be done prior to the start of the crosswalking standards project. Ms. McIntosh added that she would not advocate for a crosswalking project without relationship building behind it. Relationship building will be different in every district or college. It will be easier to start with those who are on board and waiting for a partnership. We can be a source for sharing what has been done and mapping out the pitfalls. She noted meeting scheduling would be difficult, money will be needed, and holding a professional development day for this activity may be an effective strategy. Colleges may have more flexibility to meet with the schools in their district.

Ms. Kinsella stated if the colleges or universities state they need, want, or support certain standards, it will be encouraged in the high schools. The high school administrators want to be able to say to the public that they meet the standards colleges are looking for. AISLE has found that presenting one or two talking points to the high schools has not been enough to get the school administrators on board with the standards.

Next steps:

1. This committee will prepare an education campaign around what the standards are and how libraries can work together.
2. Ms. Brennan will send the committee the RAILS standards and will look at where the standards, such as Linking for Learning and I-SAIL, overlap or meet.
3. Ms. McIntosh will request permission to share the slides and/or presentation of ACRL & AASL frameworks and then share them with the committee.
4. Develop a campaign aimed at the people who make a difference in the high school curriculum, focusing on the administrators.
5. Ms. McHone-Chase suggested she present this project, once completed, to the IACRL Community subcommittee, which would provide an audience of academic librarians.

6. Ms. Nemece-Loise, Ms. McIntosh, Ms. Kinsella, and Ms. McHone-Chase will meet to discuss this project further.

**7.2. School-academic library collaboration and resource sharing feedback from Beth Tepen**

Beth Tepen is a school librarian and on the RAILS board as library trustee. She has worked in conjunction with the local community college to offer dual credit programs through her school library. Beth will be a guest on the agenda at our next meeting to talk about her experiences around advocacy. Ms. Nemece-Loise and Ms. Tepen discussed empowering people to be advocates and this committee's goal of making advocates of non-advocates.

**7.3. Specialized libraries advocacy feedback from Laura Turner, Caterpillar, Incorporated**

Ms. Nemece-Loise met with Laura Turner, a former RAILS Board President about effectively advocating for specialized libraries. Ms. Turner talked about her experiences reaching out to the community, public libraries and institutions to collaborate and participate in events. She suggested this committee think about how to make specialized libraries more visible. Specialized libraries need help from RAILS to elevate their visibility and to educate other library types about the importance of what they do. Once visibility is elevated, it will provide opportunities for specialized libraries to develop partnerships with multiple library types. Ms. Turner hopes RAILS can develop marketing materials that would be customizable. She stressed it is important to invite engagement of specialized librarians. Ms. Turner will attend the next Advocacy committee meeting.

The committee members stressed the importance of reaching out to all library types.

**7.4. Continue discussion of building new advocates from non-advocates - Postponed**

7.4.1. Figure out how to reach those not advocating for libraries and why they are not advocates.

7.4.2. Focus on new messages from new people in order to hear other perspectives and stories and to balance out the My Library Is . . . work and the data collection we are going to do.

7.4.3. Discuss how to bring another dimension to advocacy.

**7.5. Status of the school library data collection project**

Mr. Campbell and Ms. Brennan have set up a meeting with Follett to receive assistance with data collection from school libraries. A FOIA request for data has been submitted to ISBE.

**7.6. Status of the statewide database proposal**

There has been an indication of interest from some legislators. A minority House leader suggested a task force be developed to study how to fund the statewide database.

**7.7. Identify American Rescue Plan Act funding for Illinois libraries and determine the amount to advocate for – Deirdre Brennan - Postponed**

**8. Agenda Building for Next Meeting**

- Guest speaker, Beth Tepen
- Guest speaker, Laura Turner
- Karen will share notes and links to a webinar, "Measuring the Impact of Libraries"
- Agenda items 7.4 and 7.7, postponed to the May 13, 2021 meeting
- Action items:

- Ms. McIntosh will provide some examples of high school/college engagement and share the standards examples.
- Ms. Brennan will send the final versions of the RAILS standards to the committee members and include citations for the ISBE requirement.

## 9. Adjournment

Ms. Nemeć-Loise thanked the guests for attending this meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

### Advocacy Committee Members:

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