

12 November 2021

TO: RAILS Board of Directors

FROM: Monica Harris

SUBJECT: Strategic planning process

Board Discussion

Constructive Disruption consultants Cindy Fesemyer and Stephanie Chase will join us virtually for the Board Meeting on November 19.

Upcoming Strategic Planning Discussions for the RAILS Board

Thanks to the Board for their responses to the poll regarding times for the upcoming strategic planning exercises.

- November 19 – Board check-in
- January 28 – Board Presentation of Draft Strategic Plan (Special Meeting at 11am)

Steering Committee Discussions

The Steering Committee met twice this last month. The first meeting (Oct 29) included Steering Committee members that are not RAILS staff or RAILS board, and they went through the same SOAR analysis process that the RAILS Board completed during the October special meeting. The second meeting (Nov 4) included an in depth discussion of RAILS mission and vision, and included the full Steering Committee.

Town Hall Meetings and Focus Groups (cont.)

We held three focus groups (consisting of 6-8 members each), moderated by Cindy Fesemyer, in November. Those groups were focused on:

- School Focus Group – Wednesday, November 3
- Academic Focus Group – Thursday, November 4
- Special Focus Group – Friday, November 5

Cindy also conducted 1-on-1 interviews with several key partners this month, including Leslie Bednar and Ellen Popit of Illinois Heartland Library System, Diane Foote of the Illinois Library Association, Anne Craig of CARLI, and Greg McCormick of the Illinois State Library.

As a reminder, another set of Member Town Hall meetings are set for November 2021. These Town Hall meetings include new content and questions, and we encourage you to continue to reach out to colleagues and RAILS members to encourage them to attend. A link to register for all upcoming Town Halls is available at: <https://www.railslibraries.info/news/252552>

November Member Town Hall Meetings

- Monday, November 15, 1 – 3 p.m.
- Tuesday, November 16, 1 – 3 p.m.
- Tuesday, November 16, 4 – 6 p.m.
- Thursday, November 18, 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.