

RAILS BOARD ADVOCACY COMMITTEE MEETING

December 9, 2021 | 3:00 p.m.

Minutes

1. Welcome and Call to Order

Robin Helenthal, Advocacy Committee chairperson, called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

2. Roll Call of Committee Members

Goyer called the roll of Committee members.

RAILS East Peoria: Robin Helenthal, Thomas Stagg

Telephone/Zoom: Alice Creason, Sarah McHone-Chase, Amy Walsh (joined at 3:05 p.m.)

3. Recognition of Guests and Announcements

Helenthal read the following: In accordance with the Governor's Emergency Proclamation, 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.

Guests in attendance at RAILS Burr Ridge: Deirdre Brennan (*ex-officio*), Monica Harris (*ex-officio*)

Guests in attendance via Zoom: Karen Goyer (minute taker), Stacy Palmisano, Mary Witt (*ex-officio*)

There were no announcements.

4. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

5. Consent Agenda

5.1. Adoption of the Agenda

5.2. Approval of the RAILS Board Advocacy Committee Minutes of September 9, 2021

Alice Creason moved, and Sarah McHone-Chase seconded, that

THE RAILS BOARD ADVOCACY COMMITTEE APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA AS PRESENTED.

Roll call was taken: Ayes: Alice Creason, Robin Helenthal, Sarah McHone-Chase, Thomas Stagg, Amy Walsh. Nays: none.

6. Unfinished Business

6.1. Committee membership and charge update

The revised charge was approved by the RAILS Board at the July meeting. Brennan welcomed new member, Amy Walsh, school representative, to the RAILS Advocacy Committee. Brennan thanked Robin Helenthal for taking over as Chair of the committee. The committee is seeking additional members. Brennan will reach out to special librarian, Juanita Harrell.

6.2. Past and future advocacy efforts

Members discussed past committee efforts. Past meetings have featured conversations with librarians from various library types. Discussions with school and academic librarians focused on the need to gain a better understanding of cross walking standards, recognizing commonalities, and ways school librarians can prepare students academically.

Walsh noted ISAIL standards are currently used by school librarians but a plan that outlines the skills to build from grades K-12 would be important to school librarians. There is a need to advocate for the Media Literacy unit to be taught by a school librarian. AISLE (Association of Illinois School

Library Educators) is working on this issue but additional contact with legislators would be beneficial. A legislative committee is working with ISBE to provide curriculum materials to school districts. It is unclear whether AISLE is involved. The new law requiring the Media Literacy unit takes effect at the start of the 2022-23 school year.

Helenthal will report on the collaboration between Peoria Public Library and local school districts concerning the new media literacy curriculum at the January meeting.

Witt reported the My Library Is . . . campaign conducted a survey to determine the direction the campaign should go in the future. Responses revealed the major concern of all library types is funding for staffing, buildings, and technology. The next campaign will be focused on specific issues, gathering best practices, and to identify people who have successfully faced challenges.

Stagg reported he has been elected of Manager of the ILA Trustee Forum effective November 2022. It was noted the ILA Trustee Forum is a group this committee would benefit from working with.

Stagg stated that last year the committee tried to have each of the ILA Legislative Meetups attended by at least one RAILS Advocacy Committee member.

6.3. Database legislation update

Brennan stated work is continuing to get a statewide database funding package in place. Illinois State Senator Murphy is working on expanding the Illinois Cards for Kids Act and is also interested in filing the statewide database legislation.

7. New Business

7.1. Advocacy work concerning candidates for Illinois Secretary of State election

Brennan noted advocacy work related to candidates for the Illinois Secretary of State election would be appropriate for this committee. Brennan will report back to this committee with information on ILA's (Illinois Library Association) efforts on this election. Members were reminded that this committee is not to be involved in politics.

8. Meeting Recap and Agenda Building for the Next RAILS Board Advocacy Committee Meeting on January 13, 2022

Committee members identified upcoming agenda topics:

- Report on the ILA efforts regarding the Illinois Secretary of State election
- Update on statewide database legislation
- Legislative updates
- Juanita Harrell as a potential Advocacy Committee member
- Media Literacy curriculum advocacy
- Dan Bostrom to discuss specialized libraries (February meeting)

9. Adjournment

Helenthal adjourned the meeting at 3:31 p.m.