

RAILS BOARD ADVOCACY COMMITTEE MEETING

April 14, 2022 | 4:00 p.m.

Minutes

1. Welcome and Call to Order

Robin Helenthal, Advocacy Committee chairperson, called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m.

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.

2. Roll Call of Committee Members

Goyer called the roll of Committee members.

Zoom: Alice Creason, Juanita Harrell, Robin Helenthal, Sarah McHone-Chase, Thomas Stagg, Amy Walsh

3. Recognition of Guests and Announcements

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

Guests in attendance via Zoom: Janette Derucki, Karen Goyer (minute taker), Ryan Hebel, Grant Halter, Dianne Hollister, Stacy Palmisano, Becky Spratford, 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 March 10, 2022

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

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

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

6. Unfinished Business

6.1. School data report

Janette Derucki shared an overview of the RAILS School Library Data Project. The project is an advocacy initiative because it helps provide data to increase public confidence in school libraries and become a resource to advocate for qualified school librarians and funding for school libraries. The project collects data about school enrollment, library staffing, library budgets and collections. Accurate library data is the most difficult to collect because libraries tend to report this data differently. Data continues to be collected and analyzed. The goal is to apply the data to create a renewable, sustainable data resource to accomplish the following: store and update data for school libraries in Illinois, display the data via a dashboard interface, and serve to connect school librarians. The next challenge will be to gather data on schools that did not participate in the library

certification. Future work may include partnering with Chicago Public Schools. Data questions in the annual library certification will be improved to achieve better results.

6.2. Legislative update

Brennan reported that The Cards for Kids Bill expansion passed both the Senate and the House. The bill and the budget increase are waiting to be signed by Governor Pritzker. The ILA public policy committee recognizes the appetite for universal service and will make it the focus of their legislative proposals next year. Brennan suggested this committee consider universal service, the school librarian requirement, and standards for school libraries for future advocacy topics.

6.3. Vote on changing meeting time for the remainder of FY22 schedule

It was agreed the meeting time of 4:00 p.m. is necessary to have participation of current and future school library representatives. There was discussion on changing the day of the week this committee meets. Members have conflicts with other days and no vote was taken to change the day. The FY23 schedule will be presented at the May meeting.

Amy Walsh moved, and Alice Creason seconded, that

The RAILS Board Advocacy Committee meeting time be changed to 4:00pm for the remainder of the FY22 meeting schedule:

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

6.4. Material challenges

Members were asked to share any materials challenges in their area. Walsh stated many school districts across Illinois have received FOIA requests concerning whether their library owns specific books and requests to supply information regarding materials challenges.

7. New Business

7.1. Kara Thorstenson, CPS, Library department head, to join committee

Brennan stated Kara Thorstenson has expressed an interest in joining the RAILS Advocacy Committee. As the library department head at Chicago Public Schools, Kara would be a valuable advocacy partner.

7.2. Legislative proposals for next year

The RAILS Advocacy committee will look at focusing on the legislative topics discussed in agenda item 6.2: universal service, the school librarian requirement, and standards for school libraries.

8. Meeting Recap and Agenda Building for the Next RAILS Board Advocacy Committee Meeting

The next Advocacy Committee meeting will be held on MAY 12, 2022 at 4:00 p.m.

The topics for the May meeting agenda are:

1. Legislative update
2. Materials challenges
3. School librarian standards – (teaching standards tied to Linking for Learning)
4. Media literacy unit requirement for public high school curriculum – Amy Walsh
5. FY23 RAILS Advocacy Committee meeting schedule

9. Adjournment

Helenthal adjourned the meeting at 4:59 p.m.