

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

May 12, 2022 | 4:00 p.m.  
125 Tower Drive, Burr Ridge, IL 60527

**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 Members

Goyer called the roll of Committee members.

*East Peoria:* Robin Helenthal

*Zoom:* Alice Creason, Juanita Harrell, 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:* Karen Goyer (minute taker), Ryan Hebel, Katherine Henc, Kara Thorstenson, Mary Witt (*ex-officio*), Marina Ziolkowski

Brennan introduced Kara Thorstensen, Library and Digital Media Manager, Chicago Public School District #299, as the new member of the RAILS Advocacy committee.

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 April 14, 2022

McHone-Chase moved, and Walsh 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, Kara Thorstenson, Amy Walsh. Nays: none.

6. Unfinished Business

6.1. Legislative update – Deirdre Brennan

The state budget has been passed and the Cards for Kids expansion act has been signed by the Governor.

## 6.2. Materials challenges

Stagg reported there was a patron challenge to a book about COVID vaccination. Thorstenson reported a challenge to the Heartstopper Graphic Novels books in a classroom library. The challenge was denied based on the district collection policy.

## 7. New Business

### 7.1. School librarian standards

Brennan reviewed the 2017 RAILS system membership standards. Thorstenson and Walsh explained that the Illinois School Code requires every school librarian must have a teaching license and a library or media endorsement or coursework. The school code does not mandate that each building have a librarian. Data collected by RAILS shows not all districts or schools are staffed by a librarian. Walsh shared the report, *Requirements for School Librarian Employment: A State-by-State Summary*. Brennan stated the next step is to look at the states with legislation that works and how we can use it for our purposes.

### 7.2. Media literacy unit requirement for public high school curriculum

Walsh explained the media literacy unit requirements are the same as the library standards taught in our state. School librarians report it is unclear whether school administrators understand the Media Literacy Unit is exactly what school librarians are trained to teach. Walsh will share a copy of her presentation on the media literacy unit requirement. Thorstenson explained that at CPS, many departments and librarians plan to incorporate the mandate by adapting current lesson plans. Creason noted the focus on the media literacy unit is an advocacy opportunity for colleges of education to train teachers about what a library media specialist does.

### 7.3. FY23 RAILS Advocacy Committee meeting schedule

It was agreed the committee will continue to meet the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month at 4pm.

Thomas Stagg moved, and Alice Creason seconded, that

THE RAILS BOARD ADVOCACY COMMITTEE APPROVE THE FY23 RAILS BOARD ADVOCACY COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULE.

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

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

The next Advocacy Committee meeting will be held on JUNE 9<sup>TH</sup> at 4:00 pm.

The topics for the next meeting agenda are:

1. Legislative updates
2. School librarian standards
2. Materials challenges
3. Media literacy curriculum unit requirement for public high school curriculum

## 9. Adjournment

Helenthal adjourned the meeting at 4:45 p.m.