

RAILS BOARD ADVOCACY COMMITTEE

November 10, 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 4:00 p.m. Helenthal read the following statement: 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/Telephone: Monica Caldicott, Alice Creason, Juanita Harrell, Robin Helenthal, Sarah McHone-Chase, Thomas Stagg, Amy Walsh (4:02pm)

Absent: Kara Thorstenson

3. Recognition of Guests and Announcements

Guests in attendance at RAILS Burr Ridge: Karen Goyer (minute taker), Monica Harris (*ex-officio*)

Guests in attendance via Zoom: Deirdre Brennan (*ex-officio*), Ryan Hebel, Mary Witt (*ex-officio*)

Helenthal announced this is the last Advocacy meeting Brennan will attend due to her upcoming retirement and thanked her for her service on the 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 October 13, 2022

Creason moved for the approval of the consent agenda. Caldicott seconded and a roll call vote was taken: Ayes: Monica Caldicott, Alice Creason, Juanita Harrell, Robin Helenthal, Sarah McHone-Chase, Thomas Stagg, Amy Walsh. Nays: none.

6. Unfinished Business

6.1. Legislative Update

Brennan shared that the ILA (Illinois Library Association) has not committed to working on any legislation for the upcoming session. The annual ILA Legislative Meetups have not been scheduled. Brennan explained the importance of asking for legislation and meeting with legislators, especially the newly elected legislators. Brennan encouraged this committee's members to express to ILA the importance of continuing their work on the legislative proposals and holding the Legislative Meetups.

6.2. Report on ILA Advocacy Committee Meeting

Harris was unable to attend the ILA Advocacy Committee meeting due to a conflict with RAILS business.

6.3. Find More Illinois Advocacy Feedback

Members reported the Find More Illinois (FMI) talking points proved to be a good advocacy tool. Caldecott stated school librarians are most interested in using FMI to request articles from academic libraries, also known as non-returnables. Brennan suggested that information about non-returnables be added to the Find More Illinois talking points. Caldecott stated the in-person training on FMI with Eric Bain was very helpful. Stagg suggested RAILS look at Noodle Tools and possible integration with Auto-Graphics' ILS. Leila Heath will be asked to look at the Noodle Tools platform.

6.4. Advocacy Feedback

Harrell did not have anything to report this month. Walsh will report on the AISLE Advocacy committee meeting next month.

7. New Business

7.1. Report on ILA Conference

Stagg and Creason reported on the ILA conference session on advocacy. They recommended the Ready Set Advocate Toolkit posted on the ILA website as a helpful advocacy tool to use with legislators.

7.2. Report on AISLE Conference

Caldicott thanked RAILS for the presentation on school library data and the many RAILS staff members who participated in the AISLE (Association of Illinois School Library Educators) conference. Walsh noted the I-SAIL library media literacy standards have been updated. The rollout of the required high school media literacy unit has received less than positive feedback. Many school districts have not made changes to their way of teaching media literacy. School librarians are interested in the RAILS school data project. Book challenges continue to be a major issue for schools.

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

The next Advocacy Committee meeting will be held on December 8, 2022 at 4 pm.

Topics for the next meeting are: Legislative Update, Find More Illinois Talking Points Feedback, School Library Issues and Talking Points.

9. Adjournment

Helenthal adjourned the meeting at 5:00 p.m.