



125 Tower Drive
Burr Ridge, IL 60513
630.734.5000
railslibraries.info

January 13, 2023

RAILS Board Committee Reports

Advocacy Committee Report- Chair Robin Helenthal

The committee met on December 8, 2022. The next meeting is January 12, 2023

Members were updated on the legislative and advocacy work of ILA and ALA. RAILS will assist ILA with the legislative meetups for newly elected legislators by providing stories and helping to connect people. Harris has been in contact with some members of the incoming Secretary of State's transition team Library Enhancements Committee to discuss statewide priorities with a focus on ILA's priorities, the unserved, and the need for certified librarians in every school. A historic investment to build libraries and modernize facilities is already included in the Senate budget proposal but not yet in the House's. It would be the first of its kind in over 25 years. Federal funding is available through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs act to get community members online through the library.

Members discussed Find More Illinois advocacy. Caldicott and Walsh presented on school librarian issues. AISLE has taken a larger role in advocating for school librarians. Walsh explained the school code rule on library staffing states "an adequately funded school should have 1 librarian for every 600 students." Harris reviewed the My Library Is. . . school library talking points.

Topics for the next meeting are: Legislative and Advocacy Update, Find More Illinois, School Library Issues and Talking Points, and advocacy on the Cards for Kids Act changes.

Consortia Committee Report-Chair Thomas Stagg

The committee canceled the January meeting. They will meet on Monday, April 24, 2023

EDI Committee Report - Chair Dianne Hollister

The committee met on November 2, 2022. Next meeting February 14, 2023

Executive Committee Report - Chair Alex Vancina

A report will be given at the Board meeting.

Policy Committee Report - Chair Jennifer McIntosh

The committee met on December 5. The next meeting is on February 8, 2023

Remote Work Policy was approved and will be presented to the RAILS board for full approval pending any suggested changes from the legal review. They discussed changes to the board election process and about what defines board diversity. They reviewed the procedure for filling vacancies on the Board and agreed that some kind of diversity requirements or guidelines needed to be added. It was also agreed that this committee should review standing policies on a regular basis. They made suggested additions to the Communicable Diseases Policy regarding IDPH guidelines, and “additional procedures may be developed as necessary”. They will vote on changes at the next meeting.

Resource Sharing Committee Report - Chair Becky Spratford

The committee met on November 14, 2022. The next meeting is February 13, 2023

Universal Service Committee Report - Chair Alice Creason

The committee met on December 8, 2022. The next meeting is scheduled for March 7, 2023

Greg McCormick reported that the Illinois State Library Advisory Committee (ISLAC) has developed a Nonresident Services Subcommittee. There was a discussion on the Cards for Kids Act and the expansion of the act. Many suggestions were given on ways that RAILS can help educate the RAILS membership on both the original law and the expansion. Monica Harris reported that there is widespread library support for the Statewide Online Educational Resource Program. The ILA Public Policy Committee will move forward with discussions of this program once Secretary of State-Elect Giannoulas is appointed. The committee also discussed alternative funding resources for libraries participating in the Cards for Kids Act. McCormick talked about an overlooked statute under the County Library Law that passed in 1990. ISLAC’s new Nonresident Services Subcommittee will look into the details of this statute.