

RAILS Board Advocacy Committee

June 8, 2023 | 4:00 p.m.

RAILS Burr Ridge and Videoconference Sites, 125 Tower Drive, Burr Ridge, IL 60527

Draft Minutes

1. Welcome and Call to Order

Monica Harris, RAILS Executive Director, called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

2. Roll Call of Members

Goyer called the roll of the committee members:

RAILS Burr Ridge: Monica Caldicott, Juanita Harrell

RAILS East Peoria: Thomas Stagg

Lewis University: Alice Creason, Amy Walsh

Absent: Robin Helenthal, Sarah McHone-Chase, Kara Thorstenson

3. Recognition of Guests and Announcements

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

Guests in attendance via Zoom: Dan Bostrom, Diane Hollister (4:10p.m.), Renya Krempl, Mary Witt (*ex-officio*)

Harris announced that due to Mary Witt's upcoming retirement, this will be the last Advocacy committee meeting she will attend. Harris thanked Witt for her service on this committee and all she has done to advocate for libraries of all types.

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 May 11, 2023

Caldicott moved for the approval of the consent agenda, Creason seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.

6. My Library Is

Bostrom outlined the history and offerings of the My Library Is ... program. It began in 2018 as a response to members' requests for help promoting the value of libraries to their stakeholders, especially for concrete tools such as videos and talking points. One of the first items produced were the videos "Dreams Take Flight." and "Elders of the Internet." Talking points for all types of libraries were also released. The RAILS partnership grant was rebranded as the "My Library Is... grant program." Initially, it provided assistance to all library types. In the past three years, it has only been available to schools based on RAILS' determination that is where the funds are needed most. My Library Is... website offers training webinars, links to external content, and maintains a publicly accessible "Sharing Showcase," where libraries can share resources. The

website also hosts a popular blog with posts representing all library types. Other resources for the campaign include a campaign advisory team and video series: "My Library Is..." and "Specialized Library Spotlight."

7. Reports

7.1. Legislative and Advocacy Update

Harris gave an update from the ILA PPC meeting on June 5th. On the federal level, ILA continues to advocate for the Right to Read Act. The Illinois State Budget was approved by the House and Senate and signed by the governor. It includes a \$5 million allocation for statewide online resources. Harris addressed how the unserved could potentially access this service. Some options are to issue a card or gain access through the Illinois State Library. HB2789 has passed both the House and the Senate and is expected to be signed by the Governor the following week. There will be a comment period in July, after which administrative rules will be finalized, and the bill will be effective on January 1, 2024. Similarly, SB2419, The License to Read Act, awaits the governor's signature. Harris also mentioned SB2243, which primarily refers to a comprehensive literacy plan for schools and can potentially affect school libraries. SB0689, which also addressed book banning, will not be moving forward in its current form.

8. Unfinished Business

8.1. Library Issues Updates

Caldicott attended the High School Librarian networking group meeting where they discussed school library staffing ratios as outlined in the Evidence Based Funding for Student Success Act. The staffing is tied to whether a school is fully funded based on state criteria. Staffing ratios are mandated by 2025. If a school is 100% EBF funded, the staffing ratios are 1 librarian: 600 students, 1 aide: 300 students. There is some confusion on what fully funded means. Not many schools are considered to be fully funded. Harris announced that the Public Policy committee is accepting legislative proposals until August 1st.

9. New Business

9.1. FY2024 Advocacy Committee Meeting Schedule

The members discussed the FY2024 schedule. Several members expressed an interest in meeting less frequently as the library issues slow down. It was decided to continue meeting monthly and reevaluate the schedule in the fall.

Harrell moved for the approval of the FY2024 Advocacy Committee Meeting Schedule, Staggs seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.

10. Meeting Recap and Agenda Building for the Next RAILS Board Advocacy Committee Meeting on July 13, 2023

The next Advocacy Committee meeting will be held on July 13, 2023 at 4:00 p.m. The topic for the next meeting will be the Unserved and Lynn Stainbrook will give an update on ALA federal advocacy efforts.

11. Adjournment

Harris adjourned the meeting at 4:41 p.m.