

RAILS Board Advocacy Committee Meeting

November 9, 2023 | 4:00 p.m.

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

Minutes

1. Welcome and Call to Order

Filapek welcomed members and announced Monica Caldicott will take over as chairperson of the committee.

Caldicott called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m.

2. Roll Call of Members

Goyer called the roll of the committee members:

RAILS Burr Ridge: Jean Carroll (4:11 p.m.)

Aurora Public Library Eola Road Branch: Catherine Yanikoski

Cook Memorial Aspen Drive Library: Monica Caldicott

Lewis University: Alice Creason, Amy Walsh

3. Recognition of Guests and Announcements

Guests in attendance at RAILS Burr Ridge: Joe Filapek (ex-officio), Karen Goyer (minute-taker),

Guests in attendance via Zoom: Janette Derucki, Monica Harris (ex-officio), Ryan Hebel

Caldicott announced that Harrell and Helenthal have resigned from the committee. She thanked them for their service and efforts to advocate for libraries and library staff in Illinois.

4. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

5. Adoption of the Consent Agenda

5.1. Adoption of the Agenda

5.2. Approval of the RAILS Board Advocacy Committee Minutes of September 14, 2023

Walsh moved for the approval of the consent agenda, Yanikoski seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.

6. New Business

6.1. School Library Data Project

Janette Derucki, RAILS Data Research Specialist, gave a presentation on the status of the school library data dashboard, SLATE (School Library Advocacy Through Education). The dashboard contains categories of data such as District Details, Library Staff, Collections, and Library Finances. In 2024, school library data will be collected outside of the certification process. Members provided feedback and suggested additional features such as incorporating the SLATE data in the ISBE School Report Card, interactive maps, and a comparison of RAILS members vs. non-members to demonstrate the importance of system membership. Caldicott expressed appreciation to RAILS for highlighting evidence-based funding for library staff and for taking on this project.

6.2. Unite Against Book Bans Partner Invitation

Harris gave an overview of the Unite Against Book Bans initiative. Members reviewed the [partner letter](#) and the list of current [partners](#).

Walsh moved to recommend to the RAILS Board to sign the partner agreement with Unite Against Book Bans, Creason seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.

7. Reports

7.1. Legislative and Advocacy Update

The ILA Legislative Meetups will be held in person during November and December at locations throughout the state. Committee members are encouraged to attend these meetings. The ISLAC (Illinois State Library Advisory Committee) members discussed the draft of Public Act 103-0100. Libraries would be asked during the certification process to check a box to adopt the ALA Bill of Rights or provide their written policy or procedure prohibiting the banning of books. Anne Slaughter (RAILS) and Troy Brown (IHLS) gave a presentation at the ILA President's program on the broadband initiative. The bill to raise the competitive bidding threshold for libraries in Illinois is moving forward. Bill language has been filed for the amendment to the Acquisition of Treasurer Bonds for libraries. The committee had discussions concerning the Equitable Access to Electronic Materials act. The Paid Leave for All Workers Act and the possibility of exemptions for government entities were a topic of discussion. On the federal level, ILA will be looking for changes introduced by Speaker Giannoulias. An advocacy workshop will bring together state advocacy chapters to discuss current library issues.

7.2. AISLE Advocacy Committee Report

Walsh reported on the October AISLE Advocacy meeting where they discussed plans to present or have a table at all future school administrator conferences, an increase in school librarians being reassigned as a classroom teacher, SLATE data, and support from AASL, ISL, and IHLS.

8. Unfinished Business

8.1. Library Issues Updates

Walsh reported the ISBE is accepting feedback on the second draft of the Literacy Plan. More information on the literacy plan, listening tours, and the feedback form can be found at <https://www.isbe.net/literacyplan>. Caldicott shared talking points about the Cards for Kids act with the High School Librarians networking group. Filapek spoke at the PrairieCat Users Group conference where it was noted there is a lack of data on how many libraries adopt the Cards for Kids act. RAILS will look into collecting this information on the RAILS website or by some other means.

9. Meeting Recap and Agenda Building for the Next RAILS Board Advocacy Committee Meeting on January 11, 2024

The next Advocacy Committee meeting is scheduled to be held on January 11, 2023 at 4:00 pm. The topic will be Support for Broadband and Digital Equality. Yanikoski suggested a discussion on serving unhoused and migrant populations within their communities. Harris asked members to research examples to share with the group at the January meeting. Caldicott inquired about the process to fill the open seats on this committee. Harris explained the selection of members is based on library type and role and hopes to have new members appointed by the next meeting.

10. Adjournment

Caldicott adjourned the meeting at 5:18 p.m.