

**REACHING ACROSS ILLINOIS LIBRARY SYSTEM BOARD MEETING
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Tuesday, December 17, 2024 at 9:30 a.m.
Burr Ridge Service Center

draft MINUTES

1. Welcome and Call to Order
Rene Leyva, President of the RAILS Board called the meeting to order at 9:31 a.m. on Tuesday, December 17, 2024.
2. Roll Call of Committee Members
Fister called the roll of the Committee:
Present at Burr Ridge: Rene Leyva, Jean Carroll, Jenn Hovanec
Present on Zoom: Catherine Yanikoski
Present at NIU Founders Memorial Library: Gwen Gregory,
Absent: None
3. Recognition of guests and announcements
Burr Ridge: Monica Harris, Dan Bostrom, Emily Fister-designated minute taker
Guests on Zoom: none
Guests at NIU Founders Memorial Library: none
4. Public comments
There were no public comments.
5. Adoption of agenda
Carroll moved to adopt the agenda. Gregory seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.
Ayes: Leyva, Gregory, Carroll, Hovanec, Yanikoski. Nays: none.
6. Interview with Candidate #1
Candidate Carol Schmitt joined the meeting via Zoom. Leyva welcomed Schmitt and the committee and staff members introduced themselves. Leyva and the committee members took turns asking a set of questions to Schmitt. Schmitt shared her reasons for joining the board and her experience in library management. She expressed her support for equity, diversity, and inclusion in libraries, emphasizing the importance of reflecting diverse communities in books and materials. Schmitt suggested offering grants for classes in emergent technologies and support group discounts for computer hardware and software purchases.

7. Discussion of Interview

The Committee discussed their experiences and impressions of Schmitt. They also discussed the transition between the strategic goals and the questions, with suggestions for improvement.

The committee took a ten-minute break.

8. Interview with Candidate #2

Candidate Carolyn Sennett joined the meeting via Zoom. Leyva welcomed Sennett and the committee and staff members introduced themselves. Leyva and the committee members took turns asking a set of questions to Sennett. Sennett discussed her views on the relationship between system board members and the executive director, emphasizing the board's role in strategic planning, policy, and finance. Sennett highlighted the importance of inclusivity and accessibility in library services and suggested more training and consulting services to help libraries become future-ready.

9. Discussion of Interview

The committee members They discussed the qualifications and potential of candidates for the board. They emphasized the importance of sharing knowledge and experiences gained at RAILS. Yanikoski raised a question about the visibility of content on the RAILS website without an L2 account, and it was explained that while some content is behind the L2 login wall, much is accessible to non-members. They also discussed the challenges of reaching trustees and the importance of marketing and sharing information about RAILS' offerings.

10. Next meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 19, 2024 at 11:00 a.m. and will include the third and final interview and a decision to appoint a candidate to the Board.

11. Adjourn

Leyva adjourned the meeting at 11:30 a.m.