

VIRTUAL MEETING
RAILS BOARD ADVOCACY COMMITTEE MEETING

July 15, 2020 | 10:30 a.m.

Join Zoom Meeting to attend

<https://railslibraries.zoom.us/j/99722925535?pwd=VmdFU0I3bUhzWUZyWGgreE8zazAzQT09>

Meeting ID: 997 2292 5535

Password: 925444

Dial in number: +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

MINUTES

1. Welcome
Mr. Campbell, Advocacy chairperson, welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 10:39
2. Designation of Minute Taker—Stacy Palmisano
3. Roll Call of Members
Committee members in attendance via Zoom: Michael Campbell, Jenna Nemec-Loise, Thomas Stagg
Absent: Percy Harris, Sarah McHone-Chase
4. Introductions, Guests, and Announcements
Guests in attendance via Zoom:
RAILS staff - Deirdre Brennan, Monica Harris, Stacy Palmisano
5. Public Comment
No public comments
6. Adoption of the Agenda
Jenna Nemec-Loise moved, and Thomas Stagg seconded, that

THE RAILS BOARD ADVOCACY COMMITTEE AGENDA BE ADOPTED.

The motion carried. Roll call was taken: Ayes: Michael Campbell, Jenna Nemec-Loise, and Thomas Stagg. Nays: none.
7. Approval of the Minutes of the June 15, 2020 RAILS Board Advocacy Committee Meeting
Thomas Stagg moved, and Jenna Nemec-Loise seconded, that

THE MINUTES OF THE MAY 20, 2020 RAILS BOARD ADVOCACY COMMITTEE MINUTES BE APPROVED.

The motion carried. Roll call was taken: Ayes: Michael Campbell, Jenna Nemec-Loise, and Thomas Stagg. Nays: none.
8. Discussion of progress on advocacy efforts
 - a. School Libraries
Mr. Campbell talked about the reopening plan the Illinois State Board of Education, ISBE, created and was surprised that little information regarding reopening school libraries was

provided. The use of digital resources and databases was not mentioned within the plan as valuable resources during the pandemic. Ms. Nemece-Loise reported that a school librarian was not invited to take part in preparing the ISBE guidelines. The committee discussed the overall issues facing the reopening of school libraries and the issue of school librarians facing lay-offs due to not being viewed as essential. There is a concern as to why the school librarian's message isn't being taken into consideration and being valued by ISBE. The committee discussed the idea of the Illinois Library Association, ILA, and the Association of Illinois School Library Educators, AISLE, working together to provide a unified voice. AISLE has fewer resources than ILA and ILA has a lobbyist and there is a need for school libraries to have a voice and get funding. School librarians are being asked to defend the library this fall, leading to a defining moment in crises advocacy. The message that the library is 24/7 and not brick and mortar needs to be heard by school administrators. Members of local chapters of AISLE need to feel empowered to advocate to make a significant impact. Ms. Brennan would like to see a unified front from all librarians as an institution. It would be easier as a group of librarians to explain librarianship and that they do not all do the same things and then have a more powerful voice. The committee discussed that ILA and AISLE need to form a closer relationship to represent school libraries to the state legislature and that school library funding is a big issue.

Mr. Stagg discussed the need for a grass root level effort with library trustees and local AISLE chapters advocating to the local state representatives. Ms. Brennan will look into what the plans are with the ILA Trustee Forum and report back to the committee. An issue that is ongoing is the need to have the AISLE membership feel empowered to advocate on their behalf. Ms. Nemece-Loise reported that AISLE has a new initiative to institute yearlong advocacy challenges for their membership. RAILS can complement this initiative.

Ms. Brennan reported that the Advocacy committee's ILA program proposal for the October ILA virtual conference was accepted.

b. AISLE Meeting

Ms. Brennan reported that the last AISLE meeting with RAILS was a good meeting and that there was a discussion about advocacy. Many of the topics discussed in today's meeting was also discussed at the AISLE meeting. The next meeting is July 17 at 11:00. AISLE is preparing a reopening survey for their members so that they can get a status of what their members are planning. The AISLE list serve has a spectrum of school librarians listing detailed plans to librarians with no plans at all.

9. Discussion of future meeting dates

Ms. Palmisano will send out a doodle poll for August meeting dates.

10. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:18 a.m.

Advocacy Committee Members:

- Michael Campbell, Chair
- Percy Harris
- Sarah McHone – Chase
- Jenna Nemece-Loise
- Tom Stagg
 - Ex Officio: Deirdre Brennan, Mary Witt