

ILLINOIS LIBRARY ASSOCIATION PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE

June 5, 2023

Minutes taken by Nikeda Webb

Call to order at 1:03 PM

Attendance

Voting Members Present: Ryan Livergood, Melissa Gardner, Laura Long, Rebecca Malinowski, Jamie Paicely, Donna Schaal, Kyla Waltermire, and Nikeda Webb.

Voting Members Absent: John Kokoris and Catherine Yanikoski

Ex Officio Members Present: Matthew Matkowski, Derek Blaida, Monica Harris, Anne Craig, Jeanne Hamilton, Nanette Donohue, Cyndi Robinson, Heather Jagman, Ryan Johnson, Lou Ann Jacob, Ellen Popit and Gail Graziani

Ex Officio Members Absent: Greg McCormick and Patrick Molloy

Guests included: Tina Hubert (Six Mile Regional Library District), Mary Witt (RAILS), Joe Filapek (RAILS), Leila Heath (RAILS), and Amy Byers (ILA VP Elect)

Approval of Agenda: The agenda was approved unanimously.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the May 3, 2023 meeting were approved unanimously.

Advocacy Committee: Nanette Donohue reports that this was her last meeting as the co-chair of the advocacy committee, Amanda McKay will be co-chairing with Gail starting next year. The committee had a very brief meeting this morning. Mostly recapping what's happened this year, they've done a lot of presentations of **Ready Set Advocate** in a variety of different conferences around the state. It's going well and it is expected to continue next year. Next year there will be a presentation at the AISLE conference in October, and ILA Annual in October.

ILA Executive Board update: Heather Jagman reported that the ILA Executive Board met in person in Springfield on the 25th of May, Illinois Library Association received a bequeath from the estate of the legendary Peggy Sullivan in the amount of \$80,257. It is unrestricted so the board voted to use that money to fund DEI initiatives.

We also voted for a brief change in the nominating committee procedures The nominating committee will not select any candidates that are members of the nominating committee, employed by the same library as ILA board members or immediate family members. The committee wants to avoid any perceived conflict of interest.

Julie Milavec will return as Treasurer. We ended the meeting with a tour of the State Library building by new incoming board member Gwendolyn Harrison. We welcomed the incoming board members who could attend and said goodbye to the board members who are leaving. ILA is going to be moving at the end of June to a new building that is much more convenient and climate-friendly.

Federal Update (ILA): Cyndi Robinson shared that ALA is still advocating for the **Right to Read Act** [Take Action Now! \(oneclickpolitics.global.ssl.fastly.net\)](https://oneclickpolitics.global.ssl.fastly.net)

State update (Derek): Derek Blaida shared that our new Secretary of State, Alexi Giannoulias has been 1,000% in support of our initiatives. There's about five and a half million dollars in the Secretary of State's budget so electronic resources can be provided to libraries.

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House Bill 2789: This bill passed in the final days of the regular session and it allows the Secretary of State to prescribe rules and written policies to prevent banning specific books and resources. which Cindy and others worked hard on throughout the year. That bill will go to the governor's desk.

Senate Bill 2243: Under SB 2243, the state board must develop and adopt a comprehensive literacy plan by Jan. 31, 2024, and create a rubric by July 1, 2024. Local school districts could use the rubric to evaluate their reading lesson plans. In addition, the bill requires the state to develop training opportunities for educators by Jan. 1, 2025. This bill is also going to be signed into law by Governor Pritzker

[Illinois Literacy Plan \(isbe.net\)](https://isbe.net)

Senate Bill 2419: The License to Read Act will allow the Secretary to negotiate with ebook publishers to obtain licenses so we can allow patrons to utilize electronic other electronic resources that the corporation will not allow us to provide in our libraries today.

Pensions: In the last 30 days of the session, there was testimony from the Illinois Department of Revenue, and something called the Commission on Government to forecast accountability about revenue projections of the state's economy today. They urge continuous conservative revenue expenditures in the state budget and projections moving forward because of the economic climate that has been forecasted by people across the country. based on testimony, or more employees, based on testimony, there was about a billion dollars in spending that was eroded from the state budget, about 750 million or such based on conservative revenue projections, and about three or \$400 million, because the state elects to spend in different areas, or build up its cash reserves. More research has been put towards that issue, to hopefully hit that \$2 billion cushion to prevent negative outcomes and economic recession or other economic budget issues

Kyla Waltermine asked for an update on Bill 689. Derek Blaida stated it did not become law. It did not pass. It's still hanging out there for a future purpose.

Old Business: Ryan Livergood reminded everyone that the legislative proposals are due soon. He suggested having a brief discussion on what we'd like to see and try to advocate for next year.

[ILA Public Policy Committee Legislative Suggestions - Illinois Library Association](#)

Monica Harris updated the committee about the broadband advisory group for the Illinois State Library. There was a robust discussion of broadband at the last meeting, and that group is going to continue to meet. They have presentations from both library systems. The Secretary of State's office has also been in contact with representatives from both Heartland and RAILS to ask about what kinds of information might be important to know about broadband availability throughout the state of Illinois in a survey. The conversation has begun and the Secretary of State's office would be leading that approach.

AISLE update: LouAnn Jacobs reported that AISLE met to talk about the successes of this year. They also discussed looking down the road and figuring out our next steps in regard to staffing. A group of retirees is going to learn what types of questions to ask so we can contact some of the school districts that we don't have good information from and see what more information we may possibly be able to get with a one-to-one contact that maybe wasn't able to be done through the formal process. She also shared there is concern about the loss of certified licensed librarians and library aides. The Literacy Advocacy Committee is working up some language to share with ILA and other stakeholders to see if they will sign it.

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Lou Ann shared a copy of the rough draft of the Literacy Plan. They will be asking for comments from the public, not just the school community, but also the public.

Final comments: Ryan Livergood thanked everyone for their hard work this year. Cyndi also thanked everyone for their help and support this year as well. She also shared that New Jersey was looking for book banning legislature.

Adjournment at 1:36 PM

Voting members then met at 1:38 PM to discuss the Robert R. McClarren Legislative Award.