

ILLINOIS LIBRARY ASSOCIATION PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE

May 3, 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, Nikeda Webb, and Catherine Yanikoski. Voting members absent: John Kokoris, Patrick Molloy

Ex Officio Members Present: : Matthew Matkowski, Derek Blaida, Monica Harris, Elizabeth Clarage for Anne Craig, Jeanne Hamilton, Nanette Donohue, Cyndi Robinson, Heather Jagman, Lou Ann Jacob, Greg McCormick, and Ellen Popit

Guests included: Tina Hubert (Six Mile Regional Library District), Mary Witt, and Leila Heath

Approval of Agenda: The agenda was approved unanimously.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the April 3, 2021 meeting were approved unanimously.

Advocacy Committee: Nanette Donohue reports that the Advocacy Committee had a presentation at Reaching Forward South and it was standing room only. There are now two versions of the presentation. There's one for general advocacy overview for all types of staff and trustees and then we now have a version that's tailored for frontline staff. Ryan Livergood shared that there's a discussion about possibly flipping the meetings next term, maybe having public policy in the morning and advocacy in the afternoon the way it used to be.

ILA Executive Board update: ILA Executive Board is scheduled to meet on May 25. And that meeting will be in person and hosted by Greg McCormick and the Illinois State Library. Heather expressed thanks to the ILA executive staff for helping to make it happen. Heather also shared thanks to ILA for the work they are doing in PPC, for monitoring issues and the work being done to promote libraries, to state legislators and communities.

Federal Update (ILA): Cyndi Robinson shared that Congress is still deadlocked on raising the debt ceiling. ALA is promoting its Fund Libraries program. Eight out of our 17 members of Congress have signed on to the LSTA letter and five have signed on to the Innovative Approaches to Literacy Act. The Right to Read Act was the big push for National Library Week. If you haven't had the opportunity yet to, to reach out to your legislators, please do that.

Fund Libraries <https://www.ala.org/advocacy/fund-libraries>

Right to Read Act <https://www.ala.org/aasl/advocacy/right2read>

State update (Derek): Derek Blaida shared that there are two things this past week in Springfield that will affect the 2024 budget. The Department of Revenue director appeared before our legislative committee and there will be a massive influx of new dollars coming into the state for us to spend next year, it's about \$500 million. Two years ago, the state of Illinois expanded the Medicaid program that was estimated at a cost originally between \$180-220 million. Today, that

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program is estimated to cost between \$801 billion. The legislature is going to have to make some tough decisions on whether or not new programs or whether there's some erosion of current spending power in different programs, or some combination of the best.

Derek reviewed six bills from the Bills List.

House Bill 2789: This is the new bill that was passed in the house that is on the final passage in the Senate. Greg McCormick stated that ISL has crafted an initial version of administrative rules. The effective date of this legislation is January 1, 2024. Greg shared that there will be grants that are issued prior to that date and grants that will be issued after that date in the upcoming fiscal year. ISL will have to work cautiously in the administrative rules process and when application announcements for those funds, exactly, at what point they're applicable to which grant program because the effective date doesn't coincide with the state's fiscal year.

House Bill 2872: This bill passed the House but has not moved in the Senate. This issue is important to leadership and they will look to take this language and place it on another bill later this month. Basically, what this bill does is it changes the date for SBE to develop a comprehensive literacy plan from October of this year to January 31 of 2024.

House Bill 3129: This is an administrative bill. This bill would be a mandate for any employer within the state that has 15 or more employees will be required to post future job positions with a pay scale for that position to accompany any public job position.

House Bill 3147: This is the Literacy and Justice for All Act. It has become known as the rubric bill and it requires the SBE to adapt to make available to various school districts a rubric by which they may evaluate their reading curriculum and select reading instruction materials that are appropriate. This bill because of the cost continues to be before an appropriations committee in the Senate. This will likely be involved in budget discussions later this month.

House Bill 3733: This is on the administrative side. Today, it's not required that employers across the state of Illinois provide electronic copies of various labor related forms or materials to their employees by request. There was an issue in Western Illinois, where an individual requested their employer to email certain information containing private data. And the employer declined to do so. This bill basically says that employers shall upon one's written request email can email certain personnel records back to their employees. This bill passed the House. It was approved by a Senate committee earlier last month. It heads to the floor for final passage. This bill will likely pass the Senate later this month to become law, January 1 of next year.

Senate Bill 2419: This bill creates the License to Read Act. This bill is similar to our proposal last year, as the Secretary of State may negotiate with book publishers the cost of e-audio books and other electronic materials to purchase on behalf of libraries on a reasonable term basis. This bill shows that the Secretary of State's office is willing to take alternate means to accomplish the goals that US and other institutions have set out for themselves in a new, proactive and creative manner. This will head to the House floor for hopefully final passage later this month.

Senate Bill 689: This bill provides that school districts, libraries, village libraries, library systems and their staff shall not limit access to biographies, autobiographies, memoirs, or any other books or materials in libraries or prohibit the purchase for library collections of biographies, autobiographies, memoirs, or any other books or materials based upon the depiction in those books or materials of matters of race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, sexual and reproductive health, gender identity, religion, human rights activism, or any other subject. Authorizes school districts, libraries, library systems and their

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staff to impose limitations on access to books or materials in a school library for public safety reasons or based upon the age and developmental level of persons who will have access to those books or materials.

Kyla Waltermire shared that she was more in favor of this bill because it removes the component that ties our funding to it. She shared that things are turning increasingly conservative her way. She stated that there was concern that there will be libraries who will lose their funding with the other bill, but this doesn't tie it to it. Kyla thought that the bill could work hand in hand, because one of them gives us the statutory authority to deny the banning and the other one basically says based on that you'd have to have this policy or written statement in place. The library world as a whole would want to support both of them since they do slightly different things.

Donna Schaal stated that she has talked to some directors who were very concerned in their conservative towns that this would affect their public per capita grant, and then even applying for other grants that the state might offer. Again, tying it to that funding. It still kind of boils down to knowing your local community. And you know what circulates on your shelf. Donna shared that her library has a very limited budget for what they purchased and that they try to be as diverse as they can be.

AISLE update: LouAnn Jacobs provided a brief report.

Final comments: Ryan Livergood stated a minute taker was needed at the next meeting. Nikeda Webb volunteered.

Adjournment at 2:22 PM