

## Minutes from the ILA-PPC Meeting on April 5, 2021

The meeting was called to order by Daniel Matthews at 10:02am.

### Attendance

Voting Members Present: Sam Adams-Lanham, Marian Albers, Dennis Danowski, Monica Dombrowski, Ryan Livergood, Rebecca Malinowski, Daniel Matthews, Karolyn Nance, Kathy Parker, Dee Anna Phares, Scott Pointon, and Catherine Yanikoski.

Voting Members Absent: N/A

Ex Officio Members Present: Molly Beestrup, Deirdre Brennan, Derek Blaida, Elizabeth Clarage (for Anne Craig), Veronica De Fazio, Diane Foote, Jeanne Hamilton, Lou Ann Jacobs, Greg McCormick, Ellen Popit, Magan Szwerek, and Alex Todd.

Ex Officio Members Absent: Patrick Molloy and Leigh Ann Wilson.

Guests Present: Michael Campbell, Monica Harris, Tina Hubert, Cyndi Robinson, Aaron Skogg, Tom Stagg, and Mary Witt.

### Approval of Agenda

Add to agenda—discussion of Robert R. McClarren Legislative Development Award (Diane Foote).

Kathy Parker moved to approve the corrected agenda. Scott Pointon seconded the motion. All approved, motion carried.

### Approval of Minutes

Elizabeth Clarage noted that her name was misspelled in the attendance list.

Dennis Danowski moved to approve the minutes of the March 1, 2021 meeting as corrected. Karolyn Nance seconded the motion. All approved, motion carried.

### State Legislative Updates

Illinois House Bill Discussion (Derek Blaida)

HB234 (Media Literacy)—In an earlier form, this was not required, but now mandated. This could be a problem since it is unclear who will teach these skills, though it is possible media literacy could be incorporated into media course. Information on the bill was forwarded to AISLE, but no official position as of now. Derek suggests that mandating often kills a bill, especially in a difficult year like this one, but this seems like it may pass. Committee members noted that if the organization supports information literacy instruction, they should support this bill, even with the mandate.

Sam Adams-Lanham moved to support the bill. Ryan Livergood seconded. All approved, motion carried.

HB3254 (Diversity in Literature)—No organizations have publicly come out against the bill, but several committee members expressed concerns about the language of the bill, the potential for censorship of historical or literary texts, and the possibility of it being misused in a way that runs counter to the spirit of the law and actually stifles diversity. Members also noted that the method for vetting materials outlined in HB3254 is at odds with current practices (at this time, individual titles do not go through each School Board, but through Curriculum Committees); it was suggested that legislators might want to meet with educators and school librarians to clarify the process. The committee members were enthusiastic about legislation focused on increasing diversity and inclusion but would like to suggest some language changes that would better allow the bill to reach its goal. Derek pointed out there may be issues with the legality of this bill that may come up if moved to the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Will monitor—no stance at present. Diane, Derek, the Quick Response Team, and Diversity and Intellectual Freedom Committees will draft some language amendments and reach out to a couple of the bill's co-sponsors.

HB162 (Local Govt. Consolidation, 10 yrs)—Derek notes that this is a good government piece which asks government entities to form a committee every 10 years to consider consolidation; however, it does not require consolidation to take place. Talking about consolidation can cause anxiety since, if put into effect, there are potentials for job losses. But this bill does not call for mandatory consolidation—and these conversations are only taking place once a decade—the committee was in favor of it.

Kathy Parker moved to support the bill. Marian Albers seconded. All approved, motion carried.

HB680 (Amends the Local Government Professional Services Selection Act)—The bill removes a procedural hurdle and lowers the bar to get information on estimates; Derek thinks it is a good proposal and would benefit our members; there are few who oppose it.

Sam Adams-Lanham moved to support the bill. Scott Pointon seconded. All approved, motion carried.

HB832 (Budgeting Agencies)—Derek says it is a clean-up bill, administrative and internal. Will continue to monitor.

HB1819 (Rural Advisory Council)—Creates an advisory council; the amendment was filed last week, and we do not need to do anything at the moment. Ellen Popit asked if "rural" is defined in the bill; it is not. Will continue to monitor.

HB2412 (Notices Minority Groups)—Amends the Notice by Publication Act to require publication of notices in the native language of a minority group that makes up 45% of the population in that area. Committee members were in favor of diversity and access but expressed concerns about whether there are always local papers to publish notices in any language and whether this is the best way to provide information. Will continue to monitor.

HB2521 (Labor Relation Employee Rights)—Amends the Illinois Public Labor Relations Act to allow for electronic signatures related to joining unions and for collective bargaining purposes. There was concern that it might be difficult to come to a consensus within ILA's membership. Will continue to monitor.

HB2643 (Local CURE Local Govt. Funding)—Derek notes that bill basically suggests CURE dollars cannot be misspent, and administrative rules will be followed. No need for action. Will continue to monitor.

HB2807 (Local Accumulation of Funds)—This is similar to older proposals which limit the accumulation of funds (exclusive of capital funds). Many opponents to the bill, with only Edgar County Watchdogs in favor; Derek suggests this is unlikely to go anywhere. Will continue to monitor.

HB3410 (Local Government Transparency)—The bill would increase Open Meetings Act requirements for posting specified information on local governments' website. While the language has been watered down (no longer suggesting jail time for non-compliance), it would still constitute an administrative, logistical, and financial burden for government entities and could violate employee privacy; in addition, posting of records for 10 years required by the bill would be in conflict with the Code of Civic Procedure in regards to the retention of documents. There are many opponents, including School Districts.

Monica Dombrowski moved to oppose the bill. Scott Pointon seconded. All approved, motion carried.

HB3470 (Human Traffic No State Money)—This proposes that no state funds can be used for lodging unless that site has been certified as complying with human trafficking recognition training. Will continue to monitor.

**General Springfield Environment**—The General Assembly will be back in session on Tuesday, April 13, 2021 and will remain for six-weeks.

Derek notes that much of the focus will be on drawing redistricting maps, even though there is no official census data yet—it must be done now because of an IL constitutional deadline looming in June.

The 2022 budget will probably look like the current's year budget because of the COVID-19 environment and because Springfield is running behind with online committee hearings.

### **Federal Updates (in ILA updates)**

Build America's Libraries Act—Diane Foote notified that, to date, Sen. Durbin and Reps. Bustos, Casten, and Schakowsky are currently co-sponsors, but they are looking to find more co-sponsors. Diane asked committee members to reach out to their US Representatives.

American Rescue Plan Act—Money will be available for programs as part of the Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund. Diane pointed out that ILA has asked for information on the funding process and requested that libraries be explicitly eligible.

**PPC Handbook**—Diane informed that it has been proposed that PPC should create a handbook for the committee which would give a sense of expectations/member responsibilities. Because time was running short, the issue will be discussed in the May meeting.

**ILA Public Policy Principles Update**—Daniel Matthews (current PPC chair) and Sam Adams-Lanham (incoming PPC chair) have begun reviewing PPC policies, since these have not been updated in several years. Suggested changes will be brought to PPC after conversations with Best Practices and Diversity Committees.

**Summer Prep**—Diane pointed out that ILA planning for the coming year usually takes place during the July meeting, but it has been suggested this process start earlier. Will discuss further at May meeting.

**McClarren Legislative Development Award**—Diane clarified that the Awards Committee will forward nominations to PPC; if there are no nominations, PPC can make one, but it is best to take nominations from the field. PPC would then vote up or down. This year there is one nomination thus far, but nominations are still open until May 15, 2021. PPC's decision about the winner of the McClarren Award will be due July 15, 2021.

Motion by Kathy Parker to adjourn; Scott Pointon seconded. Meeting ended at 12:04PM.