



Illinois Heartland Library System

ADVOCACY & EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

September 10, 2019 – 4:30 p.m.

(via phone, Zoom, and at the office listed below)

Zoom Link: <https://zoom.us/j/970443308>

408-638-0968 | ID: 970443308

Office location: 6725 Goshen Road, Edwardsville, IL 62025

Call to Order

Melanie Weigel called the meeting to order at 4:34 p.m.

Roll Call

Members present: Janet Jenkins (exited 5:03 pm, reentered 5:05 pm), Josh Short, Mary Smith, Melanie Weigel

Members absent: Susan Pennington

Others present: Leslie Bednar, Stacie Bushong, Ellen Popit

Approval of Minutes

Mary Smith motion to approve the February 5, 2019 minutes. Josh Short second. Motion carried.

Public Comment

None

Unfinished Business

Committee Direction

Leslie Bednar reviewed the committee charge with the group and shared the history of the committee. She emphasized that advocating for school libraries is the chosen focus of the group.

New Business

IHLS Staff Focus

Ellen Popit explained the importance of looking at the “why” to what drives IHLS staff direction. Leslie Bednar shared how the new Marketing Coordinator has been able to bring the staff to a greater understanding of this concept. Also, helping to make sure outgoing communications are now more consistent.

IMAGINING TOMORROW ~ DELIVERING POSSIBILITIES TODAY!

School Library Visits

Ellen Popit said having two staff members dedicated to members will help increase school visits, and it will be easier to be responsive to needs as they arise. Janet Jenkins said she missed the consulting previously offered by the system. Ellen Popit explained how consulting was eliminated during the 2010 downturn through direction from the Illinois State Library.

Administrator's Academy

Ellen Popit is working on having an IHLS presence at Administrator's Academy. IHLS to offer swag and potentially be on site to greet attendees and share benefits of system membership.

IHLS and AISLE (Association of Illinois School library Educators)

IHLS will be at the Association of School Library Educators conference (AISLE) in October; Ellen Popit is the system liaison to the AISLE board of directors; Leslie Bednar emphasized that IHLS would offer AISLE support as needed. Janet Jenkins suggested the possibility of the system sponsoring a bus to take down state librarians to the conference next year. Melanie Weigel suggested the possibility of IHLS also providing a scholarship for a school librarian to attend next year.

Next Steps

The next committee meeting will be held after AISLE and IHLS Member Day to give chance for staff and board members to meet with school librarians at both events, network and get ideas for moving forward. Ellen Popit asked for recommendations from members of school libraries that are struggling to give staff direction when planning visits and suggested a newsletter article to announce the system is broadening outreach and encourage members who would like a visit to contact IHLS.

Public Comment

None

Announcements

Next meeting November 12, 4:30 p.m.

Adjournment

Josh Short motion to adjourn. Janet Jenkins second. Motion carried. Adjourned 5:27 p.m.