



## ADVOCACY & EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Date: January 12, 2021

Time: 5:00 p.m.

### Call to Order

Josh Short called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m.

### Roll Call

Members present: Janet Jenkins, Zach Newell (entered 5:03 p.m.), Lupe Mejia, Josh Short

Members absent: Tammy Krouse, Jill Shelton

Others present: Leslie Bednar, Stacie Bushong, Ricardo Hernandez, Ellen Popit, Ashley Stewart

### Public Comment

None

### Approval of Minutes

Lupe Mejia motioned to approve the November 17, 2020 minutes. Janet Jenkins seconded. Motion carried.

### Unfinished Business

#### Updates on School Library Advocacy Efforts

Ellen Popit reported advocacy is going well. Monthly meetings with the Association of Illinois School Library Educators (AISLE) and the Reaching Across Illinois Library System (RAILS) continue. Last month's meeting also included representatives from the Illinois Library Association (ILA). They are currently planning a cooperative professional development event in early March that will focus on e-resources offered by the regional library systems. Also included was a serious discussion about the challenges faced by school librarians this year. The Customer Relationship Manager (CRM) program and the new L2 will help maintain closer contact with school library workers.

### New Business

#### Role of ILA's Public Policy Ex Officio Members

Ellen Popit reported she has been representing IHLS on the Public Policy Committee and became an ex officio after Diane Foote became Executive Director. In the fall, the committee chair asked ex officio members to reach out to membership and get a sense of their needs and concerns. Current outreach includes a letter to the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH)

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director asking that school library workers be considered essential workers along with educators in phase 1b of the vaccine roll out, with public library workers to be eligible in phase 1c. A letter template was created for libraries to use when communicating with the IDPH to lobby for the same consideration.

#### Preview of ILA Legislative Meet-Ups, Winter 2021

Ellen Popit reported the programs will be virtual and registration is free to Illinois Library Association (ILA) personal members and staff or trustees of ILA institutional members. The schedule is as follows: Southern Illinois: Friday, February 5<sup>th</sup> (10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.), Metro-East: Monday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> (10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.), Central: Friday, February 26<sup>th</sup> (8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.).

#### Ashley Stewart, Director of the Caseyville Public Library on Kahok Community Reads

Ashley Stewart shared information about the committee formed within Collinsville CUSD 10 last year. The purpose of the group is to develop partnerships between public libraries in the school district for the reading needs of the community. They work together with other professionals in the school district to make sure school libraries and students have access to all resources. One example of their activities is to participate in school open houses and back to school registrations to help ensure all students get a library card. They have also created a universal library card application to ensure no matter which public library a student visits, they are able to obtain a card from their library. During COVID-19, they have promoted all the available wi-fi services within the district and increased homebound delivery services. The committee was invited to present at Teacher's Institute Day to provide education and information about the role of IHLS and libraries in the community. Future projects planned are Books on Buses, College Readiness, Special Education, and After School programs. The goal is for school librarians to help students while they are in school, and public library librarians help them outside of school. Ashley is willing to help in any way and offered to provide information or attend board meetings to explain their program.

#### **Public Comment**

None

#### **Announcements**

None

#### **Adjournment**

Zach Newell motioned to adjourn. Lupe Mejia seconded. Motion carried. Adjourned 5:36 p.m.