



ADVOCACY & EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Date: November 17, 2020

Time: 5:00 p.m.

Call to Order

Josh Short called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Roll Call

Members present: Janet Jenkins, Lupe Mejia, Zach Newell, Josh Short, Jill Shelton (entered 5:04 p.m.)

Members absent: Tammy Krouse

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

Public Comment

None

Approval of Minutes

Lupe Mejia motioned to approve the September 8, 2020 minutes. Janet Jenkins seconded. Motion carried.

Unfinished Business

Conference Wrap Up

Ellen Popit reported this has been a very busy conference season. There were a lot of sessions available on advocacy.

New Business

Update from IHLS/RAILS/AISLE Meeting (11/2/2020)

Ellen Popit reported that RAILS and IHLS have been meeting with the Association of Illinois School Library Educators (AISLE). AISLE is releasing results of a survey done in the spring to assess the working environment of 2020 and will follow up with a similar one in the upcoming weeks. AISLE is also continuing to offer professional development opportunities throughout this academic year. This is a partnership that will serve IHLS well and give us opportunities to spread information to our school libraries.

Update from ILA Public Policy Committee Meeting (11/10/2020)

Ellen Popit reported the first hour was spent on looking at the Illinois Library Association's (ILA) pivot this year from promoting specific legislative initiatives to a focus on demonstrating the value of libraries, advocating for input in state guidance and retaining full library funding. There was also discussion about the budget, in light of the failure of the Fair Tax Amendment.

Ellen also gave a snapshot on where we currently stand with our school library members. We have better contact information for schools than we have had for a long time, so we plan to bring a new staff member on to focus primarily on service to school libraries. Additionally, working through the 2021 certification process will allow us to connect with smaller districts regarding their library services. Finally, a Members Matter: School Library Edition is still in the works for Winter 2021.

Public Comment

None

Announcements

Next meeting will be January 12, with an introduction by Ashley Stewart (Director, Caseyville Public Library) of the Kahok Community Reads program in Collinsville Unit 10 School District.

Adjournment

Zach Newell motioned to adjourn. Janet Jenkins seconded. Motion carried. Adjourned 5:37 p.m.