

Meeting Minutes

NJLA Intellectual Freedom Subcommittee

Friday, November 18, 2022

1. Welcome

- a. In attendance: Judith Pissano, Jen Fitzgerald, Kiersten Paine, Carol Phillips, Richard Kearney, Kate McGivern, Leah Klock

2. Old Business

- a. approve minutes from October meeting.
 - Kate approved, Carol seconded
 - Judith will add to the website
- b. Regional Response Team update
 - Sent letters to BOE at Hamilton Township High School regarding book challenge. Admin had removed a title (Gender Queer) without notice. Book re-appeared. Still pending – they might want to do an opt-in route of requiring parental permission for checking out “sexually explicit” books.
 - NJLA, NJASL, and Every Library trying to work together (form a state-wide coalition to advocate for IF). Some hesitation because of financial component to working with Every Library. Need a MOU. Judith continuing to be involved and keeping rest of IF subcommittee informed.

3. Public Policy update

- a. Information Literacy Bill A 4169. Approved in Assembly. DOE weighing in. NJASL finds amendments acceptable. Seems that Governor will sign it.

4. Executive Board update

- a. NJLA Construction Fund task force. Advocating for funding in state budget annually to update libraries. Construction Bond cycle just ended. HOpe to continually set aside funds for libraries. Also trying to equitably cover the whole state with representatives for the process from North NJ, South NJ, and Central NJ.

5. New Business

- a. Conference proposal - Technical Services and Collection Development Section – invited us to partner with them on a conference program – Lifecycle of a Book Challenge. Judith will meet with them later this afternoon to iron out details. Have an NJLA lawyer (Douglas Zucker) and a librarian (Allen McGinley) to do a panel on book challenges in a public library. Please let Judith know if you want to help out.
- b. ALA – Considering launching a book challenges/IF Helpline: Who will fund? Who will staff? Or peer-to-peer training. Reached out to NJLA about how RRT works.

6. Projects

- a. Conference proposals due November 30.
- b. Richard Kearney working on a proposal:
 - i. Cohorts information session – two different ideas: Board / Friends group centric and Staff centric

- ii. Maybe reach out to Trustees Association? Richard will try to contact them on Monday.
 - iii. Who can we get from public libraries?
 - c. Tips & Tools for frontline staff
 - d. Reconsideration of Library material template
 - e. Meeting room policy
 - i. Judith will start a document to share.
 - ii. Look at different policies and compile.
 - iii. Wants to finish this year.
 - iv. Timely with objections to Drag Queen Story Hour, etc.
- 7. Questions/discussion
 - a. First Amendment Audits – training/webinar
 - i. BCCLS putting together with NJLA lawyer Douglas Zucker. Looking to do at conference as well.