

Meeting Minutes
NJLA Intellectual Freedom Subcommittee
Friday, January 13, 2023

1. Welcome

- a. In attendance: Judith Pissano, Jen Fitzgerald, Kiersten Paine, Carol Phillips, Kate McGivern, Kiana Kirby. Guest: Taya from Ocean County Library System

2. Old Business

- a. Approve minute from November meeting
 - i. No changes
 - ii. approved by Carol, seconded by Kate
- b. Regional Response Team update / EveryLibrary Partnership
 - i. NJASL also reached out to LibraryLink to join in the partnership but they need to vote on it because there's a financial component. That would also help share the financial burden, about \$6,000 for the first year, more the second year. Ideally would be self sustaining after 3 years with donations and other revenue. Judith can go over this a little more at that next meeting.
 - ii. Have a shared document with NJLA interim director Cindy. Looking to have a MOA.
 - iii. Hopeful to have it approved. Rapid Response Team doing what it can but hard to be as rapid as would like. A lot of the challenges are coming from schools right now. School media specialists doing a good job with handling that. Having the landing page would help to streamline that.

3. Public Policy Update

- a. NJ Information Literacy Bill S588
 - i. requires all K-12 libraries to offer information literacy classes
 - ii. NJDOE will make standards relying on the expertise of school media specialists and teachers
 - iii. a lot people worked hard on this and this is a win

4. New Business

- a. Washington Township High School
 - i. book challenge: The Bluest Eye. Teacher is being harassed. Concerns for her safety so she hasn't been able to attend school board meetings.
 - ii. Judith sent two letters to all of the school board on behalf of this subcommittee. Students have as well. There's sample letters available from an NJEA website that can be tailored to the specific situation, and Judith will share the link with us.
 - iii. The person who spoke out about the book at a BOE meeting is part of the reconsideration committee, which is disheartening. Superintendent also considered Judith for the committee but she is not eligible because has no children at that district.
- b. Honors & Awards nominations
 - i. These are open now. Any suggestions for the IF award? Honors & Awards committee defers to us to select a recipient. Judith is suggesting the teacher at Washington Township High School
- c. Conference Proposal
 - i. Lifecycle of a Book
 - 1. were able to secure a lawyer at the panel discussion
 - ii. Intellectual Freedom Takes a Village: Boards, Friends and Public Education for the Right to Read
 - 1. Richard is working on getting panelists here too
 - iii. Just waiting to hear back if either proposals have been accepted. Once we have confirmation, we can finalize details.
- d. Judith has been asked to present on IF at the new director training next month.
- e. Carol met with the Fundraising committee about having an IF t-shirt. Would need to make/decide on a logo. Don't make a lot of money, maybe a dollar a shirt. There is a separate line for IF in the NJLA budget so the money would go there, but more about getting the word out. Judith will send out a follow-up email.

5. Teen Tool Box

- a. https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/mNAd3yXecwlpzN-tOTsP8y7uC_nzEiX-2COJRUVSuyiLyXeFfVDsDA4tGMjOs_gK.xTuQupk4jqxZIBIV?startTime=1671203373000
- b. Passcode - V+WY2ip

6. ALA

- a. Idea for ALA to have a hotline for peer-to-peer support, will be grant funded. Meeting scheduled for early February so more information to come.

7. Miscellaneous

- a. Tips and Tools complete
 - i. Judith will send to everyone to look over one final time.
- b. Meeting room
 - i. this is the next one to work on : policies/guidelines to share with individuals across the state. Most libraries probably have their own policy but this could be good for their reference if they are getting started or updating. Judith will share the document of what she's already started.
- c. Reconsideration Form

8. Next meeting:

- a. Friday, Feb 10, 2023 @ 11am
- b. will talk about the specific finances regarding the EveryLibrary partnership
- c. hopefully hear back from the conference committee soon about proposals