



# ILLINOIS LITERACY FOUNDATION

Illinois Literacy Foundation  
Board of Directors Meeting  
March 11, 2025  
12:30 p.m.  
Offices of the Secretary of State  
115 South LaSalle Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room (Crete)  
Chicago, Illinois 60603

## MEETING MINUTES

### PRESENT

Heather Anichini  
Hanah Jubeh

Mo Khan  
Michael Mroz

John Rosales

### NOT PRESENT

Roberto Castaneda  
Claire Demirjian

Nate Pietrini  
Crystal Reynolds

### ILLINOIS SECRETARY OF STATE STAFF PRESENT

Cabell King  
Greg McCormick (virtual)

Maria Ullmann  
Amy Williams (virtual)

### GUESTS PRESENT - none

### CALL TO ORDER

Chair Michael Mroz called the meeting to order and welcomed members at 12:41 p.m.

### MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETINGS

Mr. Rosales moved that the minutes of the preceding two board meetings, September 10, 2024, and December 10, 2024, be approved and voted into the record without amendment. Mr. Khan seconded the motion. The motion passed.

### TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Dr. Castaneda was not in attendance at this meeting. Mr. King reviewed the accounts, including all transactions since the last meeting. The account balance on February 28, 2025, was \$19,913.11.

Not yet recorded in the account is an in-kind donation from Walmart of 1500 books: Mellody Hobson's *Priceless Facts about Money*. With help from the State Library, these books will be distributed to all branch libraries in Illinois. We are waiting for Walmart to assign a value to the donation.



Ms. Jubeh moved that the report, as shared by Mr. King, be approved. Mr. Khan seconded. The motion passed.

### **ADVANCEMENT REPORT**

Mr. King summarized advancement activity since the last board meeting. Included in the report was summary of activity pursuant to the Literacy Luncheon on January 14, 2025. Mr. King proposed that we do more work to tailor solicitations – so also programs - to the particular interests and geographies of prospective donors. Ms. Jubeh proposed that board members should be involved in stewardship. This proposal was well received.

### **BOARD DEVELOPMENT REPORT**

Following on the adoption of amended bylaws this year, terms will end for three current board members at the end of June 2025. Terms are renewable at the mutual discretion of the board member and the Secretary of State. Conversations regarding this appointments will begin in April.

Officer elections are scheduled for the June meeting. Mr. King will follow up with individual members to determine nominations.

There are presently two vacant seats on the Board. There was some discussion of prospects. Board members proposed the priority of diversity and geographical representation.

Ms. Jubeh excused herself from the meeting at 1:14 due to another obligation. No votes were conducted after her departure.

Brief discussion of recently reported PIAAC and NAEP scores, both reflecting a decline in literacy and numeracy proficiency since previous administrations of the assessments. Particular observation of the widening gap between the highest performers on these exams.

Board members are encouraged to view the recent documentary, *Sentenced*.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

The ILF continues to investigate adult online high school in Illinois public libraries. In line with the shifting orientation of development, rather than look principally at statewide implementation, we are pushing to implement in a few key regions, including Chicago and Decatur/Champaign.

The ILF is moving forward in conversations with Edovo to develop a literacy curriculum that might be delivered in Illinois Correctional Centers. We are exploring how this (and other partnerships) might be constrained by applicable procurement policy.

That board members are each encouraged to identify a particular donor target to steward in FY26 was reiterated.

We are still collecting documents from board members: demographic information, OMA training certifications, conflict of interest forms, and biographical profiles (for the website).

### **NEW BUSINESS**

A. Williams intends to circulate a draft of Administrative Rules among board members by the end of the month.

We have not raised sufficient funds for the statewide tutor recruitment effort. The board agrees that we should continue to solicit support for this endeavor. In the meantime, we need to run small, targeted campaigns in



Springfield and in Northern Illinois to satisfy funders. We are also advertising by free channels, mostly industry newsletters and other outreach. Several board members shared mailing lists to which they might be able to share. Mr. King will forward collateral as appropriate.

There is some interest to conduct a fall fundraiser. Details TBD. The first step is determining parameters with legal and ILSOS executive office. When we have a green light, board members will participate in planning.

Board members have been reminded that meetings are scheduled for the second Tuesday of March, June, September, and December. Looking ahead, the second Tuesday in 2026 is the day after Labor Day. Might we want to make an exception in the schedule for that meeting.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Mroz adjourned the meeting at 1:58 p.m.