ILLINOIS LITERACY FOUNDATION

Illinois Literacy Foundation
Board of Directors Meeting
June 10, 2025
12:30 p.m.
Offices of the Secretary of State
115 South LaSalle Street, 2nd Floor Conference Room (Crete)
Chicago, Illinois 60603

MEETING MINUTES

PRESENT

Heather Anichini
Claire Demirjian
Hanah Jubeh
Mo Khan
Michael Mroz (virtual)
Nate Pietrini
Crystal Reynolds (virtual)
John Rosales

ILLINOIS SECRETARY OF STATE STAFF PRESENT

Cabell King
Greg McCormick
Maria Ullmann
Amy Williams (virtual)

GUESTS PRESENT

Christina de Jong

CALL TO ORDER

Vice-Chair John Rosales called the meeting to order and welcomed members and guests at 12:34 p.m.

MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETINGS

Dr. Anichini moved that the minutes of the March 11, 2025, meeting of the Board be approved and voted into the record without amendment. Ms. Jubeh seconded the motion. The motion passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Dr. Castaneda retired from the Board prior to this meeting.
Mr. King reviewed the accounts, including all transactions since the last meeting. The account balance on May 31, 2025, was $19,844.68.

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

ADVANCEMENT REPORT
Mr. King summarized advancement activity since the last board meeting. The ILF has had modest success in fundraising in FY25.

Conversation included the following points:

- Some Board members emphasized that the ILF should articulate the common thread uniting program priorities. Nevertheless, Board members are comfortable as the ILF considers a more expansive definition of literacy and mission.
- In response to observations that federal funding is unlikely in FY26 and that some corporate prospects want clarification about the relationship of ILF and ILSOS, Mr. Khan reiterated that we should determine how to solicit and accept donations from individuals up to a predetermined limit and that we investigate peer-to-peer fundraising opportunities. Mr. Pietrini recommended redoubling efforts to secure major gifts. Ms. Anichini suggested that the two strategies might be competing. Ms. Jubeh proposed that the ILF could pursue both.
- Mr. Khan emphasized the imperative to develop a community of supporters, volunteers, and advocates. To that end, communications are critical. The questions have been asked: When will the new website launch? Can the ILF begin to develop social media accounts? Ms. Jubeh indicated that website development is underway but slow. Also, it may be time to reconsider the ILF position on social media.

To accommodate Ms. Jubeh's early departure, the FY26 budget was reviewed out of order, as determined by the published agenda. Dr. Pietrini moved that the proposed FY26 budget be adopted without amendment. Ms. Jubeh seconded. The motion passed.

1:32pm, Ms. Jubeh excused herself from the meeting.

Conversation about transparency. As the ILF does not file a Form 990, how else might the ILF encourage trust, specifically with regard to financial dealings?

BOARD DEVELOPMENT REPORT
Retired from the Board prior to the meeting: Dr. Roberto Castaneda
Retired from the Board, June 30: Crystal Reynolds
Retiring from the Literacy Office at the State Library, July 31: Beth Paoli
New to the Board, July 1: Christina Sedrel de Jong
New liaison to the State Library: Ted Przybylo

Presently, the ILF anticipates three vacant Board seats in FY26. We will continue to recruit for two of these seats

An uncontested slate of Board Officers was confirmed by unanimous vote for FY26:

- Chair – Mo Khan
- Vice Chair – John Rosales
- Treasurer – Heather Anichini
- Secretary – Claire Demirjian

Mr. Mroz was recognized for his many years of service as Chair of the Board.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

The team quickly reviewed developments for each of the three priority programs:

- Volunteer Literacy Recruitment
    - Before December 31, the ILF will run micro campaigns in Central and Northern Illinois, using restricted funds raised in FY25
- Adult Online High School in Libraries
    - The ILF will continue to pursue this initiative, soliciting grants for implementation in particular libraries and regions.
- Tablet-Based Curriculum in Correctional Centers
    - Opportunity has been confirmed by IDOC. Still seeking a substantial, multi-year funding partner.

The ILSOS Office of General Counsel is continuing to draft Administrative Rules.

The ILF is pursuing game-time activations with several Chicago sports clubs, including the Stars, Bulls, and Cubs.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Khan proposed that the ILF explore how to support AI literacy. In general, the team is amenable to this suggestion. Expressing support, Dr. Anichini, nevertheless, observed that there may be some distinction between an emerging language, like AI, and more established languages, like English. No specific initiative has yet been proposed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

ADJOURNMENT

Vice-Chair Rosales adjourned the meeting at 2:32 p.m.