



ILLINOIS LITERACY FOUNDATION

Illinois Literacy Foundation
Board of Directors Meeting
December 16, 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

Christina de Jong
Hanah Jubeh

Mo Khan
Michael Mroz (virtual)

John Rosales

ILLINOIS SECRETARY OF STATE STAFF PRESENT

Cabell King
Greg McCormick (virtual)

Ted Przybylo (virtual)
Maria Ullmann

Amy Williams (virtual)

GUESTS PRESENT - none

POINT OF ORDER

Because only 4 of 8 board members were present in the room, a quorum was not present. No votes could be taken at this meeting.

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Mo Khan called the meeting to order at 12:40pm

Mr. Khan made brief remarks emphasizing the year's theme of community building. He observed specifically that literacy proclamations were made by the Cities of Des Plaines and Evanston in September, National Literacy Month, and thanked ILF and ILSOS staff who had been present at each event.

MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETINGS

Without quorum, there was no motion to vote minutes of preceding meetings. No edits were recommended.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Mr. King reviewed the accounts, including all transactions since the last meeting. The account balance on November 30, 2025, was \$19,663.05.

The draft report of the FY24/FY25 Foundation Audit reveals no findings. The report is not yet finalized.



UNFINISHED BUSINESS

ILF and ILSOS staff are putting the finishing touches on ad copy for LinkedIn and print ads to appear in Northern Illinois and Central Illinois, fulfilling agreements with the Community Foundation of Northern Illinois and the Community Foundation for the Land of Lincoln. Ad copy was shared with the Board. The intention is to recruit volunteer literacy tutors in the two markets and refer them to ILSOS grantees. Ads will run between late December and mid January.

The ILF is very close to launching communications channels, likely before the next Board meeting. Website copy is under review by the ILSOS communications team. A quarterly newsletter is scheduled to launch in February. At about the same time, the ILF will begin posting on LinkedIn and Facebook. ILF content will be created by the ILF team, subject to approval and curation by ILSOS communications.

Board development has been on hold, as we establish communications and resolve some questions regarding fundraising. In June, terms will expire for Nate Pietrini and John Rosales, subject to renewal. Brief discussion was had about whether to begin active recruitment again. No conclusions were made.

Not on the agenda, Ms. Jubeh proposed that the Board should coordinate an event – maybe in March – to follow up on the January 2025 Literacy Luncheon. We should continue to steward the partners present at that event and others, and it looks like there might be compelling activity to share by that time. No definitive suggestions about what the March event should look like. This recommendation was well received; no vote was taken.

Ms. Jubeh excused herself at 1:21 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. King shared a few developments in Illinois Literacy:

- The Barbara Bush Foundation for Family Literacy, a national advocacy and research foundation, is being reorganized as a part of the George and Barbara Bush Foundation. Barbara Bush was largely responsible for a national push for literacy in the 1980s and 90s and was a significant figure even in the founding of the ILF. The Barbara Bush Foundation has maintained a small office in Chicago that we understand will be closed. This reorganization represents a significant shift on the national landscape.
- One of the projects that BBF was working on was the Literacy Equity Insights Dashboard, originally a project of the Chicago Literacy Alliance. We have discussed this project before. If the ILF wants to help keep it alive, we have been invited to consider how we might use and support it.
- Facing significantly reduced federal resources for adult education, a group of Chicago literacy orgs has been agitating to create the Illinois Coalition to Sustain Adult Education. They are looking for allies in state, county, and municipal offices to support adult ed, particularly among Chicago aldermen. There has been some question about how the ILF could help them find an ally and advocate in ILSOS. Obviously, ILSOS already supports them financially, but maybe ILSOS can advocate with them for resources elsewhere.
- Leading into our next conversation, regarding ILF strategy, we are sharing with the board about a series of conversations with the Illinois Community College Board (ICCB) about how the ILF and the State Library together might help to expand adult pathways to high school education with Illinois public libraries, specifically as GED and HiSET testing centers and as gateways to the State's Alternative Methods of Credentialing (AMOC).



The strategy conversation began with honest evaluation of our recent fundraising record. Embracing still our ambitions to discover financial resources and significant partners, the ILF is investigating ways to advocate for literacy using the resources already at our disposal by virtue of our embeddedness in ILSOS. The ICCB partnership just discussed is an opportunity of this kind. Mr. Khan is optimistic that social media will also surface new opportunities. He recommended that we grow “the surface area of luck.”

Mr. King proposed a number of strategic objectives for the ILF:

- Literacy Awareness
- Learner Recruitment and Retention
- Data Hub
- Supporting and Growing Literacy Leadership
- Public Sector Collaborations
- Building Community
- Thought Leadership

Multiple board members expressed affirmation and also desire that we continue to pursue funding opportunities as appropriate. Mr. Mroz expressed interest that we relate our strategies to the final objective, which is, of course, that people would learn to read and advance in related literacy skills.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Khan adjourned the meeting at 1:53 p.m.