

The International Literacy Association Board of Directors met via the virtual platform Zoom on May 26, 2021.

President of the Board Stephen Peters called the meeting to order at 2:03 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time. In addition to Stephen Peters, Vice President Rob Tierney, Immediate Past President Kathy Headley, and Members-at-Large Kenneth Kunz, Wendy Carss, Juli-Anne Benjamin, Kia Brown Dudley, Danielle Dennis, Helen Perkins, Laurie Sharp, and Rachael Gabriel (joined at 3:32 P.M.) were in attendance along with ILA Executive Director Marcie Craig Post and Director of Finance Debbie Harris. Annette Kiberu was absent.

S. Peters presented the minutes from the business meeting held February 17, 2021. K. Brown-Dudley moved the minutes to be approved and D. Dennis seconded her motion. There being no further discussion, the minutes were unanimously approved.

*Resolved: The International Literacy Association Board of Directors approve the minutes of the regular meeting of February 17, 2021, and the special approval of a resolution held on February 24, 2021.*

K. Headley presented the Chair's report of the Nominating Committee in its selection of candidates for Vice President of the Board and Members-at-Large. She made a note of appreciation of the diligence by which the committee undertook its work, thanking Board members H. Perkins, W. Carss and S. Peters, along with the rest of the committee members for their service.

L. Sharp moved that the Board accept and ratify the 2021 ILA Board of Directors election results and J. Benjamin seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

*Resolved: The International Literacy Association Board of Directors ratifies the results of the 2021 ILA Board election as follows:*

*Vice President: Kenneth Kunz*

*Members-at-Large: Carol Jago, Molly Ness, Dana Robertson*

A question was asked in regard to public notice of winners prior to ratification and S. Peters did note that early notification had gone out in error. It was stated that our protocol would in the future include more explicit instructions on timing of public notification of election winners.

R. Tierney, Chair, noted that the Finance Committee had approved a proposal that they bring to the Board today. He emphasized that the Board must see the budget and the process for implementing it as iterative, given the challenges ILA faces. M. Post and D. Harris then presented the budget proposal, which featured a 30% reduction in compensation costs and modest increases in revenue.

The FY21-22 budget requests a draw of \$1,051,630 from investment funds. The proposal was shown in spreadsheet format to highlight differences between the current year and proposed budget years. In addition, a draft projection for FY22-23 budget was presented, showing a reduction of nearly 50% in investment draw from proposed FY21-22.

R. Tierney moved that the proposal be approved by resolution and W. Carss seconded the motion.

Discussion of the proposal included a question as to whether there was any way to minimize election costs. It was pointed out that costs had been reduced significantly over the past five years, but we will inquire as to whether the contract could be further reduced. In response to a question regarding costs associated with public policy and advocacy, D. Harris responded that the only expense allocated was a percentage of staff time. It was also noted that ILA needs to set a new precedent of awards only being established with an external funding source, rather than Board-designated funds. L. Sharp added that ILA should take action to expand the program reach beyond teacher education to other areas like adults and adolescents.

Finally, it was also stated that the Strategic Task Force plan will inform budget modifications that may be needed in the next fiscal year. R. Tierney thanked D. Harris and M. Post for their work on the budget.

There being no further discussion, the resolution was unanimously approved.

*Resolved: The International Literacy Association Board of Directors approves as presented the budget for FY21-22.*

M. Post provided a report on the recipients of the following ILA awards and grants:

- Corwin Literacy Leader Award – Connie Obrochta, Evanston/Skokie District 65
- Diane Lapp & James Flood Professional Collaborator Award – Sonia Cabell & Tricia Zucker, Florida State University and University of Texas Health Sciences Center
- Jeanne S. Chall Research Fellowship – Lori Bruner, Michigan State University
- Jerry Johns Outstanding Teacher Educator in Reading Award – Kelly Wissman, University at Albany, State University of New York
- Leaders Inspiring Readers Award – Holly Lane, University of Florida
- Maryann Manning Special Service Award – Kathy Champeau, University of North Carolina Greensboro
- Steven A. Stahl Research Grant – Courtney Dilgard, Jacksonville City Schools
- Timothy & Cynthia Shanahan Outstanding Dissertation Award
  - Winner – Yukie Toyama, University of California, Berkeley
  - Finalist 1 – Sara K. Sterner, University of Minnesota
  - Finalist 2 – Joanne Yi, Indiana University
  - Finalist 3 – Blythe E. Anderson, Michigan State University
- William S. Gray Citation of Merit – Steve Graham, Arizona State University

D. Dennis commented that the commitment of volunteers who serve as the committee members for these awards and grants is amazing, and that they couldn't be more excited to be part of the process.

A motion was made by L. Sharp to accept the recommendations of the awards and grants committees and was seconded by K. Brown-Dudley. There being no further discussion, the motion was unanimously approved.

*Resolution: The International Literacy Association Board of Directors accepts the recommendations from the selection committees for ILA awards and grants, congratulates all of the winners, and formally thanks all committee members for their effort on behalf of ILA.*

Chairs of Board committees presented reports. K. Kunz, Chair, Program Committee, submitted two reports from previous meetings and urged Board members to let him know if they have any questions. The Program Committee will be meeting again on June 15.

The Global Task Force, chaired by W. Carss, also submitted a report and thanked Board members not on the committee who attended the virtual regional meeting held in early May. She also thanked staff member Nicola Wedderburn for her hard work in keeping everyone on track and facilitating the regional meeting. Participation by region members and their presentations were excellent.

K. Brown-Dudley, Chair of the Anti-Racism, Social Justice, and Equity Task Force, reported that they are in the process of finalizing their report, which will be presented at the June meeting.

S. Peters and R. Tierney, who cochair the Planning Task Force, reported that the committee provided shared views on the draft document. R. Tierney noted the synergies of social justice, anti-racism, and equity cut across all areas and are an important part of conversation and planning. He also noted that the plan is in draft form and will need refinement and editing of recommendations. The task force will continue work on the plan and will send an updated copy.

R. Tierney also noted that the Board needs to move the task force work to an oversight committee. A comment was made as to the importance of encouraging members to be actively engaged and to have the means for them to actively engage.

M. Post commented that we will need to prioritize all the recommendations in the plan and establish a sub-plan for execution that has the necessary resources outlined and assigned so that we're successful in executing strategies.

H. Perkins remarked that it was a pleasure and honor to work on this task force, especially since the goal is to make ILA better and more useful in global capacity. She also reiterated that we need to identify priorities and move forward on them and we need to ensure that ILA is more inclusive. She stated that once this plan is finalized, we need to share and communicate it with the membership. It was noted that R. Tierney and S. Peters did a great job incorporating everyone's views and ideas, resulting in a very inclusive effort.

S. Peters noted the loss of Jack Cassidy, a long-time member of ILA and major contributor to literacy and the preparation of literacy educators, and R. Tierney echoed S. Peters's sentiment, noting that we have lost many giants in the field of literacy recently, including Ken Goodman, Roger Farr, and Dorothy Strickland.

ILA releases tributes and annually posts notice of the literacy leaders who have passed away.

S. Peters convened an Executive Session at 3:27 P.M.

Following the Executive Session, the meeting was reconvened at 3:59 P.M.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:01 P.M.