

**INTERNATIONAL LITERACY ASSOCIATION  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

**Thursday, July 13, 2017**

**8:30 a.m. ET**

**OPENING AND ATTENDANCE**

On July 14, at 10:12 a.m. ET, Board President William Teale called to order a meeting of the Board of Directors of the International Literacy Association, which was held at the site of the ILA 2017 Conference & Exhibits in Orlando, Florida.

Participating Board Directors in attendance were President of the Board, William Teale; Vice President of the Board, Doug Fisher; Immediate Past President of the Board, Diane Barone; Board Directors Gwynne Ash, Donald Bear, Cathy Collier, Julio Coiro, Lori DiGisi, Rachel Karchmer-Klein, Stephanie Laird, Stephen Peters, and Jennifer Williams; incoming Vice President, Bernadette Dwyer; incoming Directors Beverley Harris, Susan Paasch, and Julia Reynolds; and Executive Director, Marcie Craig Post.

Staff in attendance included Stephen Sye, Associate Executive Director; Linda Marston, Director of Finance and designated Board Treasurer; Dan Mangan, Director of Policy & Advocacy; and Christina Marconi, Recording Secretary.

**INCOMING BOARD MEMBERS**

W. Teale, President of the Board, formally congratulated ILA's newly-elected Board members, who were in attendance.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

The following items were acknowledged by the Board:

- *ILA Awards: The Board of Directors of the International Literacy Association acknowledged that the funding expenditure for the ILA Awards was approved during a special meeting of the Board held via web conference on June 19, 2017, at 6:00 p.m. ET.*
- *ILA 2017-2018 Budget: The Board of Directors of the International Literacy Association acknowledges that ILA's 2017-2018 budget was approved during a special meeting of the Board held via web conference on June 19, 2017, at 6:00 p.m. ET.*
- *Merger of ILA and IRA: The Board of Directors acknowledges that the merger of ILA and IRA became legally official on July 1, 2017.*

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM APRIL 21, 2017 & JUNE 19, 2017 BOARD MEETINGS**

The following motions were made, seconded, and approved:

- *The Board of Directors of the International Literacy Association approves the minutes of the April 21, 2017 Board of Directors Meeting.*
- *The Board of Directors of the International Literacy Association approves the minutes of the special meeting of the Board of Directors held on June 19, 2017.*

## **READING RESEARCH QUARTERLY JOURNAL EDITORS**

D. Mangan, Director of Advocacy & Public Policy, presented the *Reading Research Quarterly* Journal Editor Search Committee's recommendation that Dr. Robert T. Jiménez and Dr. Amanda Goodwin be appointed co-editors. After an acknowledgement of the thorough work done by the Committee and praise for the Committee's decision to choose Drs. Jiménez and Goodwin, the following motion was made, seconded, and approved:

*The Board of Directors of the International Literacy Association accepts the recommendations of the Reading Research Quarterly Editor Search Committee.*

## **2017 CONFERENCE UPDATE**

S. Sye, Associate Executive Director, reported that as of July 8 total conference attendance was at nearly 5,000. Attendee numbers include 901 new members, 540 participants in the Literacy Night at Universal event, and 500 sign-ups for the New Member Meet-Up event. In addition, 55% of the attendees this year are non-members and another 55% are attending the conference for the first time. Florida is the largest state participant, with Georgia and Texas in a second-place tie, and New York, Tennessee, and Illinois rounding out the top six for participants from US States.

## **MOTIONS OF APPRECIATION**

W. Teale expressed the Board of Directors' deep gratitude to Diane Barone, outgoing Immediate Past President. During her term as an officer of ILA, Diane served the Association at state, national, and international levels. Diane was the right leader at the right time. The Board appreciates her ability to think carefully about what ILA needs to move forward from one era of professional organizations to another, provide considered advice as to actions that keep the Association at the forefront of literacy leadership, and ensure that the Board moves in positive directions to accomplish those actions. She ran Board meetings that got things done, things that moved ILA forward. Typically, a Motion of Appreciation for Diane would acknowledge the variety of activities in which she has been involved with the Association. That will not be the case in this Motion because Diane has done so much in her leadership of ILA – from governance to fiduciary issues to research and development to policy decisions to her constant advocacy – that there simply would not be space. Diane Barone has been the epitome of stewardship, a champion for ILA. The Board of Directors of the International Literacy Association expresses its sincere appreciation to Diane for her many valuable contributions during her service as an officer from 2014 to 2017.

D. Fisher, Vice President of the Board, expressed the Board of Directors' deep gratitude to Donald Bear. During his term on the Board, Don served the Association at state and national levels. The Board appreciates Donald's insight into issues of governance, his willingness to tackle complex issues, his calming influence,

and his complete and thoughtful investigations into topics of interest to the organization. Most of all, the Board appreciates the leadership Donald has provided to the board as a whole, and the governance committee in particular, not to mention the humor and kindness that he continuously demonstrates. The Board further acknowledges Donald for his service on the investment and nominating committees. Donald supported many of our councils and affiliates as he engaged them in his area of expertise, word study. But more than that, he attended sponsored events as an ambassador and thought leader, demonstrating the value of ILA and the ways in which the organization can promote literacy learning. The Board of Directors of the International Literacy Association expresses its sincere appreciation to Donald Bear for his many valuable contributions during his service on the Board from 2014 to 2017.

G. Ash, member of the Board, expressed the Board of Directors' deep gratitude to Julie Coiro. During her term on the Board, Julie served the Association at state, national, and international levels. Peter Abelard once wrote that, "The key to wisdom is this – constant and frequent questioning, for by doubting we are led to question and by questioning we arrive at the truth." Julie has been a voice unafraid to raise questions and through her questioning, to advocate for various Association stakeholders. The Board recognizes not only Julie's analytical mind, but also her selfless heart, for helping all of us to see previously unacknowledged perspectives and to recognize heretofore unspoken concerns. The Board further acknowledges Julie for her work on the Audit committee, her service on the Investment committee, and her contributions to the Evaluation committee. Most of all, the Board appreciates the well-researched and thoughtful contributions that Julie shares with both the Board at large and any committee on which she serves. Julie's expertise in online reading comprehension and online inquiry, as well as her online literacy theory development, is well respected. She presented her work on these issues while representing the Association at state, national, and international literacy conferences. She was also recognized with the Association's Computers in Reading Research Award in 2015. The Board of Directors of the International Literacy Association expresses its sincere appreciation to Julie Coiro for her many valuable contributions during her service on the Board from 2014 to 2017.

D. Barone, Immediate Past President, expressed the Board of Directors' deep gratitude to Lori DiGisi. During her term on the Board, Lori served the Association at state and national levels. The Board appreciates Lori's insight into budget and investment issues, her thoughtful questions, her enthusiastic participation in the work of the board, and most of all her positive attitude. Additionally, the Board appreciates the leadership Lori has provided to the board as a whole and in particular, her leadership on the Finance and Investment Committee and the Audit Committee. Further, the Board appreciates her leadership with the non-council awards program and the School Literacy Program Certificate of Distinction task force. In working with committees and task forces, Lori has the special skills of honoring the voices of all participants and engaging them in thoughtful collaboration. Lori's leadership on the board serves as a model for board members as she demonstrates the value of ILA and the ways in which the organization can promote literacy learning. Lori always exemplifies the professional qualities of a leader as she carefully listens to members, respects their ideas or opinions, and works with them to find appropriate solutions. Similarly, she has a special skill of facilitating the board's discussion to consider all aspects of an issue so that there is a constructive resolution. The Board of Directors of the International Literacy Association expresses its sincere appreciation to Lori DiGisi for her many valuable contributions during her service on the Board from 2014 to 2017.

## **TASK FORCES**

**Global Task Force:** W. Teale, who chairs the task force, reported that ongoing discussions with co-chairs include developing goals, objectives, and business plan outlines for regional entities that would be self-sustaining. Conversations are underway to flesh out a North American region, and future discussions will address potential regions in Europe and Latin America.

**Literacy Leader Award:** Chair of the Task Force, D. Fisher, reported that sponsorship for the award has been attained, and that next steps include developing specific Board-approved criteria for the award, recruiting applicants, and appointing a committee to adjudicate. In addition, Board members G. Ash and J. Reynolds were appointed to the task force.

**NextGen Journals:** Board members R. Karchmer-Klein and G. Ash were appointed to the task force. The process of appointing a Chair of the task force will begin later this summer and, once complete, the work of the task force will begin.

**NextGen Literacy Today:** G. Ash was appointed Chair of the task force, and Board members R. Karchmer-Klein, B. Harris, and S. Paasch were appointed as members. The work of the task force will begin later this summer.

**School/District's Designation of Excellence in Exemplary Literacy Practices:** L. DiGisi, chair of the task force, and member of the Board, S. Peters reported that the task force has convened and will be presenting a survey to a small sample of principals, the data from which will be used to revise, refine, and then share the survey with a wider constituency. Next steps include following up on preliminary conversations around incorporating into the program continuous feedback on literacy progress and opportunities to share best practices with other school and districts.

**University Certificate of Distinction:** D. Barone, task force Chair, stated that the task Force has convened and completed an initial draft plan. Next steps include aligning the program with *ILA Standards for Literacy Professionals 2017*, generating a business plan, and developing a pilot.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Being that there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:12 a.m. ET.

**NEXT MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**October 19-20, 2017**

**ILA Headquarters – Newark, DE**