A virtual meeting of the Board of Directors of the International Literacy Association was held on Wednesday, October 20, 2021 at 1:00 P.M. EST. President of the Board, Rob Tierney called the meeting to order at 1:03 P.M. In addition to R. Tierney, members of the board in attendance included Ken Kunz, Vice President, Kia Brown-Dudley, J. Helen Perkins, Rachael Gabriel, Carol Jago, Danielle Dennis, Molly Ness, and Dana Robertson, who departed the meeting at 1:45 P.M. Absent from the meeting is Stephen Peters, Past President, Laurie Sharp, and Annette Kiberu. Staff in attendance included Debbie Harris, Nicola Wedderburn, Becky Fetterolf, and Lara Deloza. Guests briefly in attendance included Jonathan Moll and Casey Hagy, from Belfint, Lyons & Shuman.

R. Tierney presented the minutes of the meeting of the board held on June 16, 2021. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes. There being no further discussion, the question was called, and the resolution passed unanimously.

Resolved: The Board of Directors of the International Literacy Association approve the minutes of the regular meeting held on June 16, 2021.

Jonathan Moll and Casey Hagy of Belfint, Lyons & Shuman, presented the review of the FY20-21 audit. It was reported that being that there were no audited variances this year, the auditor has issued a clean opinion. As in past years, a consolidated audit was presented that included the Foundation for Impact on Literacy and Learning financials. Since that relationship has been dissolved as of June 30, 2021 This will be the last year for consolidated financials.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the FY20-21 audit as presented. There being no further discussion, the question was called, and the motion passed unanimously.

Resolved: The Board of Directors of the International Literacy Association approves the FY20-21 financial statement audit as presented by Belfint, Lyons & Shuman.

An overview of the first quarter financials as of September 30th were presented. Possible assessment of hotel cancellation fees from this year’s cancelled conference is being monitored and information should be available on this soon, since the conference would have just taken place this past week, had it been held.

Revenue is down by approx. $400k primarily due to no rental income. Expenses are also lower by more than $400,000. Revenue and expenses are on track against budget.

M. Craig Post reported that she will be providing an overview of the current organization chart and reviewed changes in departments at the next work session meeting. She will also provide background and information on the development of a newly styled organization report for distribution at regular business meetings. This quarterly report will consolidate committee reports information and progress against charges, as well as management activities and progress on programs and products.

Carol Jago, Chair of the Governance Committee presented the revised mission statement for approval to the board. The statement had been developed by the Committee and circulated to board members and staff directors for their input.

A motion to approve the revised mission statement as submitted was made and seconded. There being no further discussion the question was called, and the resolution unanimously passed.

Resolved: The Board of Directors of the International Literacy Association approve the revised ILA Mission statement as follows:
Our mission is to connect research and practice to improve the quality of literacy learning across the globe in ways that are respectful, responsive, and ethical.

We advocate for equitable access to literacies among individuals of all ages and diverse communities as a basic human right and a matter of social justice.

Stephen Peters reported that the Anti-Racism and Social Justice Task Force is continuing its review of practices, procedures policies of ILA and soon shifting to focus on what changes need to be addressed within ILA systems. The committee will be conducting an equity audit by examining standard operating procedures to make sure there is uniformity in the work and to establish a baseline for evaluating what areas of ILA work need to be addressed.

Ken Kunz reported that the Fundraising Committee is developing a fundraising plan and reviewing ILA’s past appeal letters and making updates. The committee is planning to make distribute a donation appeal to the board soon and is looking for 100% participation. It was noted that no amount too small, but participation of all board members is most important. The committee will share a link with board members to a testimonial page so that board members can indicate why they give to ILA. Also continuing to develop fundraising plan.

K. Kunz also reported that the Membership Committee is developing a checklist of ILA engagement opportunities for board members to fill out that we hope will prompt board members to utilize for supporting ILA programs, activities and initiatives. Most of these engagement opportunities are carried out through social media channels such as Twitter, LinkedIn, Facebook, etc. The committee is also working to update and complete the member survey with a plan to distribute the survey in January 2022.

Danielle Dennis reported that the Publications Committee has focused mainly on the tasks associated with commencing the search for the next editorial team for Reading Research Quarterly. Invitations to committee members are slated to go out next week.

Kia Brown Dudley reported that the Program Committee would like recommendations from board members for emerging literacy practitioners who could possibly be tapped for future programs. The committee has been discussing an internationally themed program that would include journal articles from all three journals, magazine support and digital events. This program is being planned for 2023.

In absence of Chair, Laurie Sharp, Rob Tierney provided a report on behalf of the Global Committee. The committee has been meeting with the regions and had the opportunity to hear about the great projects taking place worldwide that are supported by ILA dollars. He also noted that the committee is reviewing proposals from and providing feedback to regions to ensure that ILA funds are being utilized to support initiatives and projects, rather than travel.

Rachael Gabriel reported that the Research Committee has been focused on the LRP restart and has been reaching out to LRP members to notify them of the transition to the new model. It was noted that responses have been good. The committee is also meeting with staff to discuss a column in Literacy Today covering “hot topics”. The next step will be to invite new members to the LRP, and a request was made to the board to recommend scholars who might serve.

Helen Perkins reported that the National Recognition Commission is in the process of reviewing the seven applications that have been submitted for the fall cycle. She also noted that they will undertake the process to identify and add additional commission members soon.

R. Tierney reported that members of the ILA board participated with a conversation with representatives from NAEd on how we could mutually partner with them and other associations on their distribution of their latest report, Educating for Civic Reasoning and Discourse.

In other business, R. Tierney provided a brief update on ILA’s partnership with CODE and the Context Matters project in Africa.

He also noted that ILA staff are formulating a general disclaimer statement of non-endorsement that will be included in all programs going forward.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:59 P.M., EST.