

Meeting Minutes
NJLA Intellectual Freedom Subcommittee
Friday, February 16, 2024
10:30 a.m.

1. Welcome

In attendance: Chip McAuley (chair), Brett Bonfield, Sara Cook, Amanda Eigen, Jen Fitzgerald, Kate McGivern, Eileen Palmer, and Katy White

2. Old Business

- a. Approve January Minutes
 - i. Approved by Amanda Eigen
 - ii. Seconded by Chip McAuley

3. New Business

- a. IF Award - Proceeding forward with discussion on how best to place the plaque
- b. "Freedom to Read Act" – Reintroduction on March 14
 - i. Brett has a meeting next week with the governor regarding the budget.
 - ii. There is now an Assembly Member sponsor to the bill.
<https://www.njleg.state.nj.us/bill-search/2024/S2421>
 - iii. What can we do between now and March?
 - 1. Conversations being had with Senator Zwicker, NJLA lawyer, and more.
 - 2. Brett shared a draft of what he would have shared in testimony this week before the rescheduling. https://njlaorg-my.sharepoint.com/:w/g/personal/njladirector_njla_org/EajBxSlfXutLsh6E00xPvFYBfU-2TicD81f4w9zLUMzVMg?rtime=oCebiQcv3Eg
 - a. From the testimony: "NJLA is working with the bill's sponsors to include minor, technical edits to address the nuances of how public libraries are governed."
 - 3. One of the hold-ups might have been the perception that public libraries were not 100% behind the bill. NJEA and ACLU were on board.
 - a. Does not seem that the general membership of NJLA was aware of the bill. March 6th advocacy day might be a good opportunity to get a temperature of what the field as a whole is feeling about the bill. Haven't had a public policy forum in years.
- c. IFC Call for Stories – Status Update
 - i. Only gotten a few stories so far.
 - ii. Was in a previous NJLA alert, might ask for it to be included in future ones for the foreseeable future.
 - iii. Any other ways to get the word out?
 - 1. Amanda will send an email to Admin and Management for stories.

4. Conclusion

- a. Chip will send out a Doodle poll for our March meeting.

b. Adjournment at 11:03am.