





TO: Cultural Education Committee
FROM: Mark Schaming 
SUBJECT: Appointments to Regents Advisory Council on Libraries
DATE: December 1, 2022
AUTHORIZATION(S): 
SUMMARY

Issue for Decision

Should the Board of Regents approve the Commissioner's recommendation to appoint four new members to the Regents Advisory Council on Libraries?

Reason(s) for Consideration

Required by state regulation.

Proposed Handling

This issue is presented to the Cultural Education Committee for discussion and recommendation to the Full Board for adoption at its December 2022 meeting.

Procedural History

New appointments to the Regents Advisory Council on Libraries are presented to the Board of Regents for review and approval.

Background Information

The fifteen members of the Regents Advisory Council on Libraries advise the Board on issues concerning library policy, work with the officers of the State Education Department in developing a comprehensive statewide library and information policy and make recommendations to the Regents for implementing library programs and initiatives.

Due to three members' terms expiring and one member choosing to conclude his term early, there are currently four seats open.

Recently concluded and outgoing members of the Regents Advisory Council on Libraries are:

- Greg Benoit, Director, Irondequoit Public Library (term concluded before expiration)
- Susan Kowalski, Library Media Specialist, Pine Grove Middle School at the East Syracuse Minoa Central School District
- Susan Polos, Middle School Librarian, Greenwich Country Day School
- Juan Rivera, School Media Specialist, A. Philip Randolph Campus High School

Remaining current members of the Regents Advisory Council on Libraries are:

- Grace Riario (Chair), Executive Director, Ramapo Catskill Library System
- Meg Backus (Vice Chair), Executive Director, Northern New York Library Network
- Tatiana Bryant, Director of Teaching, Learning, and Research Services, Barnard College
- Greta Byrum, Program Director, Just Tech at Social Science Research Center
- AnnaLee Dragon, Director, New York Library Association
- Sandra Michele Echols, School Media Specialist, New York City Department of Education
- Chancey Fleet, Assistive Technology Coordinator, New York Public Library
- Miranda Mims, Joseph N. Lambert and Harold B. Schleifer Director of Rare Books, Special Collections, and Preservation for the University of Rochester
- Dr. Beth Patin, Assistant Professor, Syracuse University's School of Information Studies
- Dr. Jamie D. Smith, Chief Academic Officer, Educational Affairs, Roswell Park Cancer
- Alicia Thompson, Director, Erie 1 BOCES School Library System

Related Regents Items

Not applicable.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Regents take the following action:

VOTED:

That the Board of Regents approve the Commissioner's recommended appointments.

- The Commissioner recommends the immediate appointment of Kate Hammill, Director, Wayne-Finger Lakes BOCES Library System, to the Regents Advisory Council on Libraries to fill the unexpired term of Greg Benoit.

The Commissioner further recommends the following appointments to the Regents Advisory Council on Libraries for terms effective December 1, 2023:

- Shakema Miller, Outreach and Partnership Specialist, Nassau Library System
- Jesse Montero, Director, Yonkers Public Library
- Maria Fernanda Pardo, Literacy Department Head, Glen Cove Public Library

Timetable for Implementation

If approved by the Board of Regents, the appointment of Kate Hammill will be effective immediately and will expire in December 2023. The appointments of Shakema Miller, Jesse Montero, and Maria Fernanda Pardo will be effective immediately and will expire in December 2027.