



The Indiana Library Federation Legislative Committee met on March 2, 2010. We received updated on legislation from John and Carolyn, ILF legislative advocates. The language that was in our bill, SB 212, which did not get a hearing in the House, has been inserted in HB 1086. At this time, there does not appear to be any strong objection to any of our language. However, this particular bill has been the depository for many Senate bills that passed the Senate but did not receive a hearing in the House. We are still alive at this point but there are no guarantees.

Laurel Setser presented the working draft of the Legislative Committee Standing Rules that she, Nancy Dowell and Wendy Phillips have been working on. Copies of the draft were distributed to committee members and the document will be refined at the April 6 meeting. Marcia presented the draft of the Network FAQ which she and Stephen Boggs have created. The Committee will also finalize that document at the April 6 meeting.

The Executive Committee has directed the Legislative Committee to prepare a position statement stating our opposition to the insertion of the property tax caps into the State Constitution. Nancy Dowell presented a piece that she has been working on and we hope to have it available for our members' use sometime this spring. John has advised that we need to partner with other associations and organizations representing local units of government. There was also a discussion regarding other potential sources of revenue if the caps are placed in the Constitution. Even if the measure fails, libraries are still facing shortfalls.

Jim Corridan reported a meeting the ISL had with Superintendent Tony Bennett's office. The Superintendent's office is applying for a grant. They have agreed to consider using a portion of the grant to train non-certified personnel to run school media centers. The Committee voiced its strong objection to this plan and asked instead that the ISL do everything within its power to keep the certified media specialists in the schools. We understand the reality of reduced funding but feel that the loss in student information-competency is not worth the trade.

The next meeting will be April 6 at 10 a.m. at the Indiana Library Federation offices in the large conference room.