

**MINUTES OF  
YONKERS CITY SCHOOL LIBRARY SYSTEM COUNCIL MEETING  
September 27, 2023**

The meeting was held at Yonkers Montessori Academy and was called to order by Jim Riley, Council President.

**Council Members Present:** James Riley (President), Peter Sieh, Carol Westphal, Don DeMatteo, Jesse Montero, Z Baird and Dr. Cynthia Palmer, *ex officio*.

**Unexcused:** Nicole Taylor-Wernham

**Guest:** Alyssa Colon-Garcia, Executive Director of ELA PK-12, Prekindergarten and Early Childhood.

**Approval of Minutes:** The minutes of the May, 3, 2023 meeting were corrected and approved.

**Reports:**

**Membership:** (Carol Westphal)

- Jim Riley welcomed Dr. Cynthia Palmer – New Director of Library Services. She will serve on the Board as, *ex officio*.
- Jim Riley welcomed Ms. Alyssa Colon-Garcia – Executive Director of English Language Arts.
- Jim Riley reported Membership will expire on September 30, 2023 for the following members: Jim Riley, Peter Sieh, Carol Westphal, Donald DeMatteo, Jesse Montero and Z Baird. All members unanimously agreed to serve another term.
- Jim Riley asked Alyssa Colon-Garcia to join the Library Council. She said, yes and all Library Council members unanimously voted for her to join.
- Membership will also expire for Nicole Taylor-Wernham. Jim will ask her at the next meeting if she would serve another term.
- Karen Loia has resigned from the YCSLS Council. We thank her for her service.

**Professional Development:**

- Library Services:
  - September 6, 2023 – Superintendent's Conference Day. All the Library Media Specialist participated in the following workshops: Teaching Books, Gale, Yonkers Public Library offerings at all three branches and PebbleGo.
  - Some of the Library staff will participate in Job Shadowing a certified SLMS.
  - Dr. Palmer would like to have a monthly Library meeting for Library staff.

**Yonkers Public Library Report:**

- The Summer Reading Buddy Program was held at the Riverfront Library.
- September is Library Card Sign-up Month. Library Applications have been sent to all schools. Dr. Palmer will resend the application for staff to apply for an educator's card. Library cards are also available in Spanish.
- The theme for Banned Books Week 2023 is: "Let Freedom Read." To celebrate the freedom to read all three branches will highlight this theme from October 1<sup>st</sup> – October 7<sup>th</sup>. Patrons could print Banned Book Bingo cards and view a list of books on the cards.
- Many in-person and online programs were held at all three branches for Hispanic Heritage Month.
- YPL will host events at all three branches for Italian Heritage Month, as well as Native American Heritage Month.

- The YPL received State Aid for a Library Construction Grant. This funding will support construction work at the Crestwood Library and the Grinton I. Will Library.
- YPL released a limited-edition Library Card in recognition of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Hip Hop. A new card will be released each year.
- -beginning in January 2024. The theme for 2024 is: Adventure Begins at Your Library.
- Z Baird attended the Open House at Paideia 15.
- Z Baird is working with 9<sup>th</sup> grade students who joined Book Club at Lincoln High School. Students are reading The Graveyard Book by Neil Gaiman.

**Library Services Report:**

- Focus this year Professional Development.
- Library Services is waiting on funding from the State.
- SORA – There are NO staff accounts, therefore, they can't borrow books. Teachers will be imported in October.

**Website:** (Don DeMatteo)

- Meet the Team has been updated on the District's Library Services webpage.
- The Welcome to Library Services message appears on each school's website.
- Schoolwires

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:**

- Turn It In – who is funding this resource?
- Carol Westphal thanked Cynthia Palmer and Melinda Lance Library Clerk at the Riverfront Public Library for filling YPL card applications and returning them rapidly to Yonkers Montessori Academy. Upon arrival the Library cards were distributed to students immediately.

**Announcements:**

- Next meeting November 29, 2023 at Yonkers Montessori Academy.

**Motion to Adjourn:** Approved

**Minutes:** Respectfully submitted, Carol Westphal