

**MINUTES OF  
YONKERS CITY SCHOOL LIBRARY SYSTEM COUNCIL MEETING  
January 22, 2025**

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, Nicole Taylor-Wernham, Carol Westphal, Don DeMatteo, Z Baird, Shauna Porteus and Dr. Cynthia Palmer, *ex officio*.

**Excused:** Alyssa Colon-Garcia and Jesse Montero

**Approval of Minutes:** The minutes of the October 16, 2024 meeting were corrected and approved.

**Reports:**

**Membership:** (Carol Westphal)

- The 2024-2025 YCSLS Council Membership List was distributed to all members.

**Professional Development:**

• Library Services:

- October 22, 2024 – Dr. Palmer and district LMS met in the Yonkers Montessori Academy Library to attend a Zoom meeting on The Science and Joy of Reading in the School Library.
- October 23, 2024 – Dr. Palmer led a half-day staff development for LMS at Yonkers Montessori Academy. They attended a Zoom meeting about World Book products hosted by Lisa Gosden. Vicky Sweet joined us to present Capstone's eBooks and PebbleGo database.
- November 5, 2024 - Superintendents Conference Day. Dr. Palmer led staff development for LMS at Barack Obama School for Social Justice. Topics are: Gale Databases with Stacey Knibloe, Teaching Books with Crystal Ballard, Libraria with Jim Swartz, and Follett Destiny with Julie Kieffer.
- December 10, 2024 – Carol Westphal attended a webinar hosted by Terri Harkey on Measuring the Impact of Lightbox Learning.
- December 13, 2024 – Carol attended a Zoom meeting hosted by Dr. Palmer on The Basics Yonkers.
- January 21, 2024 – Carol Westphal attended a webinar hosted by Shannon McClintock on Destiny AI: Enhancing Library Management through User Insights.
- Peter Sieh is taking a course on the Science of Reading.

**Yonkers Public Library Report:**

- Each YPL branch will host a Winter Reading Challenge from January 1, 2025 – March 15, 2025. Patrons can register by name online or 1-1 at any YPL. Teachers can register a class or a group. Participants will receive an incentive for every three books completed. The final prize will be swag from the YPL merchandise store. The system goal is 2,025 books.
- Many events will take place at all YPL branches for Black History Month, including a dance troupe. In March YPL will celebrate Women's History Month and in April will recognize National Poetry Month.
- YPL received a grant from Con Edison to support STEM programs. During YPS Winter break the Will and Riverfront Library will offer three days of STEM Learning for ages 6-12. Christine Bitetti teaches a STEM class every other Saturday at the Riverfront Library. The YPL is also working with the Robotics Teams from Riverside HS, Saunders HS, and Yonkers M/HS.
- YPL has fourteen VR headsets for checkout. Teachers can reach out to Christine Bitetti at the Riverfront branch to discuss topics and set-up a schedule.
- YPL and YPS have a shared folder that includes resources available for all district students.

- With a support grant from NYSCA (New York State Council on the Arts) the YPL is building cultural art and music experiences.
- YPL are cell phone recycling centers.
- Faster Internet is available at all branches.
- The Will Library will get a new HVAC system.
- The Crestwood Library will turn one hundred in 2026.
- Westchester Library Association (WLA) Mid-Winter Conference is on February 28, 2025 at the Ossining Public Library. WLA's Annual Conference will be held by Zoom on May 7, 2025.

#### **Library Services Report:**

- The annual cost for Beanstack is \$30,000. A grant would need to be written to purchase this management system.
- The District Department Directors will produce a monthly newsletter where they will share district news and updates. Dr. Palmer will contribute information from Library Services.
- Library book orders were submitted and approved at the January 26, 2025 YPS Board Meeting. They are being processed by the various book vendors.
- Dr. Palmer is continuing to meet with the BOCES Directors to plan the SWBOCES Annual Conference. Certified LMS should register in My Learning Plan, as well as complete and submit all paperwork to attend this event on Friday, March 28, 2025.

#### **Website:** (Don DeMatteo)

- YPS Library Page – Each LMS should look at Meet the Team page and update their bio. All updates should be emailed to Mr. DeMatteo.
- Both new schools do not have a Library Page on their homepage. Donnie will talk to Elyse David.
- The district is moving to a new Web Platform for the next school year.

#### **Old Business:**

- None

#### **New Business:**

- None

#### **Announcements:**

- YMA began its 4<sup>th</sup> Annual “100 Books, 100 Days” Primary Reading Challenge on November 18, 2024 and it will end on February 25, 2025. A celebration will be held in March.
- Both Peter Sieh and Carol Westphal participated in Hour of Code 2024 with their students, which took place during Computer Science Education Week, December 9<sup>th</sup> – Dec.15, 2024. Students engaged in problem-solving, critical thinking, collaboration and creativity through coding activities.
- Under the direction of Nicole Wernham-Taylor, YM/HS Poetry Club had a successful holiday fundraiser. The students are planning a choral piece for Black History Month. They would also like to plan a Poetry Slam with other district high schools for an Open Mic night in April.
- Martin Luther King Jr. Academy honored Dr. King's memory. Peter Sieh took a video of the various activities that students participated in and shared the video on the school's homepage.
- Next meeting: June 5, 2025

#### **Motion to Adjourn:** Approved

#### **Minutes:** Respectfully submitted, Carol Westphal