

**MINUTES OF
YONKERS CITY SCHOOL LIBRARY SYSTEM COUNCIL MEETING
May 19, 2021**

The meeting was held virtually on Zoom and was called to order by Jim Riley, Council President.

Council Members Present: James Riley (President), Peter Sieh, Karen Loia, Nicole Taylor-Wernham, Carol Westphal, Don DeMatteo, Jesse Montero, Z.Baird, and Tracey Wong, *ex officio*.

Excused: Don Solimene, Steven Mazzola, and Angelo Petrino.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the February 4, 2021 meeting were approved with corrections.

Reports:

Membership: (Carol Westphal)

- Email all changes in membership to cwestphal@yonkerspublicschools.org.

Professional Development:

- Librarians continued to attend weekly professional development available through Library Services:
 - February 10, 2021 – Microsoft Breakout Rooms – Tim Montalvo.
 - February 10, 2021 – 3D Design with Google SketchUp – Nasser Ibrahim.
 - February 24, 2021 – Teaching Books – Crystal Ballard and Kym Davick.
 - March 3, 2021 – OneNote– Dean Saghafi-Ezaz.
 - March 3, 2021 – PPT Live and Polls – Tim Montalvo.
 - March 10, 2021- Minecraft – Nicole Pinto-Creazzo.
 - March 15, 2021 – Learning Cricut – Mike Wszolek
 - March 16, 2021- Copyright Protection and Infringement – Nicole Taylor-Wernham.
 - March 24, 2021- Genial.ly – Tim Montalvo.
- April 14, 2021 – Jim Riley and Carol Westphal attended a virtual webinar through Learning Ally titled: Literacy: A Social Justice Issue. A principal, teacher, and a parent shared their journeys on how they advocated leaving no students behind due to inadequate instruction.
- May 7, 2021 – Jim Riley and Carol Westphal attended the WLA Annual Conference on Zoom. The theme was Balancing Change: Libraries and New Concepts in 2021. Local author B.K. Fischer read her poetry; Damon Centola and Michael Schein spoke about branding yourself and marketing. We attended a panel discussion on Librarianship: Career Paths and Transformations. We heard from a Law, College, School and Public Librarian. Each discussed their role and the future job market.
- May 12, 2021 - Jim Riley attended the Suffolk BOCES on Zoom, discussing Pandemic Adaptations during COVID. He attended sessions on Book Delivery Service and Nearpod, as well as using other technologies.

Yonkers Public Library Report: (Jesse Montero and Z Baird)

- Karen Loia, Z Baird, and Eileen Fusco collaborated to offer families a workshop on what the school library and the public library have to offer students.
- Summer Reading List are completed and will go to the print shop around 5.28.21. YPL will update the collection in overdrive to include the Summer Reading books. Print books were ordered and titles will be added to READSquared. YPL will offer incentives for the first hundred people whom sign-up for READSquared. YPL are also working on a video tutorial. Students and

their families will also be able to scan a QR code. YPL will offer Teen Thursday where young adult students can listen to an audiobook and enter into a raffle. They can win a gift card at the end of the program. The Summer Reading information is posted on the District webpage for Yonkers Public Schools, as well as the Yonkers Public Libraries webpages.

- Nicole Taylor-Wernham will offer two Virtual Book Clubs for elementary students this summer.
- YPL can offer Author Visits through Zoom to get students excited about Summer Reading. Tracey Wong will find out if this can be done districtwide.
- YPL will expand its hours. Offering in-branch service, some computers and seating. Tech Central is planning for some hours. They are doing on-demand 3D print. Patrons can send their file.
- YPL might host some outdoor events. Riverfront Library has some large meeting rooms.

Library Services Report: (Tracey Wong)

- High School Libraries will set-up a Makerspace/Fabrication Lab. A GlowForge Laser Printer has been ordered for Gorton HS, Roosevelt HS and Yonkers Montessori Academy.
- Gorton HS and Lincoln HS are being updated with flexible furniture.
- Palisade Prep HS will receive a 1.5 million Stem Grant. New technology will be available for students and teachers. Professional Development will be available for all district staff.
- The district is hiring seven new librarians. If we are interested in changing our position, we must apply through the district's Internal Postings available on the YPS District webpage.
- Librarians are encouraged to apply for a cricut through Donors Choose.

Website: (Tracey Wong)

- Have your students participate in the library survey posted on the YPS Library Webpage.
- Cultural Responsive Reading List has been added to the YPS Library Services Webpage.

Old Business: None

New Business:

- Junior Library Guild eBooks cannot be added to the district's Clever page. These eBooks will need to be added to the individual's school library page.
- We will receive Marc Records for our Abdo and Lerner eBooks.

Announcements:

- Peter Sieh and students at School 13 participated in the Build a Better Book Program through Colorado University. His Benchmark Inquiry Essential Question was, How can we make the Reading Experience more enjoyable for students who cannot see? Peter shared braille books he borrowed from the YPL and sign language with his students at the beginning of this project. Students used a cricut, a 3D printer and 3D Doodler pens to create images with texture to represent each letter of the alphabet. Each image was placed in a binder and included each word in braille. He also promoted Think Central to encourage students to use Thinkverse and 3D printers available at the Riverfront Library.
- The New York State Department of Education approved YCSLS Five Year Plan of Service.

Next Meeting: TBA

Motion to Adjourn: Approved

Minutes: Respectfully submitted, Carol Westphal