

**MINUTES OF  
YONKERS CITY SCHOOL LIBRARY SYSTEM COUNCIL MEETING  
May 21, 2024**

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

**Council Members Present:** James Riley (President), Peter Sieh, Nicole Taylor-Wernham, Carol Westphal, Alyssa Colon-Garcia, Z Baird and Dr. Cynthia Palmer, *ex officio*.

**Excused:** Don DeMatteo and Jesse Montero

**Approval of Minutes:** The minutes of the November 29, 2023 meeting were approved.

**Reports:**

**Membership:** (Carol Westphal)

- We will revisit membership at our first meeting for the 2024-2025 school year.

**Professional Development:**

• Library Services:

- December 5, 2023 – On Superintendents Conference Day the LMS met at Yonkers Montessori Academy. Dr. Palmer arranged for various guest speakers on a range of topics. Areas covered were: Gale Databases, YPL Events and Resources, Perma-Bound Collection Analysis, PebbleGo and What is Media Literacy?
- March 12, 2024 – YPL and YPS District and School Staff have attended a series of Zoom Meetings to develop the Summer Reading Program for YPS students. Our goal is to get students excited about reading and to increase the number of books read over the summer by our students.
  - Theme: Adventure Begins at Your Library
  - Use of QR codes to sign-up for the Summer Reading Program available at all YPL branches. Brochures will be printed in English and Spanish.
  - Tracking books read by students in Beanstack.
  - Students at Saunders HS created the art work for the brochure. Brochures will be distributed to all YPS students in June.
  - Jim Riley will update his SORA video for this program.
  - The Summer Reading brochure will be posted on the YPL and YPS District Schoolwires Page.
  - YPL will create a PowerPoint about Summer Reading. YPS teachers will share with their students.
  - YPL outreach is going well, staff have visited schools and attend PTSA meetings.
  - Students who participate in the Program will return their Reading Log to their teacher in September.
- April 12, 2024 – Certified LMS attended SLS Annual Joint Conference at SWBOCES. We visited with various vendors, attended keynote sessions, workshops and author book signings.
  - Nicole Taylor-Wernham presented Project Look Sharp: How we Empower Students Through Media Decoding.
  - Jim Riley and Carol Westphal attended sessions on: Genrefying a School Library and Harnessing AI in Schools with the Support of Libraries: Strategies, Tools and Best Practices.
- May 23, 2024 – Jim Riley, Nicole Taylor-Wernham and Carol Westphal along with their colleagues will attend and represent their school at the Department Rep Share Fair at the Yonkers Board of Education.

- May 29, 2024 – Carol Westphal will attend a Zoom meeting hosted by Follett. The topic is: A Glimpse into the Future of AI with Destiny Library Manager.
- Jim Riley, Nicole Taylor-Wernham, and Carol Westphal continue to attend the Dept. Rep. PLC's.
- Jim Riley and Mariana Sugrim will participate in the STEAM Program this summer.
- Carol Westphal will take part in the Secondary Summer Program at Yonkers M/HS.
- Jim Riley and Peter Sieh will participate in the Smart Start Program this summer along with a colleague from their respective school.

### **Yonkers Public Library Report:**

- YPL branches had a successful Winter Reading Challenge. All readers used Beanstack to log their books.
- YPL branches are committed to promoting Diversity. Many programs, displays and activities highlighted various heritages and cultures each month.
- YPL hosted a National Library Week Read Posters campaign, which was a huge success.
- During the month of May YPL patrons were able to post a picture for Get Caught Reading, using hashtags: #GetCaughtReading or #CaughtReadingYPL for all posts.
- Seed Libraries are funded via a ConEd Grant and are available at YPL branches.
- The Crestwood Library hosted a Sustainable Initiative and held its first ever Repair Café.
- YPL and YPS continue to meet through Zoom to discuss and plan Summer Reading 2024.
- Summer Reading 2024 will run from June 1, 2024-August 15, 2024 at all YPL branches.
- Reading Buddies, a joint reading program with JCY will be held at the Riverfront Library.
- Storytime will continue at all YPS branches during the summer.
- Weekly activities are planned for each YPL branch. Check out the website for more info.
- All YPL branches will be closed on Sunday during the months of July and August.
- Using your library card patrons can login to a new offering from the Westchester Library System called The Digital Dive -Medici.tv. It offers access to hours of cultural and performance recorded and live events.
- On May 7, 2024 Jesse Montero, Shauna Porteus and Vivian Prescedo presented the Library Budget to the Yonkers City Council.
- Tara Somersall received a Movers and Shakers Award from Library Journal.
- YPL received a 2024 Core PR Xchange Award from ALA for Inspiring Staff, Inspiring Spaces, Inspiring Yonkers: YPL Strategic Plan 2023-2027.
- Westchester Library Association (WLA) is revamping as they try to reinstate their non-profit status (5012c3). Their Annual Business Meeting will be held on June 7, 2024. They will also host a Meet and Greet on June 12, 2024. They are looking for nominations for the Bonnie Katz Award, the submission deadline is June 1, 2024. The award winner will be announced at their Annual Meeting in June.

### **Library Services Report:**

- Dr. Palmer will host and plan additional Professional Development for LMS throughout the 2024-2025 school year, with the addition of four half-days on the school calendar.
- Dr. Palmer is meeting and scheduling Guest Speakers for our Superintendents Conference Day on November 5, 2024.
- Dr. Palmer would like the LMS to prepare their Book Orders early next school year.
- Dr. Palmer reported that YPS is closing two schools and opening 2 schools. Each school will have a Library. She has meet with vendors and ordered furniture, supplies and books. Books will be transferred from School 9 and Thomas Cornell. New physical books will arrive at the end of August.
- Dr. Palmer has contacted Follett Destiny and they will remove both schools at the end of June and add the two new schools to the District's Follett Destiny Catalog.
- In June Vicky Sweet will present through Zoom a Capstone Professional Development.

**Website:** (Cynthia Palmer)

- Mr. DeMatteo will help add the Summer Reading Info to the District's Schoolwires Page.

**Old Business:**

- None

**New Business:**

- None

**Announcements:**

- Peter Sieh: Las Hermanas Mirabal Community School and Martin Luther King Academy
  - He has created many videos that show both his schools in a positive light.
  - During National Robotics week students used Dash Robots to navigate a maze.
  - He was asked to have the students use Dash Robots during Mr. Soler's visit.
  - Christine Bitetti works at Tech Central at the Riverfront Library. She has visited Mr. Vassari's class at MLKA, so students can learn using virtual reality goggles.
  - Students are using their MakerBot Sketch for 3D Printing.
  - At Las Hermanas some students attend the JCY afterschool program. Students read and get help with their homework.
  - He uses Nearpod Slideshows and Kahoot's with his students to teach concepts.
- Nicole Taylor-Wernham: Yonkers Middle/High School
  - She organized and meets regularly with YM/HS Poetry Club. The students produced a Literary Magazine. Every teacher received a copy. The club is trying to sell copies of the magazine to classmates, to raise funds for a club dinner.
  - She created and distributed a Bibliography Format Guide for students.
- Carol Westphal: Yonkers Montessori Academy
  - On April 19, 2024 Ms. Governali and I hosted our 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Primary Reading Challenge Celebration. Both Alyssa Colon-Garcia and Dr. Palmer, along with Dr. Rivera, Ms. Cholewa and our families celebrated with us. This year 207 students participated and read a total of 10,284 eBooks and print books. Ultimately, Ms. Harris's class won the Challenge by Reading over 1.800 Books as a class. All students who met or exceeded the challenge received a certificate and I love to read bracelet. Our three Super Readers read over 180 books each and received a Barnes and Noble Gift Card. Along with our Primary students the Pre-Teaching Magnet students were treated to a Pizza Luncheon in the LMC. Students also, received a bookmark, a sticker, a new pencil and selected a new book to take home.
  - Throughout the year students were taught how to access and use each eBook app.
  - In June we will host a Summer Reading Kick-off event for grades K-8<sup>th</sup>. Each student will select a book to take home to get their summer reading started.
- Jim Riley: Saunders High School
  - Attended Pride Workshops with students. They listened to keynote speakers. He thanked Dr. Matthew Gonzales for arranging the buses.
  - Students also visited the Croton Dam as part of the Smart Scholars Grant. Students flew drones.
  - Testing is taking place in the LMC: AP, NYSESLAT, Regents and Precision Exams for magnet students.
- Next Meeting: June 13, 2024

**Motion to Adjourn:** Approved

**Minutes:** Respectfully submitted, Carol Westphal