

**MINUTES OF  
YONKERS CITY SCHOOL LIBRARY SYSTEM COUNCIL MEETING  
October 16, 2024**

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

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

**Excused:** Peter Sieh

**Approval of Minutes:** The minutes of the June 13, 2024 meeting were corrected and approved.

**Reports:**

**Membership:** (Carol Westphal)

- The 2024-2025 YCSLS Council Member contact info was updated.

**Professional Development:**

• **Library Services:**

- Jim Riley and Mariana Sugrim taught Tinkercad to Middle School students through the Summer STEAM Academy in July.
- Jim Riley participated in the Smart Start program in August and partnered with English teacher Christine Mueller to write a unit plan where students will create Talking Portraits using green screens after a class trip to Philipse Manor Hall.
- This school year the Library Media Specialist will attend four half-days of staff development lead by Dr. Palmer. We will create a district aligned K-12 Information Literacy Curriculum.
- September 3 & 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024 – District Superintendent's Conference Days. On the 2<sup>nd</sup> day all Yonkers staff attended the Superintendent's Convocation at Westchester County Center.
- September 19, 2024 - Carol Westphal attended a Zoom meeting titled NOVEL: Supporting Elementary Students with Gale, hosted by Stacey Knibloe.
- September 24, 2024 – Carol Westphal attended a Zoom meeting titled Level up Your SORA Promotion, hosted by Courtney Chieffo.
- October 8, 2024 – Carol Westphal attended a Zoom meeting titled Lightbox Learning into Curriculum Seamless Integration for Enhanced Literacy Programs, hosted by Terri Haskey.
- October 22, 2024 – Dr. Palmer and LMS will meet 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 will lead a half-day staff development for the LMS at Yonkers Montessori Academy. They will attend a Zoom meeting about World Book products hosted by Lisa Gosden. Vicky Sweet will join us to present Capstone's eBooks and PebbleGo database.
- November 5, 2024 - Superintendents Conference Day. Dr. Palmer will lead 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.

**Yonkers Public Library Report:**

- Unveiled a new campaign to apply for a YPL card. Various user types can also apply online.
- Many monthly programs will take place at all YPL branches related to calendar themes.
  - September/October – Hispanic Heritage Month
  - October – Italian Heritage Month
  - November – Native American Heritage Month
  - December – Winter Wonderland
- YPL experienced higher patron visits this summer.
- On October 5<sup>th</sup> the Riverfront Library hosted Yonkers Comic Con, which had 4,200 visitors.
- All YPL branches offer Homework Help. Check out YPL website for days and times.
- YPL has launched "Born to Read: An Early Literacy Initiative". The library partnered with St. John's Hospital in Yonkers to give each new parent a special care package with a board book, a Yonkers library card, early literacy information, and resources to support family reading.
- YPL continues to promote the benefits of reading to young children with its 1000 Books before Kindergarten program. This concept leads to better K-12 results for children in school.

- YPL will host early voting next week.
- YPL received \$2500 grant from Con Edison to continue the seed library. This will allow YPL to offer STEAM classes relating to Environmental Themes.
- YPL is looking to add to its archives by preserving Yonkers past with personal stories, pictures and memorabilia. Anyone interested in this project can contact the library for further information.
- YPL used Beanstack to register Yonkers students for the 2024 Summer Reading Program.
- The Riverfront Public Library had 300 students register for the 2024 Reading Buddies Program.
- YPL is hosting a Book Club with an English teacher and the Library Media Specialist at Lincoln HS.
- YPL is interested in promoting a Story Telling Club with Yonkers students.
- Z Baird, the Crestwood Branch Manager has attended PTA meetings at Paideia 15.
- YPL is working with students and staff in five Yonkers schools.

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

- Discussed the possibility of a joint purchase of Beanstack by YPS and YPL. This would give both parties access to data required by grants.
- This year the district will produce a monthly newsletter. District Department Directors will share district news and updates. Dr. Palmer will contribute information from Library Services.
- The Yonkers Basics is working with My Brother's Keeper to offer support and programs for our youngest students.
- All LMS should submit library supply and book orders by December 1, 2024.
- The district's digital budget will renew the following subscriptions: Capstone/ PebbleGo, One More Story, OverDrive/NY Reads, Scholastic/BookFlix and TrueFlix, and Teaching Books.
- The State has approved the District's Annual Library Reports for the following years: 2019-2020 and 2020-2021.
- Dr. Palmer is continuing to meet with the BOCES Directors to plan the SWBOCES Annual Conference. LMS who are interested in offering a workshop at this event can register using the link emailed by Dr. Palmer to all LMS. Certified LMS will attend this event on Friday, March 28, 2025.
- Both School 17 and School 22 are receiving books for Drop Everything and Read program.
- A new certified School Library Media Specialist was hired for Riverside High School.
- Share any Professional Development we provide with Dr. Palmer. Include the following: School Name, Date, Time, and a Description of the Event. Share agenda and any handouts distributed.

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

- Member survey will be posted on the YPS District Library Services Homepage.

#### **Old Business:**

- Four Library Media Specialist positions were abolished.
- High School Library Media Specialist positions were restored to full-time, as mandated by State Regs.
- Some changes were made to schools and schedules for Elementary Library Media Specialists.

#### **New Business:**

- None

#### **Announcements:**

- October 21, 2024 - YMA will celebrate ninety K-3<sup>rd</sup> students who completed and returned their Summer Reading Logs with a Reading Certificate. Dr. Palmer will attend our event. We will celebrate sixty-six 4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade students at a later date. Each child will receive a certificate.
- November 18, 2024 – YMA will kick-off our 4<sup>th</sup> Annual "100 Books, 100 Days" Primary Reading Challenge. The contest will end on February 25, 2025. A celebration will be held in March.
- December 13, 2024 – Carol Westphal will offer a Parent Workshop – Connecting to the YMA Library @ Home with eBooks.
- Our next meeting is scheduled for: January 22, 2025.

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

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