

YONKERS PUBLIC LIBRARY
BOARD MEETING
ELECTRONIC MEETING
MAY 19, 2022

ATTENDANCE

TRUSTEES:	Josephine Ilarraza Joseph Puglia Hon. Michael Sabatino Dr. Stephan Giuffrida Patricia Duggan
LIBRARY DIRECTOR:	Jesse Montero
ASSISTANT LIBRARY DIRECTOR:	Shauna Porteus
BUSINESS MANAGER:	Vivian Presedo
ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY:	James Hackett
WLS BOARD REPRESENTATIVE:	Trustee Puglia
UNION REPRESENTATIVE:	Brandon Neider
GUESTS:	Emily Power, Philip Poggiali, Phyllis Cole, Zahra Baird, Jacqueline Leone, Arnaldo Torres

The Board Meeting was held electronically via ZOOM®, Conference ID# 863 5173 6384

The Board Meeting began at 7:01 pm.

MINUTES

On motion of Trustee Puglia, seconded and unanimously carried, the Board approved the Minutes of the Meeting of April 20, 2022.

MANAGEMENT REPORT

Director Montero reported that three employees from Grinton I. Will Library had tested positive for COVID-19 since the last meeting.

Director Montero discussed recent staffing changes. Jacqueline Leone, a part-time worker at Crestwood Library, was promoted to full-time Librarian Trainee on April 29 following her acceptance to library school. Ms. Leone took the place of Librarian Philip Poggiali, who recently transferred to Will Library following the retirement of Librarian James Floyd. Ms. Leone briefly introduced herself to the Board and thanked Director Montero and Crestwood Branch Manager Z. Baird for the opportunity to join Crestwood full-time.

Director Montero updated the Board on the progress of YPL’s operating budget request for the fiscal year ending in 2023. Administration appeared before City Council to advocate for their request on May 4 and he reported that councilmembers were overwhelmingly positive in their assessment of Yonkers Public Library and were also interested in YPL’s capital budget request to fund the Will Library renovation. The Council will vote on the proposed budget by June 1 and Director Montero was hopeful it would be approved.

Director Montero reported that Westchester Library System experienced a ransomware cyberattack earlier in the month that was not successful in obtaining patron data but did result in significant IT service disruptions, especially at Riverfront and Crestwood libraries. Service at Riverfront has since been restored but restoration is still pending at Crestwood. Director Montero acknowledged that the disruptions were a hardship on the staff and public and thanked the staff for working through it.

Director Montero was pleased to announce that wireless service at Riverfront was significantly enhanced following the increase of broadband speeds from 100 MB/s to 1 GB/s. Director Montero hoped that access to a faster and more reliable network would make the library a more attractive destination for new patrons. He also announced that printing and PC reservation software would soon be consolidated into one service provider and he believed it would immediately enhance patron privacy and enable future services like credit card acceptance and remote printing.

Director Montero reported that the STARZ television show “Run the World” recently filmed a scene at Riverfront Library. While some service disruptions were inevitable, the filming resulted in a large donation to YPL and prominently featured Riverfront’s Art Gallery, Auditorium and several administrative offices. Director Montero thanked Riverfront administration, custodians and security guards for managing the filming and hoped that events like this would encourage future partnerships with Lionsgate Studios nearby.

Director Montero featured several recent arts programs, including the new Gallery exhibit *Memento Mori* that opened on May 4, which was one of the most well attended openings since the pandemic, and the upcoming Yonkers Arts Weekend on May 21. He also announced that ArtsWestchester awarded Gallery Curator Haifa Bint-Kadi a \$2,600 grant to fund a visual artist boot camp program that will support local self-taught and emerging artists.

Assistant Director Porteus discussed the early literacy program 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten. More than 500 families enrolled in the program prior to the suspension of the campaign due to the pandemic, but only 50 reached 1,000 books. She believes that many families continued to read during the pandemic, but could not come into the buildings and report on their progress. She was pleased to announce that YPL would be relaunching the campaign under a new brand in the hope of reengaging with families and stimulating parent-child bonding by reading to their newborns, infants and toddlers. She added that new programs and partnerships with City government agencies, early education centers and local maternity wards would complement the campaign.

Assistant Director Porteus announced that YPL’s summer reading program would launch June 1 and its theme would be “Oceans of Possibility”. Staff have planned new programs and activities for the summer and engaged with Yonkers Public Schools to update their summer

reading lists and collections. She added that all ages are welcome to participate in the program and urged everyone in attendance to sign up.

Vice President Ilarraza voiced her support and enthusiasm for the early education programming and was excited about the potential for new partnerships. Trustee Sabatino inquired about engagement with local community leaders for the programming; Assistant Director Porteus replied that it is early in that process but Councilwoman Tasha Diaz has already committed to visit to promote programming and read to children.

UNION REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT

Union Representative Neider had no report.

WLS REPORT

Trustee Puglia reported that WLS was in the process of updating their values and mission statement. He also noted that WLS trustees are concerned about improving support to member libraries and the latest cyberattack and discussed both at length at their last meeting. Director Montero discussed the level of support provided by WLS and Yonkers Public Library's choice to manage more of its own IT services.

PERSONNEL REPORT

On motion of Trustee Puglia seconded and unanimously carried, the Board ratified the following appointments:

Williams, Josiah, P/T Page, \$15.00/yr, eff. 4/22/2022

Leone, Jacqueline, Permanent Librarian Trainee, \$42,830.00/yr, eff. 4/29/2022

Samuel, Shaied, P/T Page, \$15.00/yr, eff. 4/29/2022

Acknowledged the following terminations:

Avilés, Rose, Prov. Community Services Coordinator, \$68,749.00/yr, eff. 5/18/2022

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance, Budget & Planning- Maron, Jannetti (chair), Sabatino

Trustee Sabatino announced that a report would be given when Trustees Maron and Jannetti were present.

Employee Relations – Maron, Puglia (chair), Duggan

Trustee Puglia had no report.

Buildings & Grounds – Maron, Giuffrida (chair)

Trustee Giuffrida had no report.

Policy – Maron, Ilarraza (chair), Puglia, Sabatino

Vice President Ilarraza reported that policy would be addressed later in the meeting.

Fundraising & Development – Maron (chair), Jannetti

Vice President Ilarraza announced that President Maron would provide a report when she was present.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

On motion of Trustee Puglia, seconded and unanimously carried, the Board approved payment of bills as listed on Schedule #839.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Director Montero stated that the current policies on Ethics, Patron Privacy, Collection Development and Use of Meeting Rooms discussed at the last meeting were shared with the Board and administration would give their recommendations on updates at the next meeting. He added that there were no changes to the Board's draft on Public Comments at Board Meetings since the last meeting and presented it as is for their approval.

On motion of Trustee Sabatino, seconded and unanimously carried, the Board approved the Revised Internet Access Policy & Guidelines policy as it appeared in the agenda and packet.

On motion of Trustee Sabatino, seconded and unanimously carried, the Board approved the Public Comment at Library Board Meetings policy as it appeared in the agenda and packet.

NEW BUSINESS

Vice President Ilarraza announced that the Foundation Gala would be discussed when President Maron was present.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Vice President Ilarraza motioned the Board into Executive Session at 7:32 pm to discuss a matter regarding the labor contract. The session ended at 7:46 pm. On motion of Trustee Sabatino, seconded and unanimously carried, the Board issued the following resolution:

RESOLVED, the Board of Trustees of the Yonkers Public Library hereby approves the stipulation of agreement between Yonkers Public Library and SEIU Local 704B AFL-CIO dated May 19, 2022 and hereby authorizes the Library Director to execute all documents pertaining to the same and to take all actions consistent with the terms thereof.

Board Meeting – May 19, 2022

NEXT BOARD MEETING DATE – Thursday, June 16, 2022

On motion of Trustee Sabatino, the Meeting adjourned at 7:48 pm.

Jesse Montero
Library Director & Secretary