

YONKERS PUBLIC LIBRARY  
BOARD MEETING  
GRINTON I. WILL LIBRARY  
JULY 19, 2023

**ATTENDANCE**

TRUSTEES:	Nancy Maron Joseph Puglia Stephen Jannetti Michael Sabatino Patricia Phelan John A. Daily Jr.
LIBRARY DIRECTOR:	Jesse Montero
ASSISTANT LIBRARY DIRECTOR:	Shauna Porteus
BUSINESS MANAGER:	Vivian Presedo
ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY:	James Hackett
WLS BOARD REPRESENTATIVE:	Joseph Puglia
UNION REPRESENTATIVE:	Brandon Neider
GUESTS:	Ofunne Edoziem, Dominick Savarese, Mary Robison, Zahra Baird, Zaivy Luke- Aleman

The Board Meeting began at 7:00 pm.

President Maron introduced Ofunne Edoziem, who was recently appointed to the YPL Board of Trustees by the Yonkers Public Schools Board of Education and is expected to be sworn-in soon. All those present introduced themselves and welcomed Ms. Edoziem to the Board.

**MINUTES**

On motion of Trustee Daily, seconded by Trustee Puglia and unanimously carried, the Board approved the Minutes of the Meeting of June 15, 2023.

**MANAGEMENT REPORT**

Director Montero reported on the success of the Summer Reading Buddies program. The program, which is run in partnership with Family Services Society of Yonkers, returned on July 5 to Riverfront Library. 270 students participated with over 100 mentors in the first week and many

special guests and elected officials are also expected to participate before it concludes on August 9. The program also features several parent workshops with partner organizations.

Director Montero discussed several ongoing nutritional programs at YPL. Summer Meals with Yonkers Public Schools returned to the Riverfront and Will Libraries; 150 meals are distributed most weekdays, while 300 are distributed on days Reading Buddies occurs; 25 are distributed daily at Will. YPL also continued its partnership with Feeding Westchester over the summer, where “child nourishment bags” are distributed to children who may be experiencing food insecurity. YPL also hosted a town hall on hunger with Feeding Westchester, YMCA and the Office for the Aging as well.

Director Montero announced new services with Ancestry.com and HeritageQuest Online. Director Montero discussed the new subscriptions in depth and the decision-making process that led to their acquisition. Trustees also discussed privacy concerns.

Assistant Director Porteus updated the Board on the 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten early literacy program. Children who reach the milestone now receive a personalized picture book co-authored by Children’s Librarians Aili Whelan and Laura Cacace and designed by graphic artist Mario Pereira. Assistant Director Porteus displayed images of the book for trustees and noted two children have already reached the milestone and will receive their books shortly. Trustees discussed the impact the program may have on children when they enter school.

Assistant Director Porteus reported that she and several library staff recently attended the American Library Association annual conference in Chicago. She believed the conference was outstanding and the staff were inspired by many of the workshops. Trustees also discussed a panel Assistant Director Porteus attended at the conference on co-location, where libraries share space with health clinics, daycare centers, etc, as a possible direction for a new library location.

President Maron informed the Board that she recently met with Yonkers Public Schools Board of Education President Reverend Lopez and discussed ideas on areas of collaboration. She said he was interested in meeting with the Board of Trustees and they would talk further about a possible date in September.

## **UNION REPRESENTATIVE’S REPORT**

Union Representative Neider reported that the negotiating committee has continued negotiations with Yonkers Public Library over its expired labor contract. He also reported that the Union has conducted four investigations, three of which are still pending, but offered no further detail.

President Maron confirmed administration received a proposal from the Union and noted that administration was eager to accelerate the schedule of future negotiating meetings.

## **PERSONNEL REPORT**

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

Grant, Madison; P/T Page, \$15.00/hour, eff. 6/10/2023  
Schiffino, Roman; P/T Page, \$15.00/hour, eff. 6/10/2023

Acknowledged the following terminations:

Rice, Jasmine; P/T Page, \$15.00/hour, eff. 6/6/2023  
Chopak, Philip; P/T Page, \$15.00, eff. 7/5/2023  
Patterson, John; P/T Custodial Worker, \$15.00/hour, eff. 7/6/2023

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Fundraising & Development** – Jannetti (chair)

Foundation Update: President Maron reported that the Foundation has accelerated planning for next year's gala and are currently considering the dates of April 25 or May 2, 2024. The Foundation will convene a committee to more formally plan the gala in the fall. She added that the Foundation will also host a paint-and-sip event soon and invited trustees to attend.

### **Policy** – Sabatino (chair)

Trustee Sabatino reported that he has continued his review of the YPL Staff Manual and made suggestions regarding gender identity and sexual orientation to the Affirmative Action Policy and a hold harmless agreement to the Policy to Allow Alcoholic Beverage Service in the Library at Non-Library Events. President Maron suggested that she, Trustee Sabatino and management meet again to discuss policies in need of review and bring them to the Board regularly.

## **PAYMENT OF BILLS**

On motion of Trustee Jannetti, seconded by Trustee Puglia and unanimously carried, the Board approved payment of bills as listed on Schedule #853.

**NEXT BOARD MEETING DATE** – Thursday, September 21, 2023 at Riverfront Library.

Jesse Montero  
Library Director & Secretary