

YONKERS PUBLIC LIBRARY
BOARD MEETING
RIVERFRONT LIBRARY
SEPTEMBER 21, 2023

ATTENDANCE

TRUSTEES:	Nancy Maron Joseph Puglia Stephen Jannetti Michael Sabatino Patricia Phelan John A. Daily Jr. Ofunne Edoziem
LIBRARY DIRECTOR:	Jesse Montero
ASSISTANT LIBRARY DIRECTOR:	Shauna Porteus
BUSINESS MANAGER:	Vivian Presedo
ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY:	James Hackett
WLS BOARD REPRESENTATIVE:	Joseph Puglia
UNION REPRESENTATIVE:	John McPartland
GUESTS:	Oswaldo Coto-Chang, Renee Rabadi, Jay Chawla, Lawrence Farah, Jacqueline Leone, Diane Mignault, Mark Parolisi, Tyisha Baker, Tara Somersall, Carolyn Arroyo, Paul Emond, Pat Laperuta, Zahra Baird, Elizabeth Caruso, Phyllis Cole, Christine Bitetti, Melinda Lance, Elyse Schreiber, Pablo Duran, Jay Savino, Russell Martinez, Dominick Savarese, Eileen O'Connor, Elizabeth de Bethune, Olga Correa

The Board Meeting began at 7:01 pm.

Board President Maron opened the meeting by acknowledging the larger-than-usual attendance of staff and community members and thanking them for attending. She explained the agenda and process of the meeting and also acknowledged the ongoing labor contract negotiations and provided a brief outline of that process, noting that more meetings were scheduled and she was optimistic of a resolution soon.

MINUTES

On motion of Trustee Daily, seconded by Trustee Puglia and unanimously carried, the Board approved the Minutes of the Meeting of July 19, 2023.

MANAGEMENT REPORT

Director Montero began his report by expressing his pleasure with the large attendance and agreeing with President Maron's assessment of the ongoing labor negotiations, acknowledging also that it has been a stressful time for many people and continued by saying he was proud of the great work of the staff in making Yonkers Public Library what it is.

Director Montero reported on the successful conclusion of the Summer Reading Buddies program at Riverfront Library. 110 mentors read with 397 students over the course of the six week program, reading over 1,800 books and helping students complete their summer assignments. Riverfront Library also hosted several parent workshops during the program and distributed over 6,200 free meals to the Yonkers community. He also announced that YPL was unanimously awarded the New York State Library's Joseph F. Shubert library excellence award in recognition of the program.

Director Montero announced that YPL received a \$587,000 New York State library construction grant to partially fund the replacement of the Will Library chiller and HVAC system, which YPL applied for last summer. It is the largest single year state grant in YPL's history and also the largest in Westchester County this cycle and sixth-largest in the state. YPL is currently awaiting its capital budget from the City of Yonkers to complete the funding for the project.

Director Montero continued to discuss the New York State library construction grant program. YPL applied for another \$215,000 grant over the summer to fund the refurbishment and improvement of Crestwood Library, which Director Montero was pleased to announce Westchester Library System recently approved and recommended to New York State. The state will review the application over the coming months and hopefully award next summer. The project will replace the windows, regrade rear walkways, repoint the chimney, restore the exterior façade, and replace the fire alarm system, among other items.

Director Montero reported on YPL's recognition and celebration of the 50th anniversary of Hip-Hop. Through a partnership with local artist Jerome Enders, YPL curated a number of programs and displays that honored Hip-Hop's place in the history and culture of Yonkers. He also displayed illustrations of new, limited edition Hip-Hop library cards designed by local Yonkers street artist Maxx Moses.

Director Montero updated the Board on several personnel changes. He reported that Aurora Cruz, Branch Administrator of Will Library, retired in August after 23 years of service, and was replaced by Tara Somersall, who has been Head of the Riverfront Children's Department since 2016 and has over 25 years' experience as a librarian. Ms. Somersall was in turn replaced by Oswaldo Coto-Chang, who has been a Riverfront Reference and Adult Services librarian for several years and has over 10 years' experience

as a librarian in Westchester. Both Ms. Somersall and Mr. Coto-Chang introduced themselves to the Board and were welcomed by trustees and the guests in attendance.

UNION REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT

Union Representative McPartland reported that the Union wishes the Board of Trustees expedite the labor contract negotiations and regrets that the Library involved City Hall in the process.

PERSONNEL REPORT

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

Awwad, Zaina; P/T Page, \$15.00/hour, eff. 7/19/2023
Neto, Jessica; Permanent Librarian I, \$58,449.00/year, eff. 7/24/2023
Cadiz, Valerie; P/T Page, \$15.00/hour, eff. 7/28/2023
Cosgrove, Benedict; P/T Librarian I, \$21.00/hour, eff. 7/31/2023
Jones, Teriann; P/T Page, \$15.00/hour, eff. 8/4/2023
Vidals Rico, Diego; P/T Page, \$15.00/hour, eff. 8/4/2023
Ospina, Amanda; Librarian Trainee, \$49,859.00/year, eff. 8/7/2023
Keefe, Olivia; P/T Page, \$15.00/hour, eff. 8/11/2023
Grullon, Arkenny; P/T Page, \$15.00/hour, eff. 8/11/2023
Tapia, Erik; P/T Page, \$15.00/hour, eff. 9/9/2023
Collins, Laurel; P/T Page, \$15.00/hour, eff. 9/9/2023
Padilla, Ingrid; Permanent Clerk I Spanish Speaking, \$43,075.00/yr, eff. 9/15/2023
Somersall, Tara; Provisional Librarian IV, \$99,260.00/yr, eff. 9/18/2023
Coto-Chang, Oswaldo; Temporary Librarian III, \$77,704.00/yr, eff. 9/18/2023

Acknowledged the following terminations:

Molina, Glenda; Permanent Clerk I Spanish Speaking, \$45,689.00/yr, eff. 7/27/2023
Rodriguez, Jocelyn; P/T Page, \$15.00/hour, eff. 8/4/2023
Pimentel-Cano, Isanel; Permanent Clerk I Spanish Speaking, \$45,689.00/yr; eff. 8/17/2023
Jones, Zaniah; P/T Page, \$15.00/hour, eff. 8/26/2023
Bielemeier, Joan; Permanent Clerk I Typist, \$45,689.00/yr, eff. 9/5/2023
Howell, Crystal; P/T Page, \$15.00/hour, eff. 9/7/2023

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance, Budget & Planning- Jannetti (chair)

On motion of Trustee Jannetti, seconded by Trustee Phelan and unanimously carried, the Board authorized Business Manager Presedo to renew the following certificate of deposit:

10/11/2023 John Jutkowitz Fund: Sunnyside Federal Savings & Loans Bank, 12 mo. CD,
\$11,188.76, 1.49%

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10/11/2023 Contributions Fund: Sunnyside Federal Savings & Loans Bank, 12 mo. CD,
\$65,759.72, 1.49%

10/11/2023 Rita Murphy Fund: Sunnyside Federal Savings & Loans Bank, 12 mo. CD,
\$5,580.63, 1.49%

10/11/2023 David Kogan Fund: Sunnyside Federal Savings & loans Bank, 12 mo. CD,
\$5,285.51, 1.49%

10/27/2023 Contributions Fund: Sunnyside Federal Savings & Loans Bank, 12 mo. CD,
\$54,572.61, 1.49%

Fundraising & Development – Jannetti (chair)

Foundation Update: President Maron reported that the Foundation was considering dates for the next spring gala and expects it to be sometime around the end of April or beginning of May.

Policy – Sabatino (chair)

On motion of Trustee Sabatino, seconded by Trustee Puglia and unanimously carried, the Board added the Alcohol Use on Library Property Authorization Request Form to the Policy to Allow Alcoholic Beverage Service in the Library at Non-Library Events.

President Maron asked trustees to consider how the library selects material and to review the Material Selection Policy for a discussion of it at the next meeting.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

On motion of Trustee Daily, seconded by Trustee Jannetti and unanimously carried, the Board approved payment of bills as listed on Schedule #854 & #855.

NEW BUSINESS

Director Montero asked the Board to review and approve the Assurance and Authentication of the Application for State Aid for Library Construction Program for the FY23-24 Crestwood Library Refurbishment and Sustainability Project. On motion of Trustee Jannetti, seconded by Trustee Puglia and unanimously carried, the Board approved the Assurance and Authentication as presented in its report.

Union President Savarese and Director Montero asked President Maron to briefly recess the meeting to allow them to speak in private. President Maron recessed the meeting at 7:23 pm. They returned and President Maron called the meeting to order at 7:28 pm.

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Director Montero introduced Dominick Savarese, SEIU 704B Union President. Mr. Savarese noted that a tentative agreement on the labor contract had been reached, while still subject to revision and ratification by the Union and Board of Trustees

PUBLIC COMMENT

President Maron gave the floor to those who signed up for public comment. Several members of the staff and community spoke at length about the value of library service to the community, their positive experiences at the library, and their hope library workers are rewarded with a new contract, but also concern that acrimonious contract negotiations could jeopardize service.

President Maron noted the participation of the Board's newest Trustee, Ofunne Edoziem, who was recently sworn-in after the last meeting. Trustee Edoziem introduced herself as a new member of the Yonkers community and her background as an attorney. She was pleased to serve on the Board and was happy to hear of the new progress in contract negotiations.

President Maron recessed the meeting at 7:48 pm to allow the guests to leave the room before an expected executive session.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

President Maron called the meeting to order and motioned the Board into Executive Session at 7:59 pm to discuss collective negotiations. The Board exited the session at 8:19 pm.

NEXT BOARD MEETING DATE – Thursday, October 19, 2023 at Crestwood Library.

On motion of Trustee Sabatino, seconded by Trustee Puglia and unanimously carried, the Board adjourned the Meeting at 8:19 pm.

Jesse Montero
Library Director & Secretary