

YONKERS PUBLIC LIBRARY
BOARD MEETING
ELECTRONIC MEETING
OCTOBER 15, 2020

ATTENDANCE

TRUSTEES:	Nancy Maron Josephine Ilarraza Joseph Puglia John Saraceno Hon. Michael Sabatino Darryl J. Mack
LIBRARY DIRECTOR:	Jesse Montero
DEPUTY DIRECTOR:	Susan Thaler
BUSINESS MANAGER:	Vivian Presedo
ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY:	James Hackett
WLS BOARD REPRESENTATIVE:	Trustee Puglia
UNION REPRESENTATIVE:	Arnaldo Torres
GUESTS:	Dominick Savarese, Brandon Neider, Carlos Figueroa, Zahra Baird, Elizabeth Caruso, Odalys Aguilar, Phyllis Cole, Elyse Schreiber, Rose Bannister, Mary Robison

The Board Meeting was held electronically via ZOOM®, Conference ID# 994 8135 6925.

The Board Meeting began at 7:02 pm.

MINUTES

On motion of Trustee Puglia, seconded and unanimously carried, the Board approved the Minutes of the Meeting of September 17, 2020.

MANAGEMENT REPORT

Director Montero reported that all buildings of Yonkers Public Library remain open and free of any reports of COVID-19 infections among the staff or patrons. Director Montero thanked the staff for their dedication in working to keep the buildings open.

Director Montero updated the Board on YPL's newspaper microfilm digitization project with Newspapers.com. Over 900 reels of microfilm were sent to and scanned by Newspapers.com

and are available to search and browse from YPL computers. The new Yonkers News Archive includes content from the *Yonkers Herald*, *Yonkers Statesman*, *Herald Statesman* and *Yonkers Gazette and Examiner*, ranging in date from 1857 to 1998.

Director Montero updated the Board on YPL's participation in the Yonkers Counts campaign. The 2020 Census ends on October 15 and to date YPL reached 337 households and 953 household members. Director Montero estimated that YPL's effort would lead to over \$23 million in federal assistance over the next decade. He thanked Rose Aviles for leading the project and the staff who worked on it.

Director Montero updated the Board on virtual programming. Virtual programming continues and to date YPL has offered over 720 programs virtually across several platforms with an estimated attendance of over 11,000. Director Montero also announced that over the past month YPL has begun to host a few live, in-person events, such as the reception of an art gallery exhibit at the Riverfront Library. Other live events included public hearings and meetings for the City of Yonkers Police Reform Committee and bus monitor training workshops for Yonkers Public Schools. Director Montero cautioned that while YPL may continue to host upcoming events, such as early voting, he expects these exceptions to be rare and infrequent.

Deputy Director Thaler announced that she will retire in January. She remarked that her time at Yonkers Public Library was the highlight of her career and thanked the Board of Trustees for their support and guidance. She also thanked the staff and the many friends she made while serving YPL. President Maron and the Board of Trustees expressed their gratitude for her service and looked forward to celebrating her at some point in the future. Director Montero also thanked her for her support and partnership over the last several months.

UNION REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT

President Savarese reported that there are many patrons who enter the building without masks and asked Management to follow up with the security staff to make sure patrons who enter the building without masks are asked to leave. Director Montero agreed and would speak with security. President Savarese also noted that protective personal equipment (PPE) is running low at the Grinton I. Will Library and asked that Management look into adequately supplying the building.

President Savarese reported that he received an inquiry about the Employee Assistance Program (EAP) from a staff member and subsequently learned that YPL is not covered under the City's plan and as a result this service was not available to the staff member. He asked that Management consider adding this to their budget request for 2022. Director Montero agreed and stated he was investigating how the EAP may be restored.

WLS REPORT

Trustee Puglia reported that he discussed criteria for the appropriate distribution of funds at the last WLS Board of Trustees meeting. Trustee Puglia stated he believes that Yonkers Public Library ought to receive more funding considering its size and contributions. He asked WLS to reconfigure its fund distribution formulas. Trustee Puglia also noted his concern after

learning that several member libraries had not paid their membership dues and promised to discuss it further at the next meeting.

PERSONNEL REPORT

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

Emma Azarcon, P/T Librarian II, \$25.35/hr, eff. 9/18/2020

Acknowledged the following terminations:

Magnus Guzman, P/T Page, \$13.00/hr, eff. 9/12/2020

William Buckhana, P/T Page, \$13.00/hr, eff. 9/12/2020

Maureen Crowley, P/T Page, \$13.00/hr, eff. 3/14/2020

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance, Budget & Planning - Maron, Jannetti, Puglia.

On motion of Trustee Sabatino, seconded and unanimously carried, the Board authorized Business Manager Presedo to renew or find accounts with the best rates for the following certificate:

10/27/2020 Contributions Fund, Sunnyside Federal Savings & Loans Bank, 12 mo. CD, \$53,097.68, 2.05%

Employee Relations - Maron, Puglia.

Buildings & Grounds - Maron, Saraceno

Policy – Maron, Ilarraza, Sabatino.

Fundraising & Development – Maron, Jannetti, Mack.

Foundation update: President Maron announced the launch of a virtual fundraising campaign for the Foundation. No event or gala has been planned yet, but the Foundation is discussing ideas and potential guests.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

On motion of Trustee Saraceno, seconded and unanimously carried, the Board approved payment of bills as listed on Schedule #820.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Director Montero updated the Board on plans to address implicit bias and racial sensitivity at YPL following a request from staff. An equity and inclusion committee of staff was formed to discuss ideas and advise on how to make YPL more accessible and welcoming to the public and staff. Progress was made on preparing appropriate training for the staff after reaching

out to the City of Yonkers Human Resources, however other options were still being investigated as well.

NEW BUSINESS

Management and the Board discussed the upcoming 2020 holiday season and the proposed Holiday Schedule for calendar year 2021, as well as its tradition of closing early for the Christmas Eve holiday. On motion of Trustee Saraceno, seconded and unanimously carried, the Board approved closing Yonkers Public Library at 12:00 noon on Thursday, December 24, 2020.

In light of the staff's exceptional work while the buildings were closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic and their ongoing efforts to maintain high public health and safety standards, Director Montero asked that the Board also consider closing on Saturday, December 26, 2020. He noted that this would not be a precedent and was only in recognition of the staff's extraordinary service this year. On motion of Trustee Sabatino, seconded and unanimously carried, the Board approved closing YPL on Saturday, December 26, 2020.

On motion of Trustee Sabatino, seconded and unanimously carried, the Board approved the proposed 2021 Holiday Schedule.

President Maron mentioned that Trustee Mack's term comes to an end at the end of the year. She will remind the Board of Education to open a call for Trustees. As per past practice, should the sitting Trustee wish to seek a new term, he can submit an application once the call has been issued.

Director Montero announced that the FY2022 budget season is approaching and suggested meeting with members of the Finance, Budget and Planning Committee prior to the next scheduled Board meeting. The Committee agreed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

President Maron motioned the Board into Executive Session at 7:44 pm to discuss a personnel matter. The session ended at 8:06 pm.

NEXT BOARD MEETING DATE – Thursday, November 19, 2020

On motion of Trustee Ilarraza, the Meeting adjourned at 8:06 pm.

Jesse Montero
Library Director & Secretary