

YONKERS PUBLIC LIBRARY
BOARD MEETING
ELECTRONIC MEETING
SEPTEMBER 9, 2021

ATTENDANCE

TRUSTEES:	Nancy Maron Steven Jannetti Joseph Puglia Dr. Stephan Giuffrida Josephine Ilarraza Hon. Michael Sabatino
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:	Dominick Savarese, Mary Robison, Elizabeth Caruso, Carlos Figueroa, Zahra Baird, Eileen Fusco, Laura Cacace, Sumie Hernandez-Moss, Arnaldo Torres, Rose Avilés, Emily Power

The Board Meeting was held electronically via ZOOM ®, Conference ID# 847 5387 4062

The Board Meeting began at 7:00 pm

MINUTES

On motion of Trustee Puglia, seconded and unanimously carried, the Board approved the Minutes of the Meeting of July 13, 2021.

MANAGEMENT REPORT

Director Montero announced that Yonkers Public Library began to fill many of its outstanding staff vacancies for the first time in over a year and a half. Since the last meeting librarians Oswaldo Coto-Chang and Laura Cacace were hired, as well as Deputy Director Shauna Porteus. Ms. Cacace and Deputy Director Porteus were present at the meeting and briefly introduced themselves. Director Montero also announced that a new Spanish-Speaking

Librarian civil service position had been created and he looked forward to building a more diverse workforce that better represents the communities it serves.

Director Montero reported that one staff member at Riverfront Library had tested positive for COVID-19 since the last meeting. The staff member has since recovered and returned to work in building. Director Montero also reported that since the last meeting he had met with the Policy Committee to discuss the status of YPL's safety policies and decided to maintain them in light of the prevalence of the Delta variant of the coronavirus. He also noted that the City of Yonkers had recently announced a policy requiring all staff to be either fully vaccinated or submit to weekly testing. Although the details of the policy were still being negotiated, he announced it was his intention to make a similar policy for YPL staff once it is finalized.

Director Montero updated the Board on several technology projects already underway. Nearly 100 iPads, Chromebooks, laptops and desktop PCs have arrived or en route and will replace aging equipment at all three locations and create training labs for programming in the Senator Flynn Room at Grinton I. Will Library and the Community Room at Riverfront. Wifi upgrades at Will has also enabled access up to 75 feet into the parking lot and similar wifi upgrades at Riverfront are expected to be completed in the near future.

Director Montero also announced that YPL had applied for funding under the Federal Communication Commission's (FCC) E-rate program. E-rate is an FCC program designed to make technology and broadband services more affordable for schools and libraries. Based on its size and the economic status of the community it serves, YPL is eligible for up to \$400,000 in funding, of which \$150,000 was applied for. He is hopeful it will continue to enhance wireless infrastructure and improve access in the Riverfront Auditorium and Atrium.

Director Montero acknowledged that YPL continues to have difficulty with many IT services provided by WLS, specifically the performance of the Evergreen ILS. Many staff and patrons are frustrated with the platform and although WLS is working to improve it, progress has been slow. He thanked Carlos Figueroa for his leadership in the many ongoing technology projects.

Director Montero updated the Board on several programs held over the summer. Earlier in the month Will and Riverfront hosted vaccination clinics. The Westchester County Department of Health administered 165 doses of the Pfizer vaccine at Riverfront on August 21 and 39 doses at Will on August 27. Additional clinics are scheduled in September.

Over 3,600 summer meals were distributed to children in need over six weeks as part of Yonkers Public Schools' "Grab 'n' Go" program, most of which were distributed at Riverfront. JCY-Westchester Community Partners also modified its popular Summer Reading Buddies program at Riverfront to allow more than 230 students and 160 mentors to participate virtually and at limited in-person activities on Fridays.

Director Montero announced that over 830 patrons participated in its "Tails and Tales" summer reading program which featured online reading challenges and several limited in-person activities related to the theme, including a program that encouraged children to read to a therapy dog.

Director Montero updated the Board on the state of YPL buildings following the aftermath of Hurricane Ida earlier in the month. Minor damage was sustained at Riverfront and Will, however the significant amount of rain caused substantial flooding at Crestwood Library,

necessitating a temporary return to limited contact-free pick-up services while the building is repaired and furniture is replaced, including new carpeting and water-proof doors. He added that Will is hosting New York State Department of Financial Services and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to assist those who have been affected by the natural disaster.

UNION REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT

President Savarese confirmed that labor unions in the city were in negotiations with the City of Yonkers on its new vaccination and testing requirements. He noted that Governor Hochul recently postponed the requirement for state employees to be vaccinated or test regularly to October 12 and he expects the City to do the same shortly as none of the unions have yet agreed to City proposals.

WLS REPORT

Trustee Puglia reported that there was no meeting in July or August, however he asked Director Montero for his thoughts on a proposed rate schedule for WLS IT services to member libraries. Director Montero replied that he received a proposal with two billing models, one based on library size and the other on service use. He believes the latter is more favorable to YPL, but acknowledged the majority of member libraries voted for the former. As a result a 4% increase was enacted.

PERSONNEL REPORT

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

Ortega, Alessandra, P/T Page, \$14.00/hr, eff. 7/9/2021
Rice, Jasmine, P/T Page, \$14.00/hr, eff. 7/23/2021
Hernandez, Kayla, P/T Page, \$14.00/hr, eff. 7/23/2021
Hogan, Erin, P/T Page, \$14.00/hr, eff. 8/6/2021
Rabadi-Santana, Renee, Permanent Librarian II, \$65,109.00/yr, eff. 8/20/2021
Fusco, Eileen, Permanent Librarian II, \$65,109.00/yr, eff. 8/20/2021
Coto-Chang, Oswaldo, Permanent Librarian I, \$58,449.00/yr, eff. 8/24/2021
Porter, Abreya, P/T Page, \$14.00/hr, eff. 8/20/2021
Porteus, Shauna, Provisional Asst. Library Director, \$129,000.00/yr, eff. 9/1/2021
Loftus, Fifer Charlie, P/T Page, \$14.00/hr, eff. 8/27/2021
Cacace, Laura, Permanent Librarian I, \$56,694.00/yr, eff. 9/3/2021
Eisenberg, Jason, Permanent Clerk II, \$46,313.00/yr, eff. 9/3/2021
Nowak, Mary, Permanent Clerk II, \$47,776.00/yr, eff. 9/3/2021

The Board acknowledged the following termination:

Joseph, Philomina, Permanent Clerk II, \$50,701/yr, eff. 9/9/2021 (retired)

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance, Budget & Planning – Maron, Jannetti, Saraceno. President Maron asked the Committee to prepare to discuss a budget proposal for the next fiscal year.

Employee Relations – Maron, Puglia. President Maron suggested a return of the Board’s old practice of spotlighting a different staff member at each meeting whenever conditions allow.

Buildings & Grounds – Maron, Puglia, Giuffrida

Policy – Maron, Ilarraza, Sabatino

Fundraising & Development – Maron, Jannetti

Foundation update: Trustee Maron reported that there was no meeting of the Foundation in August.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

On motion of Trustee Jannetti, seconded and unanimously carried, the Board approved payment of bills as listed on Schedules #829b, #830 and #831.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Director Montero repeated that YPL’s public safety policy and code of conduct remains in place as is, but that it will be updated after an announcement from the City following its negotiations with labor unions.

Trustee Jannetti asked Director Montero what impact he expects President Biden’s recent announcement on vaccination requirements for businesses with over 100 employees will have on YPL. Director Montero replied that while it was still being assessed, YPL has fewer than 100 full-time employees and he expects there might be exceptions for government employees and that the update following the City’s announcement would likely satisfy the President’s requirement regardless.

Trustee Sabatino announced that he had difficulty with audio and asked that his vote on the previous action be counted affirmatively for the record. He also announced that the City of Yonkers was very recently the victim of a ransomware cyberattack. While this has not directly affected YPL, he asked that library staff be mindful of the effect this will have on City operations and be patient while equipment is repaired and staff work remotely.

NEW BUSINESS

President Maron announced that funding had been secured to produce a new strategic 5 year plan, with assistance from the Foundation. An outside consultant was contracted to supervise the process and plan interviews and focus groups.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Board President Maron motioned the Board into Executive Session at 7:35 pm to discuss a personnel matter. The session ended at 8:02 pm. Following the session, the Board adopted the following resolution:

RESOLVED, the Board of Trustees of the Yonkers Public Library approves the side letter of agreement to the contract between Yonkers Public Library and Service Employees International Union 704b and its memorandum of agreement.

NEXT BOARD MEETING DATE – Thursday, October 21 at a location to be determined.

On motion of Trustee Jannetti, the Meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm.

Jesse Montero
Library Director & Secretary