



NYLA Council Meeting Minutes

Thursday, May 2, 2024

3:15 PM to 4:45 PM

Online via Zoom

NYLA President, Lisa Kropp Presiding

In Attendance:

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| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lisa Kropp, <i>President</i> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Michael Bartolomeo, <i>SMART Representative</i> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tim Spindler, <i>President-Elect</i> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lisa Perkowski, <i>SSL Representative</i> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Arlene Laverde, <i>Immediate Past President</i> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Joyce Laiosa, <i>YSS Representative</i> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Frank McKenna, <i>Treasurer</i> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rebecca Budinger-Mulhearn, <i>Councilor-at-Large</i> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Matt Bollerman, <i>Treasurer-Elect</i> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Laura Schiefer, <i>Councilor-at-Large</i> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Keturah Cappadonia, <i>ALA Chapter Councilor</i> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ginger Tebo, <i>Councilor-at-Large</i> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ryan Perry, <i>ASLS President</i> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Caitlin Kenney, <i>Councilor-at-Large</i> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kristin Charles-Scaringi, <i>IDEAS President</i> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kerrie Burch, <i>Councilor-at-Large</i> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sarah O'Shea, <i>LAMS Representative</i> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AnnaLee Dragon, <i>Executive Director (ex-officio)</i> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jean Currie, <i>LTAS President</i> | |

Absent:

Jerrie Grantham, *FLS Representative*

Rakisha Kearns-White, *Councilor-at-Large*

Joe Burke, *PLS President*

Guests:

C Romeo, *NYLA Director of Communications and Member Engagement*

Lauren Hoyt, *NYLA Director of Association Operations*

Ann DeLucco, *BST Auditors*

Nancy Howe

Chris Lund, *FLS President*

Maureen Squier

Council Meeting Agenda

1. Welcome

NYLA President Lisa Kropp called the meeting to order at 3:15pm and welcomed the group. Kropp also noted that NYLA Immediate Past President Arlene Laverde won an award with her students from the American Association of School Librarians, the Roald Dahl's Miss Honey Social Justice Award. This award recognizes and encourages collaboration and partnerships between school librarians and teachers in teaching social justice through joint planning of a program, unit, or event. The NYLA Council congratulates Arlene and her students on this wonderful achievement.

2. Review of Agenda

NYLA Executive Director AnnaLee Dragon requested that a discussion about a Disaster Relief Fund request by the Troy Public Library be added as item B under New Business.

MOTION I: Motion to approve the agenda as amended.

Made by: Tim Spindler

Seconded by: Arlene Laverde

Approved unanimously.

3. Approval of Minutes from March 14, 2024 NYLA Council Meeting

MOTION II: Motion to approve Minutes from March 14, 2024 NYLA Council Meeting.

Made by: Kristin Charles-Scaringi Seconded by: Rebecca Budinger-Mulhearn

Approved unanimously.

4. Treasurer's Report

a. March Financial Statement

Treasurer Frank McKenna reviewed the March Financial Statement. We are at almost 10 months in our fiscal year. Nothing major to report, we are on track.

b. FY2022-2023 Audit Presentation with Ann DeLuco of BST

This is the second year that BST has conducted the NYLA audit, and the firm also handles the filing of NYLA's 990 tax forms and CHAR500 submissions. Last year, we had an adverse opinion due to NYLA's inability to provide the necessary documentation and due to several NYLA practices breaking Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP). This year, after removing the Due to Units liabilities and creating a single complete NYLA budget as per the Council-approved recommendations of the Balanced Budget Task Force, NYLA received a clean and unmodified audit opinion, which is a big accomplishment after the difficulties in previous years. There were notes about work still to be done, in both policy creation/updating and checks and balances procedures. This work is already underway via the NYLA Governance Committee and the NYLA Audit and Finance Committee.

MOTION III: Motion to accept the report of the audit results as presented by BST.

Made by: Matt Bollerman Seconded by: Jean Currie

Approved unanimously.

c. FY2024-2025 Draft NYLA Operating Budget

NYLA Executive Director AnnaLee Dragon presented the draft FY2024-2025 Budget, as approved by the Audit and Finance Committee. She noted that the Committee had come up with a 3-year plan to balance NYLA's budget, which means significant cuts or increases in income will be needed to accomplish that. Audit and Finance Committee Chair Laura Schiefer thanked the Committee for the work they had done to produce this draft. She also noted that this was the first year that the NYLA units had submitted budget requests, so this process was very different than in prior years. The Committee is very serious about balancing the budget, and so made decisions about what to fund and what to not fund of Unit requests based on that commitment to a zero deficit. Some categories were not funded to any unit as a result, including excessive board expenses, donations to outside organizations, etc. While these may be considered in the future when NYLA's financial situation is different, for right now they are not being recommended or funded. Treasurer Elect Matt Bollerman also noted that this is a solvable problem, by all members working to increase membership dues and attendance at NYLA Annual Conference. The more income NYLA has, the more money that NYLA and its Units can spend.

5. Unfinished Business

a. Code of Ethics Policy

MOTION IV: Motion to approve the Code of Ethics Policy as presented by the Governance Committee.

Made by: Matt Bollerman Seconded by: Joyce Laiosa

Approved unanimously.

b. Code of Conduct Policy

MOTION V: Motion to approve the Code of Conduct Policy as presented by the Governance Committee.
Made by: Ginger Tebo Seconded by: Tim Spindler
Approved unanimously.

c. Social Media Policy

MOTION VI: Motion to approve the Social Media Policy as presented by the Governance Committee.
Made by: Kerrie Burch Seconded by: Frank McKenna
Approved unanimously.

d. External Communications Policy

MOTION VII: Motion to approve the External Communications Policy as presented by the Governance Committee.
Made by: Rebecca Budinger-Mulhearn Seconded by: Frank McKenna
Approved unanimously.

6. New Business

a. Mission Statement

- i. *Current Statement:* NYLA leads, educates, and advocates for the advancement of the New York library community.
- ii. *Proposed Statement:* NYLA empowers, educates, and engages the New York library community.

Some Council members felt that the updated version of the statement didn't directly capture advocacy which is a vital service NYLA provides. Others felt that the Mission Statement re-writing should happen as part of the larger Strategic Planning process, rather than in advance of the process. There was also discussion of the age of our current logo, and of rebranding as part of the Strategic Planning process as well.

MOTION VIII: Motion to approve the revised Mission Statement as presented by the Governance Committee.
Made by: Jean Currie Seconded by: Ginger Tebo
Motion tabled. Statement will be returned to Governance Committee for further discussion.

b. Disaster Relief Request from Troy Public Library

NYLA Executive Director AnnaLee Dragon read an email from Evelyn Greenstein, the President of the Board of Trustees of the Troy Public Library. It read as follows:

Good morning AnnaLee,

Last Friday was the first time I learned about the NYLA disaster fund. I'm following up on your suggestion to write to you informally about the situation at the Troy Public Library's Lansingburgh Branch. Toward the end of December 2023, as a result of the horrendous rainstorm in the Capital District, the Branch was flooded. Water poured through the ceiling and light fixtures of what was the recently created children's area. Walls, areas of the tin ceiling, newly installed rugs, flooring, and sub floors had to be removed - and discarded. Our insurance claim has been denied three times. While mitigation is complete, restoration is not possible at this time. The Branch has however reopened albeit with limited space capacity.

Thank you for giving me this opportunity to write to you about 'the Burgh'. Please let me know what I - or the Library - needs to do from this point or what additional information you need.

Thank you again and have a good, disaster free day.
Evelyn

MOTION IX: Motion to approve a \$1,000 donation to the Troy Public Library from NYLA's Disaster Relief Fund to aid in repairs from their flooded Lansingburgh Branch library building.

Made by: Jean Currie Seconded by: Michael Bartolomeo

Approved unanimously.

6. President's Report

Lisa Kropp submitted a report, and added that she had attended the Connecticut Library Conference and Mychal Threats was the keynote speaker. She got some good ideas for a membership booth and ribbons for this year's NYLA Conference.

7. Past President's Report

Arlene Laverde submitted a written report, adding that she will be co-chairing the American Association of School Librarians 2025 Conference.

8. President-Elect's Report

Tim Spindler submitted a written report.

9. Executive Director's Report

AnnaLee Dragon submitted a written report. Also included was a membership report. She added that NYLA had done a press release on the NYSED Commissioner of Education's decision in the Clyde-Savannah book censorship case. NYLA's amicus brief was cited in the decision, and the decision as well as the brief and the press release are available on NYLA's website. The new NYLA Intern, Anna Varney, is starting next week as well. Lastly, May 31, 2024 is the end of open enrollment for NYLA's first fixed membership year, so please encourage all members to join the new database if they haven't already. All Council members, Unit Leaders, and Committee members must be active NYLA members to retain their roles.

10. Legislative Report

Max Prime submitted a written report.

11. Section/ALA/Committee Reports

Written reports were submitted.

12. Review/Adjournment

Executive Director AnnaLee Dragon noted that the first round of the NYLA Bonfire t-shirt campaign has finished, and raised over \$3,200. It sold 261 shirts and garnered over \$550 in donations as well. It was a huge success, so thank you to Kelly Harris and the Sponsorship and Fundraising Committee for making it happen!

MOTION X: Motion to adjourn the meeting.

Made by: Arlene Laverde Seconded by: Kerrie Burch

Approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 4:42pm.

Next Council Meeting: Thursday, June 13 via Zoom at 3:15pm.