



NYLA Council Meeting Notes

Thursday, February 4, 2021

1:30 PM to 4:00 PM

Online via Web conference

NYLA President, Claudia Depkin, Presiding

In Attendance: Claudia Depkin, *President*; Dr. Jen Cannell, *Immediate Past President*; Beth Merkle *President-Elect*; Grace Riario, *Treasurer-Elect*; Jim Teliha, *ASLS President*; Karen Sperrazza, *FLS President*; Jean Currie, *LTA President*; Jennifer Byrnes, *PLS President*; Alana Mutum, *RASS Representative*; Todd Schlitt, *SCLA Representative*; Steve Bachman, *SMART President*; Dawn Pressimone, *SSL President*; Amanda Schiavulli, *YSS President*; Simone Yearwood, *Councilor-at-Large*; Lisa Kropp, *Councilor-at-Large*; Kristina Graves, *Councilor-at-Large*; Cassie Guthrie, *ALA Chapter Councilor*; Jeremy Johannesen, *NYLA Executive Director (ex-officio)*

Absent: Roger Reyes, *Treasurer*; Annalee Dragon, *LAMS Representative*; Tom Vitale, *Councilor-at-Large*; Jane Verostek, *Councilor-at-Large*; Ana E. Canino-Fluit, *Councilor-at-Large*

Guests: Nicola McDonald, *LAMS President*; Andrea Snyder, *Pioneer Library System*; Maura Albertson, *Ulster BOCES School Library System*; Laurie Dreyer, *NYLA Membership Committee Chair*; Briana McNamee, *NYLA Director of Government Relations & Advocacy*; Christina Romeo, *NYLA Communications & Marketing Manager*

Council Meeting Agenda

1. Welcome / Review of Agenda
2. Approval of Minutes from December 17, 2020 NYLA Council Meeting

MOTION I: Motion to approve the minutes from the December 17, 2020 NYLA Council Meeting as presented.

Made by: Grace Riario, Seconded by: Karen Sperrazza

Passed unanimously.

3. Finance Report
 - a. December Monthly Statement

Treasurer-elect Grace Riario presented the December statement. Net income is projected to end the fiscal year below our projected 235K deficit, though still remaining in a deficit position. Grace encouraged Council members to push their networks and libraries to join NYLA, as membership dues are our second largest revenue source.

4. Unfinished Business
 - a. Pathways to Librarianship Task Force Charge

Based on applications following the December 4 Town Hall, members have been appointed and have crafted a charge, timeline, and deliverables of the Task Force. It was confirmed that the group would need to be reauthorized should its work continue beyond 2021.

MOTION II: Motion to approve the creation of a Pathways to Librarianship Task Force, reflective of the mission and deliverables as presented, to complete its charge by December 31, 2021.

Made by: Dr. Jen Cannell, Seconded by: Steve Bachman.

Passed unanimously.

b. Library Futures Update

James Teliha attended an information session regarding Library Futures, and shared insights gained. Council reaffirmed their previous position to monitor the group and defer to ALA on any formal endorsement.

5. New Business

a. NYLA Legislative Committee At-Large Position Appointment

Based on the newly established authority vested with committee chairs to make recommendations to fill vacant at-large committee seats, Cassie Guthrie put forward Tessa Killian of the Southeastern NY Library Resources Council.

MOTION III: Motion to approve the appointment of Tessa Killian as an at-large member of the Legislative Committee through November 1, 2021.

Made by: Grace Riario, Seconded by: Jean Currie.

Passed unanimously.

b. NYLA Communications Committee At-Large Position Appointments

Communication Committee Chair Kerstin Cruger has put forward two nominees to fill at-large vacancies on the Communications Committee.

MOTION IV: Motion to approve the appointment of Courtney Tsahalís (néé Wimmers) of the Millbrook Library for an appointment until November 1, 2021, and also Catherine Michael from Ithaca College until November 1, 2022.

Made by: Karen Sperrazza, Seconded by: Dr. Jen Cannell.

Passed unanimously.

c. NY iii (Inclusive Internship Initiative)

Andrea Snyder, Pioneer Library System and Cassie Guthrie, discussed the plans to replicate the Public Library Association iii program for New York State for Summer 2022. Currently creative solutions to the challenge of funding the program are being pursued. As plans progress, Council will be updated. NYLA staff has committed to provide administrative support to the project.

6. Executive Committee Reports

a. President's Report

Claudia Depkin reviewed her written report to include updates on the Civil Service Committee and Pathways to Librarianship Task Force.

b. President-Elect's Report

Beth Merkle reviewed her written report, and is looking forward to getting more involved in advocacy work.

c. Immediate Past President's Report

Dr. Jen Cannell reviewed her written report to include: The Sustainability Initiative - School Library Certification Program is progressing. The School Librarian Advocacy Working Group continues with partnership from SLSA leadership, SSL leadership, and NYLA Legislation Committee to determine new legislation to tackle pre-K to 12 students access to certified school librarians. The NYLA Awards Review Task Force will be meeting on February 3 and will update on the work soon.

7. Executive Director's Report

Jeremy Johannesen reviewed his written report and amended to include:

- Dana Sinclair has resigned as RASS President and Alana Mutum has become the new RASS President.
- Ana E. Canino-Fluit resigned as Councilor-at-Large. The nominating Committee will identify candidates and we will run a special election within 60 days.

- The 2021 NYLA Annual Conference is currently expected to be an in-person event. However, contingency plans are being developed should we have to go virtual. This decision will be made by August 1. Trade Show registration will open on 3/1.
- NYLA issued a statement that library workers who have contact with the public should be included in vaccination phase 1b. This remains a local county-by-county issue. Additional advocacy is being weighed.
- NYLA is due for a new Strategic Plan. The process will be presented in future meetings; a task force will be established to craft a draft plan to present to the Council.

8. Legislative Report

Briana McNamee provided updates on legislative activities including:

- [Library Advocacy Day website](#) is LIVE and is being consistently updated, including materials and other items. Advocacy is not seasonal, and a lot of these materials will have us engage with our local, state, and federal officials throughout the year.
- The [Legislative Agenda page](#) has had a major overhaul.
- The School Librarian Working group has been meeting and discussing the School Librarian Bill 2.0.
- We now have a NYS Senate Library Committee that is chaired by Senator Sean Ryan; Assemblywoman Kim Jean-Pierre has been appointed Chair of the Assembly Committee on Libraries & Education Technology.
- A briefing for legislative staffers, in partnership with PULISDO, SLSA and ESLN is being held with over 80 offices registered.
- Make sure to [register](#) for Library Advocacy Day Legislative & Social Media Advocacy Briefing on Monday, February 22nd at 330PM.

9. Section / Roundtable / ALA / Committee Reports

All groups presented their written reports and answered questions as needed.

The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 3:19PM.