



*The Voice of the Library Community*

## New York Library Association

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### **NYLA Council Special Meeting Minutes**

Thursday, November 18, 2021

4:00PM – 4:30 PM

Conducted Via Zoom

NYLA President, Beth Merkle, Presiding

**In Attendance:** Beth Merkle, President; Arlene Laverde, President-Elect; Barbara Stripling, Immediate Past President; Kelly Harris, Treasurer; Frank McKenna, Treasurer-Elect; Cassie Guthrie, ALA Chapter Councilor; Angela Hackstadt, ASLS President; Kerstin Cruger, FLS President; Jean Currie, LTAS President; Meg VanPatten, PLS President; Annalee Dragon, LAMS Representative; Dawn Pressimone, SSL President; Amanda Schiavulli, YSS President; Alana Mutum, RASS Representative; Simone Yearwood, Councilor-at-Large; Lisa Kropp, Councilor-at-Large; Laura Osterhout, Councilor-at-Large; Rebecca Budinger-Mulhearn, Councilor-at-Large; Ginger Tebo, Councilor-at-Large; Rosemarie Gatzek, SMART President.

**Absent:** SCLA Representative [VACANT]

**Guests:** Michelle Young, Maria Martinez, Julie Kelsall-Dempsey, Amanda Travis, Terry Lucas.

### Council Meeting Agenda

1. Welcome / Review of Agenda
2. Position Statement on the Defense of Intellectual Freedom

The New York Library Association (NYLA) reaffirms its commitment to protecting and upholding intellectual freedom and the freedom to read. We advocate for the rights of all patrons to access information on a variety of topics and viewpoints without restrictions, which is a fundamental act of participation in a democracy. With the increasing number of challenges, especially for books regarding race and LGBTQ+ communities, New York's school libraries and librarians are being pressured to censor and restrict access to information. Parents have the right to set restrictions for their own children, but no person or group has the right to deny access to all readers. This principle applies equally to the free access of information in other types of libraries as well.

Libraries are unique institutions of education and knowledge that provide information with impartiality and balance. Library materials are carefully selected by professionally trained librarians to represent a broad range of ideas and opinions and appeal to the needs and interests of all members of their communities. In a democratic society, partisan disagreements cannot dictate the decision to remove such materials.

**Therefore, the New York Library Association stands firmly opposed to the restriction, removal, and/or censorship of books and other library materials in an attempt to limit the freedom to read or obstruct intellectual freedom.**

**MOTION:** Motion to accept the aforementioned statement to serve as NYLA's position on the defense of intellectual freedom.

Made by: Ginger Tebo

Seconded by: Meg Van Patten

Approved unanimously

### 3. Review/Adjournment

**MOTION II:** Motion to end the meeting at 4:15pm

Made by: Kelly Harris

Seconded by: Dawn Pressimone

Approved unanimously

Respectfully submitted,  
Beth Merkle, NYLA President  
December 15, 2021