



**NYLA Council Meeting Minutes**

Thursday, June 13, 2024

3:15 PM to 4:45 PM

Online via Zoom

NYLA President, Lisa Kropp Presiding

**In Attendance:**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lisa Kropp, <i>President</i>                     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Joe Burke, <i>PLS President</i>                        |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tim Spindler, <i>President-Elect</i>             | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Maureen Squier, <i>SSL President</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"/> Matt Bollerman, <i>Treasurer-Elect</i>           | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rebecca Budinger-Mulhearn, <i>Councilor-at-Large</i>   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Keturah Cappadonia, <i>ALA Chapter Councilor</i> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Laura Schiefer, <i>Councilor-at-Large</i>              |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ryan Perry, <i>ASLS President</i>                | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ginger Tebo, <i>Councilor-at-Large</i>                 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jerrie Grantham, <i>FLS Representative</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> |

**Absent:**

- Frank McKenna, *Treasurer*
- Jean Currie, *LTAS President*
- Michael Bartolomeo, *SMART Representative*
- Rakisha Kearns-White, *Councilor-at-Large*

**Guests:**

- Lauren Hoyt, *NYLA Director of Association Operations*
- Max Prime, *NYLA Director of Government Relations and Advocacy*
- C Romeo, *NYLA Director of Communications and Member Engagement*
- Anna Maria Varney, *NYLA Intern*
- Joe Furnari
- Molly Clark
- Dawn Pressimone

**Council Meeting Agenda**

1. Welcome  
NYLA President Lisa Kropp called the meeting to order at 3:16pm and welcomed the group.

2. Review of Agenda

**MOTION I:** Motion to approve the agenda as amended.  
 Made by: Keturah Cappadonia                      Seconded by: Joyce Laiosa  
 Approved unanimously.

3. Approval of Minutes from May 2, 2024 NYLA Council Meeting

**MOTION II:** Motion to approve Minutes from May 2, 2024 NYLA Council Meeting.  
 Made by: Tim Spindler                      Seconded by: Kerrie Burch  
 Approved unanimously.

#### 4. Treasurer's Report

##### a. May Financial Statement

Executive Director AnnaLee Dragon reviewed the May Financial Statement, noting that while the fiscal year has another month yet to go, NYLA's financial situation is starting to improve. Membership income as of May is around \$200,000, when we had only budgeted for \$160,000, so that is a wonderful outcome. When including the income from conference being greater than anticipated this year as well, NYLA is about \$269,000 over our budgeted income so far this year. Our expenses are also more than budgeted, but not nearly as much over budget as the income, so we expect a smaller deficit than planned for this year. NYLA has had a difficult few years, but the changes we have implemented are starting to bear fruit and we are optimistic for the future financial situation.

##### b. FY2024-2025 Draft NYLA Operating Budget

NYLA President Lisa Kropp asked for questions/comments before a vote to approve the budget. Joyce Laoisa, YSS Representative, expressed YSS' concern that their budget isn't as much as they had requested. Executive Director AnnaLee Dragon noted that some of the expenses requested for YSS that were not included in their approved budget are things that NYLA general accomplishes through our new centralized operational model. Dragon also noted that YSS has only spent \$22,500 this fiscal year thus far, which is less than their approved budget. And lastly Dragon noted that as previously mentioned, there will be a process for NYLA units to request more funds during the fiscal year if appropriate. YSS had hoped for more discussion during the process, and Laura Schiefer noted that the committee had attempted to have discussions with all units, and that this process was new and will be fine tuned in years to come. Schiefer also noted that this was a difficult year for budgeting, but the Audit and Finance Committee has a goal to balance the NYLA budget in 3 years and we are on track to do that, which required a tough look at our spending and income.

SSL President Maureen Squier spoke on behalf of the roundtables that are regional school library groups or affiliates, including CNYSL, ENYSLMA, and SLST-East. The roundtables note that the formula used by the Audit and Finance Committee for their funding is insufficient to accomplish their goals. Because these groups are restricted by region, they are not able to grow their membership to impact the formula and increase their funding. The roundtables have hosted NYLA SSL Conferences in years past, which they say brought in profit to NYLA, and is not reflected in their budget for the coming year. Executive Director AnnaLee Dragon noted that CNYSL has already ceased to be a roundtable of NYLA by their own decision, so they are not part of this discussion. NYLA President Lisa Kropp clarified that the NYLA no longer uses the terminology of "affiliates," and will work with SSL to ensure our policies and bylaws are clear on what is used instead. Kropp also stated that the Balanced Budget Task Force had worked very hard to have discussions with any NYLA unit that wanted to meet. The NYLA leadership is willing and able to have discussions with any concerned groups, but it is also part of the role of Unit Representatives on Council to be disseminating the Council information and decisions to their respective units.

**MOTION III:** Motion to approve the draft 2024-2025 NYLA budget as presented by the Audit and Finance Committee.

Made by: Laura Schiefer

Seconded by: Rebecca Budinger-Mulhearn

Approved unanimously.

\*Executive Director AnnaLee Dragon offered congratulations to NYLA Immediate Past President Arlene Laverde on her very well-earned retirement! The NYLA Council is appreciative of all Arlene's years of service to the field and wishes her all the best in this new phase.

5. Unfinished Business

6. New Business

a. Executive Session for Executive Director Annual Evaluation

**MOTION IV:** Motion to enter Executive Session at 3:38pm to discuss Executive Director Annual Evaluation.

Made by: Arlene Laverde      Seconded by: Matt Bollerman

Approved unanimously.

**MOTION V:** Motion to leave Executive Session at 4:16pm.

Made by: Matt Bollerman      Seconded by: Tim Spindler

Approved unanimously.

**MOTION VI:** Motion to accept the Executive Director Annual Review and raise of 7%, effective July 1, 2024.

Made by: Arlene Laverde      Seconded by: Kerrie Burch

Approved unanimously.

7. President's Update

Lisa Kropp reported that she was invited to speak at the public library director's group for the Westchester Library System, visited the North Castle Pubic Library, went to the ribbon cutting of a new Medford branch of the Patchogue Medford Public Library.

8. Executive Director's Update

AnnaLee Dragon submitted a written report. Also included was a membership report.

9. Legislative Update

Max Prime submitted a written report. Rebecca Budinger-Mulhearn asked if NYLA is at all involved in advocacy for the NYC libraries that are facing severe budget cuts from the city government. Prime responded that he has been in close contact with the advocacy folks from the three city systems, and that he had submitted written testimony during the city budget hearings in support of restoration of the city library budgets. NYLA also helped to circulate a sign-on letter among legislators to go to their city or Mayor Adams to drop the cuts that have been proposed.

10. Review/Adjournment

AnnaLee Dragon reminded all Council members that the August 1 meeting is an In-Person **ONLY** meeting (**no virtual component**), at NYLA Headquarters from 1-3pm. Lunch will be provided at 12pm that day, and mileage will be reimbursable for Council members attending. There will also be a NYLA Social event that evening. **In order to conduct business at this meeting, we need a quorum, which is 11 Council members at minimum.** Dragon will send out a preference sheet for lunch and an RSVP form to gauge attendance during July.

**MOTION VII:** Motion to adjourn the meeting.

Made by: Arlene Laverde      Seconded by: Kristin Charles-Scaringi

Approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 4:34pm.

**Next Council Meeting: Thursday, August 1, 2024 in person at NYLA Headquarters at 1:00pm.**