

**Association for Library Service to Children  
Board of Directors  
2020 Midwinter Meeting  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania**

**FINAL Minutes as of 2/20/20**

**Attendees**

**Board Members:** Cecilia McGowan, Kirby McCurtis, Jamie Naidoo, Julie Dietzel-Glair, Amber Creger, Elisa Gall, Africa Hands, Linda Ernst, Sujei Lugo, April Mazza, Sue McCleaf Nespeca, Amy Sears

**Staff Members:** Aimee Strittmatter, Anne Michaud, Alena Rivers, Elizabeth Serrano, Laura Schulte-Cooper, Jordan Dubin

**Guests:** Eiyana Favers, Sierra McKenzie, Maeve Knoth, Nate Halsan, Erica Ruscio, Christine Caputo, Carol Phillips, Kristen Rocha Aldrich, Amy Koester, Katie Lawrence, Lucia Gonzalez, Kay Weisman, Maria McCauley, Nina Lindsay, Hanna Lee, Ayn Reyes Frazee, Gretchen Caserotti, Maura Walsh

**Proceedings**

- Meeting called to order at 8:30 a.m. by President Cecilia McGowan
- Consensus to conduct the meeting in an informal manner
- Meeting adjourned at 3:40 p.m

**MOTION: move to accept the agenda, motion passed.**

**Announcements and Reports**

Elizabeth Serrano introduced the 2020 ALSC Emerging Leader, Jessica Agudelo. Jessica's project will be working with the Asian Pacific American Librarians Association (APALA) on their 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary as an organization.

ALA Board Liaison Maria McCauley provided updates including leadership talking points, the start date of the ALA Executive Director designate, the ALA headquarter move and information from the Steering Committee on Organizational Effectiveness (SCOE) who will be hosting a webinar in February. The ALSC Board posed questions regarding changes to Midwinter, ALA Executive Board Doc 12.39, feedback timelines and formalizing communication structures.

**Consent Agenda**

Approval of Board minutes from 2019 Annual Conference

Approval of Board minutes from December 2019

**MOTION: move to approve the consent agenda with edits to correct typos, motion passed.**

**Discussion/Decision**

**2020-2023 Strategic Plan Discussion**

The Board continued their discussion of the proposed objectives for the 2020-2023 ALSC Strategic Plan. Each working group outlined decisions about their suggested edits to the proposed areas of strategic action or objectives. Minor edits were suggested and the Board will continue discussion of the proposed plan at their February meeting.

**Strategic Plan Implementation Progress**

After attending the Division Fiscal Officers meeting, ALSC Fiscal Officer Amber Creger presented background information to the board to help them make decisions around establishing strategic priorities for the Fiscal Year 2021 budget. A discussion of ALA Executive Board document 12.39 and the information contained there has resulted in the need for ALSC to make adjustments to the proposed Fiscal Year 2021 budget. The discussion addressed how ALA's financial positions will impact ALSC's ability to support its strategic priorities.

**MOTION: move that the ALSC Board submit and open letter outlining ALSC's perspectives and interests in response to ALA's declining financial health and lack of transparency, motion passed.**

### **Focus on ALSC Initiatives for Fiscal Year 20**

The board discussed expense and revenue considerations in relation to ALSC initiatives while focusing on what has the most benefit and value to members. Questions were raised around the availability of the IMLS grant, Disney donation, and funds for the communities of practice project in order to successfully fund strategic work within the budget. Ideas for potential revenue creation were also discussed including ALSC core competencies, the upcoming Newbery anniversary, membership retention and recruitment, and book evaluation.

### **ALSC Committee and Division Alignment**

The board continued its discussion around the alignment of ALSC's committee structure. The board is preparing to vote on the proposed structure at its February meeting in order for the appointing officer to be able to make appointments for service year 2020 - 2021. This will be discussed with membership at Leadership and ALSC and feedback from members will be collected there as well as online. A community forum will be held in February to solicit feedback from members that did not attend Midwinter.

**ACTION: Anne and Alena will gather, organize and share feedback with the board prior to their February meeting.**

### **Session II: Monday, January 27, 1:00-5:00 p.m., PCC, Room 106-B**

#### **Attendees**

**Board Members:** Cecilia McGowan, Kirby McCurtis, Jamie Naidoo, Julie Dietzel-Glair, Amber Creger, Elisa Gall, Africa Hands, Sujei Lugo, April Mazza, Sue McCleaf Nespeca, Amy Sears

**Staff Members:** Aimee Strittmatter, Anne Michaud, Alena Rivers, Elizabeth Serrano, Laura Schulte-Cooper, Jordan Dubin

**Guests:** Liv Hanson, Carol Phillips, Valerie Tagoe, Sierra McKenzie, Naphtali Faris, Sophie Kenney, Gretchen Caserotti, Amy Koester, Robin Gibson, Nina Lindsay, Katie Lawrence, Doris Gebel, Amy Seto Forrester, Danielle Jones, Annamarie Carlson, Hanna Lee

#### **Announcements and Reports**

ALSC Vice President Kirby McCurtis provided a report from the AASL/ALSC/YALSA Executive Committee meeting that included updates on EDI initiatives and a report from the the ALA Public Policy and Advocacy office. The Joint Youth Executive committee is considering how divisions might collaborate on overlapping EDI initiatives. There will be email followup between the youth division presidents and vice presidents to continue this discussion.

ALSC Past President Jamie Naidoo provided a report from the REFORMA/YALSA/ALSC Joint Executive Committee meeting including updates about the 2020 Belpré Celebración at Annual, the 25<sup>th</sup> Belpré Anniversary Celebración at 2021 Annual, the Belpré Expansion task force, and the future scheduling of the Joint REFORMA/YALSA ALSC meetings. The existing Belpré Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between ALSC and REFORMA is currently being updated to include YALSA and a working draft will be shared with all three boards.

ALSC board members that attended the SCOE division session provided updates and a report from the meeting. The session covered where SCOE is in their process as recommendations have been published in their report Forward Together. An implementation task force will be appointed as a new task force and it will contain some members from the current SCOE task force. Questions regarding division and youth representation as well as concerns with associated costs and expenses were discussed.

ALSC Division Councilor Julie Dietzel-Glair provided an update from ALA Council sessions attended including Youth Council Caucus and Diversity Caucus. Updates on Council business including resolutions passed, a SCOE presentation, the announcement of the ALA Medal of Excellence to replace the Melvil Dewey Award, report from the treasurer, and Midwinter registration numbers for the last 3 years were reported.

## Discussion/Decision

### Organization & Bylaws Committee

Naphtali Faris was in attendance to provide updates from the Organization and Bylaws committee. They have developed a draft of a best practices tip sheet for co-chairs and are interested in feedback. Their work has been more focused on organizational support rather than bylaw work and the committee expressed that they would like to be of assistance to other committees or task forces that could use help with organizational or change related work.

### Budget Committee Report

ALSC Budget committee chair Gretchen Caserotti presented budget documents shared in advance of Midwinter and also three new onsite documents that included an updated Budget Summary, Endowment Summary, Outline of Revisions to FY21 Budget, and the Budget Committee report with recommendations. ALSC is proposing a balanced budget, while still supporting strategic priorities, instead of a deficit (investment) budget in an effort to express fiscal responsibility in light of ALA's financial challenges related to liquidity. The budget committee is recommending that the Board accept the recommendations in their report with the understanding adjustments may need to be made as information from ALA is made available between Midwinter and Annual Conference 2020.

**MOTION: move to accept the budget committee recommendations 1 – 3, motion passed.**

### Old Business

The board discussed initial member feedback regarding the ALSC committee alignment, including feedback notes assembled after the Leadership and ALSC session and feedback being collected online. The Board agreed to make the proposed committee realignment the topic for the February community forum. A decision on the proposed realignment will need to be made by the February Board meeting in order to begin spring appointments for procedural committees. It was reported that YALSA may have seen a decline in membership after a switch to more virtual work.

**ACTION: Cecilia and Jamie will be reaching out to YALSA for more specific information about membership numbers.**

The board returned to their October discussion of the Advocacy Evaluation report and recommendations. This report was written before a possible realignment was being considered. The proposed realignment would be a merged Public Awareness and Advocacy committee. Africa Hands, board liaison to Advocacy and Legislation, and Elisa Gall, board liaison to Public Awareness, had discussions with both committees and reported feedback to the ALSC Board. This discussion will need to be revisited once the board makes a decision on committee realignment.

**ACTION: if the ALSC board votes to accept a merged Public Awareness and Advocacy Africa and Elisa will work with the newly merged committee to review and update the Advocacy Evaluation Report and Recommendations.**

### New Business

Sue McCleaf Nespeca reported positive feedback was shared by the newly formed Early and Family Literacy committee and also that the Preschool Services Discussion group has been operating for thirty-one years and is still seeing strong attendance.

A discussion of how names appear on committee rosters was brought to the attention of the board. Member questions were considered including whether or not titles should appear on committee rosters. This information is pulled as indicated by the individual member in the database. Discussion included how to make sure that both chairs and members know how this information is sourced and work with chairs during orientations to reinforce that the sharing of title information is made at the individual member level, while at the same time creating a welcoming and comfortable environment.

**MOTION: move that we adjourn, motion passed.**