NYCSLS Library Council Meeting #3  
Wednesday, February 24, 2016  
8:30 to 3:00 p.m.  
New York Public Library, 445 Fifth Avenue, 5th floor  

Present: Jennifer Abounader-Ciesla, Linda Williams Bowie, Caitlyn Colman-McGaw, Margaret Dennehy, Michael Dodes, Leanne Ellis, Damary Gonzalez, Richard Hasenyager, Nate Hill, Melissa Jacobs, Jillian Lazaridis, Alison Lehner-Quam, Melissa Malanuk, Amy Mikel, Elizabeth Naylor-Gutierrez, Christine Poser, Lynne Kresta Smith, Sally Young.  

The Chair, Christine Poser, called the meeting to order and welcomed members.  

Minutes of Last Meeting: There were no hard copies of the Minutes of the last meeting, so members were asked to read from the interactive board. As there were a number of discrepancies, Ric recommended that the Minutes be tabled for the next meeting, i.e. April 20. Alison seconded the motion.  

NYCSLS Updates:  

Coordinator Vacancy – Ric advised that Vice Chair, Michael Dodes, their first choice, will be taking over Olga Nesi’s position as Coordinator, North Brooklyn.  

Election – Vice Chair: Now that Michael can no longer be Vice Chair, Christine asked the committee to nominate a replacement, and briefed the Committee on the duties of the position. Alison Lehner-Quam volunteered for the position and Christine asked for a motion to vote. The vote was unanimous in favor of Alison.  

Spring Institute: Ric advised that both the elementary and the secondary sessions will be held at New York Public Library’s Schwarzman Building from 8:30 to 3:00 p.m.  

The Spring Institute - Elementary will be held on Wednesday, May 11th. The Keynote speaker will be author and illustrator Cece Bell, author of *El Deafo*, a Newbery Honor Book. The title is also included on the current NYC Reads 365 list. Breakout session topics will include using early literacy research, book clubs with students, summer reading strategies, using eBooks with your school community, apps for literacy as well as a panel of building level librarians offering tips on the successful implementation of NYC Reads 365. There will also be a signup table for those who would like a school visit by a Public Library representative.  

The Spring Institute – Secondary will be held on Thursday, May 12th, and will follow a similar program. The keynote speaker will be award-winning author Steve Sheinkin whose nonfiction graphic novel, *The Port Chicago 50* is on the current NYC Reads 365 list. There will also be a discussion of the book, *Reading for Their Life* by Dr. Alfred Tatum.  

Christine Poser, Chair  
Alison Lehner-Quam, Vice Chair  
Jillian Lazaridis, Secretary  
Richard Hasenyager, NYCSLS Director
NYLA/SSL: Melissa reported that 10 librarians had received the NYCSLS grant to attend the 2016 NYLA-SSL Conference at The Desmond Hotel and Conference Center in Albany, NY from May 5-7, 2016. The grantees are geographically distributed to include all five boroughs. She is looking forward to escorting the librarians and getting involved in the conference.

Resources: Ric worked with other DOE departments to purchase the ASCD eBook Bundle 8 Collection. Since this resource was purchased using DOE Tax Levy Funds, only DOE schools will have access to this resource. There will be several half days of training for principals and teachers to help them implement the collection effectively. In addition to this training, on demand training is already available through Gale. Michael added that there will be a link for access at DOE schools, and a password will be needed to access it from home. The collection was licensed based on the number of users.

Plan of Service: The Legislative Committee revised the 2016-2021 Plan of Service and presented it to the Council. Ric reported that upon Council’s acceptance, the Plan of Service will be submitted to the State for approval. Discussion followed the presentation and the following points were made:

- The matter of diversity was not a required element of the plan. Over the last couple of years, NYCSLS has become attuned to the diverse needs of individuals and will endeavor to focus on their special needs. Committee members agreed that libraries will need to make sure that their collections reflect their diverse populations by including bilingual print and electronic resources for minorities, ELL as well as students with disabilities. Ric advised that Dr. Alfred Tatum, and Jackie Woodson were at the Fall Conference to offer their unique perspectives on diversity. In addition, NYCSLS is committed to serving all schools and will focus on recruiting more librarians for vacant positions.
- NYCSLS will explore the possibility of providing digitization grants through METRO. Amy advised that Brooklyn Connection was asking individuals to donate their yearbooks so that they could be digitized. (They are planning a PD in the summer for principals and assistant principals.)
- NYCSLS is working to reduce the current (1999) average age of collections and increase circulation on Destiny by helping librarians with collection development.

Alison motioned that the committee vote to accept the Plan of Service. The motion was seconded by Emily. It was passed unanimously.

Cooperative Collection Development (CCD) Program: Melissa advised that they renewed 10 LibGuides subscriptions for those schools that had CCD collections. As mentioned at the last meeting, the CCD collections have been reduced from 19 to 15. The committee was committed to adding an e-books CCD collection. Sister Margaret commented that vendors were not very supportive when it came to the picture book collection. Out of the hundreds that she had previewed, she found only two books that she would consider adding to the collection.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Advocacy: Leanne advised that they were working on tidying up the LibGuide and would use the same format for all tabs. She asked Council members to give feedback on the changes. She will create a link to the ASCD books from the LibGuide.
Jennifer advised that there was a shortage of librarians in Harlem, as many schools had gone from a single school to a campus school. Over the last 12 years, many school libraries had closed as a result of this restructuring. Currently, many schools do not have a certified librarian. NYCSLS is continuing recruitment efforts to entice the best classroom teachers to become librarians. Currently, there were no economic incentives. Funds are needed to recruit, train and put capable teachers in the library. Last year 15 – 16 prospective librarians were interviewed. There are very few teachers who are willing to relocate to New York City and pursue NY State Certification, which can be a long and costly process. One solution is for NYS to recognize certification from reputable out-of-State universities. NYS will need to advise out-of-state candidates on course requirements that need to be completed before the application is submitted.

**Recruitment:** Elizabeth reported that there were 11 candidates at the recruitment seminar at Brooklyn Public Library on February 3rd. Unfortunately, there were no representatives from any of the graduate library schools. Currently 23 teachers are enrolled in a library program through NYCSLS grants. The next recruitment seminar will be held on March 16th at 333 7th Avenue.

Sally stated that students are asked to declare college majors before entering college but none seem to consider librarian/multi-media specialist as an option. High school students take online career interest surveys that help them find out what their interests are and match them with career/job suggestions. The career of librarian/multi-media specialist does not seem to appear as a suggested career. Sometimes it is a subcategory of education/teacher. There is a concern that current librarian/multi-media specialist skills are not used in these surveys/tests. In addition, it does not take into account different kinds of librarianship. It was suggested that a librarian professional organization reach out to these online survey/test companies to inform them of the current skills/interests of today’s librarians/multi-media specialist.

**Legislative:** See Plan of Service above. Committee will also be looking at revising the Member Plan and other instruments for collecting data.

**Online Supports:** Melissa reported that online support was their main focus and it was yet to be decided if LibGuides was the best platform. They were going to perform a content audit, and while there was a need for an online identity, they needed to address the following questions. 1) What is it? 2) Where is it? 3) Where do you find it?

Members updated the Council on new initiatives and programs.

Jennifer motioned that the meeting be adjourned, which was seconded by Alison.