NYCSLS Council #3
February 8, 2017
University Settlement
273 Bowery, HSC Classroom 2
New York, NY

MINUTES

Members Present: Jennifer Abounader-Ciesla, Margaret Dennehy, Michael Dodes, Damary Gonzalez, Leanne Ellis, Ric Hasenyager, Melissa Jacobs, Jillian Lazaridis, Amy Mikel, Daniel Nkansah, Christine Poser, Lynne Kresta Smith, Sally Young

Christine called the meeting to order and, after introductions, the minutes from the previous meeting were distributed. A few minor changes were made and Sally passed a motion to accept the minutes as amended. The motion was seconded by Jen.

News and Updates
Ric reported that the Spring Institutes will be held on May 17 (secondary) & May 18 (elementary). Both sessions will be held at the Masonic Hall located on West 23 Street and 6th Avenue.

- **Secondary**: The keynote speaker for the secondary session will be Margot Lee Shetterly, author of *Hidden Figures*. Melissa spearheaded the endeavor.
- **Elementary**: The elementary day will include a panel of graphic authors, yet to be determined.

The focus of each day will be literacy, and how to get students engaged in reading. Presentations include:

- Tri-Li Summer Reading programs
- NYC Reads 365
- Overview of [Reading With Power and Passion: Resources to Support Independent Reading](http://example.com) by members of the NYCDOE Literacy Department

**Fall Conference**: The Fall Conference will be held on November 14, 2017. As CitiField was not available on Election Day, it was decided to opt for “the venue” rather than “the date”, i.e. CitiField, as it was by far the perfect venue for all parties concerned.

**GRANTS**

- **NYC Reads 365**: Ric advised that 380 school libraries had applied for the NYC Reads 365 grant. The books have been ordered and will be sent out soon.

- **Makerspaces**: Melissa reported that NYCSLS has awarded 10 makerspace grants. These included model makerspaces, low tech, DIY and coding. The grants will continue in 2017-2018 academic year. Information is available on the [INNOVATION! Makerspaces in NYC School Libraries](http://example.com) website.
- **Automation Grant**: Automation Grant for Destiny was ongoing and all city schools, including non-public schools, were eligible. The only stipulation was the school must have a certified teacher or library media specialist.

- **Other**: In addition NYCSLS also awarded grants to 10 public schools and 1 non-public school for furniture and collection development.

**CCD**

**Picture Book Collection**: Melissa reported that St Francis Xavier Catholic Academy, in Brooklyn has been awarded the Picture Book Collection that was formerly housed at St. Aloysius School (the school closed in June 2016) and curated by Sister Margaret. She was very impressed with both the school and the librarian and felt that it was a perfect match. Melissa thanked Sister Margaret for taking such great care of the Picture Book Collection for so many years. It is an amazing collection.

**NYLA-SSL Conference**

Grant details for the NYLA-SSL 2017 Annual Conference in Buffalo, NY on May 4 - May 6, are still being discussed. Once a few of the funding issues have been resolved details will be posted on NYCSLIST.

**School Librarians’ Directory**

Librarians will receive an E-mail regarding the directory updates which will have a link that will automatically update all changes they make to their profile, i.e. a new school etc.

**NYCSLS Annual Report**

Office of Library Services will be gathering data for their annual report. This will include the number of people attending the PD they offer and how the money is spent. Ric advised that that every year, a portion of the allocated funds were rolled over. There was a brief discussion on State versus City Funds.

**Member Plan**

NYCSLS will ask its members to complete a brief survey, similar to BEDS, describing what they do in the course of the school day.

**Annual Evaluation**

Members will also be asked to complete a brief evaluation survey. The purpose of this survey is to help NYCSLS better serve its members. They would like to know how effective the department is, and when members reach out to NYCSLS, the kind of response they get.

**Other Business**

- Destiny grants are available on the NYCSLS website and are open until mid-March.
- MyLibraryNYC, has been very successful and continues to thrive. However, due to funding complications, it is only open to NYC public and charter schools. Amy (BPL) offered to look into the logistics of non-public schoNYCSLS picking up the boxes from a nearby branch.
- Daniel Nkansah, Queens Library representative, reported that they had implemented creative writing and poetry workshops for kids, and organized a number of local author visits. Another very successful event was the “Battle of the Bands”.
- Amy reported that Brooklyn Public Library has been named an approved CTLE sponsor by NYSED. Brooklyn Public will be offering 3-5 online educator workshops during the summer. There was a brief discussion on what the public libraries could do to get educators to attend these workshops.

**Library Program Check List**: During the second half of the meeting, members will be working on preparing a one-page document covering the expectations of the library program and the librarian’s responsibilities. Everyone is welcome to stay and contribute.

Jen passed a motion to close the meeting, which was seconded by Damary.