

**YALSA Board of Directors Meeting
ALA Midwinter Meeting, Atlanta
January 20 – 24, 2017**

Topic: Updated Statement on the Board’s Scope

Background: At the June 2016 meeting the Board agreed to refocusing the function of the Executive Committee to have an expanded role in ALA relations and financial oversight. In order to accomplish this, the Executive Committee needed to free up its time by moving some work to the board. Therefore, it was necessary to revisit the board’s scope and responsibilities so that the document reflected the new tasks the board had agreed to take on. The board considered the proposal presented below via an online discussion in early January 2017. Including it in the Midwinter agenda ensures it will be entered into the official record of the organization.

Action Required: Consent

Current Statement on Board Scope and Responsibilities:

YALSA’s board of directors has the principal responsibility for fulfillment of YALSA’s mission and the legal accountability for its operations. The board has specific fiduciary duties of care, loyalty, and obedience to the law. As a group they are in charge of:

- establishing a clear organizational mission
- forming the strategic plan to accomplish the mission
- overseeing and evaluating the plan’s success
- hiring a competent executive director
- providing adequate supervision and support to the executive director

In turn, the executive director works to ensure the financial solvency of the organization, interprets and represents the organization to the community, and within the ALA framework institutes a fair system of policies and procedures for staff management.

The board accomplishes its functions through regular meetings and by establishing and supporting a member committee structure that is appropriate to the size of the organization.

The board makes decisions as a group, and works virtually year-round via several standing board committees. There is one board committee for each goal in the strategic plan. The board periodically conducts a self-evaluation and regularly reviews its own composition to ensure constituent representation, board expertise and commitment. The board also helps the ALA Senior Associate Executive Director with evaluating and determining compensation for YALSA’s executive director.

Proposed Updated Statement on Board Scope and Responsibilities:

(changes are in *red italics*)

YALSA's board of directors has the principal responsibility for fulfillment of YALSA's mission and the legal accountability for its operations. The board has specific fiduciary duties of care, loyalty, and obedience to the law. As a group they are in charge of:

- establishing a clear organizational mission
- forming the strategic plan to accomplish the mission
- overseeing and evaluating the plan's success
- *providing general support to the executive director and the president*
- *functioning as an incubator and feedback mechanism for board, committee, and member proposals*
- *establishing and maintaining a board culture that is open, inclusive and promotes generative thinking*
- hiring a competent executive director
- *reviewing and updating the executive director succession plan*
- providing adequate supervision ~~and support~~ of the executive director

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Fiscal Implications

None

Measuring Impact

This can be achieved through the annual board assessment

Proposed Action

The Board adopts the updated version of their scope and responsibilities as presented in this board document, and directs the Executive Director to work with staff to ensure the statement gets updated on the web site.

Additional Resources

- 10 Basic Responsibilities of Nonprofit Boards, <http://bit.ly/2eHsmf9>

**YALSA Board of Directors – Midwinter 2017
Updated Statement on the Board’s Scope**

- 2016 June Meeting Board Document #2, “Updated Executive Committee Function,”
<http://bit.ly/2hzXwsm>