

YALSA Board of Directors  
ALA Annual Conference, San Francisco  
June 26 - 30, 2015

- Topic:** Guidelines for Board Meetings
- Background:** This document from the official YALSA Handbook has been provided to the Board as general background as to how YALSA Board Meetings are conducted. More information and resources regarding Board meetings can be found on the Board’s wiki under the heading “Preparing and Participating in Board Meetings.”
- Action Required:** Discussion

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**GUIDELINES FOR YALSA BOARD MEETINGS**

**Context:** YALSA Bylaws, Article IV, Sec. 1: The administration of the affairs of YALSA shall be vested in a Board of Directors.

**Implications:**

- The Board sets policy; it does not carry out policy.
- The Board establishes goals, objectives and anticipated outcomes. SMART objectives produce success (Specific, Measurable, Aggressive yet Achievable, Relevant, Time-based).
- The Board sets a budget to enable goal/objective attainments.
- The Board monitors policy implementation and achievement of goals/objectives.

**Norms:**

1. We will arrive on time and honor stated finishing times.
2. We will direct requests for agenda items to the President, who will set the agenda in consultation with the Executive Director and the Executive Committee.
3. We will arrive informed and prepared, or so inform the chair before the beginning of the meeting.
4. We will take the initiative to ask questions and pose solutions.
5. We will make no assumption of motivation of hidden agenda on the part of a colleague.
6. We will address questions to the chair of the board meeting who may direct the question to another board or staff member.

7. We will focus on intended outcomes rather than specific details of achievement.
8. We will not engage in undue wordsmithing.
9. We acknowledge the responsibility, and accountability to us, of the Executive Committee and Executive Director for policy implementation and goal attainment.
10. We direct the chair of the board meeting to conclude each item with a consensus statement and intended action for confirmation.
11. We affirm that the association should be focused, fast, flexible, and friendly. We will model those behaviors.
12. Silence is consent.
13. We will discuss ideas and issues without taking things personally.
14. We will respond promptly to all correspondence, including e-mail.

*--Adopted by the YALSA Board of Directors - 1/29/99*

#### **Questions for the Board to Consider**

- Is there anything in this document that is unclear or that needs clarifying? If so, what?
- Is every board member supportive of all the norms listed in this document? If not, what concerns do people have?
- Does anyone feel that important norms or other content is missing from this document? If so, what is missing?
- Other?

#### **Additional Resources:**

- Norms put the 'Golden Rule' into Practice for Groups  
<http://learningforward.org/docs/tools-for-learning-schools/tools8-99.pdf?sfvrsn=2>
- YALSA's Handbook (which include the Bylaws) can be accessed at  
<http://www.ala.org/yalsa/aboutyalsa/yalsahandbook>