

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

Topic: Confirmation of Filling Board Vacancy

Background: Linda Braun resigned from the Board in July 2016 due to her new role as contract worker for YALSA; however, her term on the Board as a Director-at-Large runs through June 2017. In the past, the Board has made a practice of voting on a course of action for the vacancy. Sarah Hill presented a proposal for the board's consideration via virtual discussion in July 2016. In order to be entered into the official record of the organization, this document is presented as a consent item for the Board's 2017 Midwinter Meeting.

Action Required: Consent

Typical options for filling a vacancy

1. Do nothing and to leave the position vacant through the end of June 2017, at which point newly elected board members will take over.
2. Appoint a seasoned board member who would be interested in and able to fill the spot, as this person would not need orientation or have a learning curve. Since at-large board members aren't allowed to serve consecutive terms (per the bylaws), eligible candidates would be 1) from the 2015 - 2016 board or earlier, 2) have served in an ex-officio capacity, or 3) served as an officer (President, Secretary, Fiscal Officer, Division Councilor).
3. Appoint someone who's recently stood for election, as those individuals have already indicated their current willingness to serve and have been carefully vetted by the Nominating Committee.
4. Appoint an up and coming YALSA leader who has expressed interest in Board service, but who has not served in any appointed or elected capacity.

Proposal

Appoint a seasoned board member who could immediately begin contributing to the work of the board. Suggestions from the board are: Nick Buron, Shannon Peterson and Chris Shoemaker. All have Board and Executive Committee experience as well as experience in working within ALA.

Rationale

**YALSA Board of Directors – Midwinter 2017
Confirmation of Filling Board Vacancy**

- There were no eligible candidates from the 2016 slate who did not get elected.
- Bringing in someone new this far into the year could be unfair to the individual, who would be asked to deal with a steep learning curve in a short amount of time. Additionally, they would have to pay to attend Midwinter and Annual, without much ability to prepare or plan for that expense.
- Appointing a seasoned board member means the appointee will not have a learning curve and will be able to fully participate in board work from day one.
- The Fiscal Officer will need to help the YALSA Executive Committee maintain a positive relationship with ALA.
- The Governance Nominating Committee has an excellent candidate willing to run on the 2017 ballot for Fiscal Officer. However, asking someone to serve for four years as fiscal officer is not prudent.
- All three candidates have YALSA Board experience and YALSA Executive Committee experience. However, Nick Buron's experiences with ALA have been extensive. He served as ALA Councilor from 2005-2008 and 2009-2015. He was on the ALA Constitution and Bylaws Committee from 2012-2014, and served as chair from 2013-2014. He has also been active on the ALA Planning and Budget Assembly since 2013 and served on the 2012-2013 ALA Nominating Committee.
- While Shannon and Chris have been instrumental in creating YALSA's current organizational plan, Nick's fresh approach would be a welcome new voice as the plan is implemented.

Recommended Board Action

The Board directs the President to appoint Nick Buron to finish out Linda Braun's term as Fiscal Officer, which runs through June 2017.

Additional Resources

- YALSA Bylaws:
www.ala.org/yalsa/sites/ala.org.yalsa/files/content/BYLAWS_2016approvedchanges.pdf