

YALSA Board of Directors Meeting  
ALA Annual Conference, Orlando  
January 24 – 28, 2016

**Topic:** Organizational Plan & Potential Bylaws Impact

**Background:** The adoption of the new Organizational Plan has made Article II of YALSA’s Bylaws inaccurate. The change noted below would realign the Bylaws with the new plan. The Organizational Plan also called for rethinking the Board structure so that it can be better positioned to move YALSA forward, as outlined in the new plan. Beth Yoke presents the following for the Board’s consideration.

**Action Required:** Action / Discussion

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**BYLAWS PROPOSAL**

1. Update “Article II Mission” to reflect the new mission of YALSA as adopted by the Board earlier this year.

***Current text***

YALSA is a national association of librarians, library workers and advocates whose mission is to expand and strengthen library services for teens, aged 12-18. Through its member-driven advocacy, research, and professional development initiatives, YALSA builds the capacity of libraries and librarians to engage, serve and empower teens.

The Young Adult Library Services Association, a division of ALA:

advocates extensive and developmentally appropriate library and information services for young adults, ages 12 to 18;

- promotes reading and supports the literacy movement;
- advocates the use of information and communications technologies to provide effective library service;
- supports equality of access to the full range of library materials and services, including existing and emerging information and communications technologies, for young adults;
- provides education and professional development to enable its members to serve as effective advocates for young people;
- fosters collaboration and partnerships among its individual members with the library community and other groups involved in providing library and information services to young adults;
- influences public policy by demonstrating the importance of providing library and information services that meet the unique needs and interests of young adults;
- Encourages research and is in the vanguard of new thinking concerning the provision of library and information services for youth.

- Assures the intellectual freedom rights of young adults are supported and addressed through the actions of the division.

***Proposed New Text*** (taken from the Organizational Plan)

Our mission is to support library staff in alleviating the challenges teens face, and in putting all teens – especially those with the greatest needs – on the path to successful and fulfilling lives.

To meaningfully address the challenges teens face today and to put more teens on the path to a successful and fulfilling life, YALSA will support library staff who work for and with teens in the transformation of teen library services so that:

- Libraries reach out to and serve ALL teens in the community no matter what their backgrounds, interests, needs, or abilities, and whether or not they frequent the library space.
- The library “space” is at once both physical and virtual. It connects teens to other people, printed materials, technology, and digital content, not limiting teens to a designated teen area but rather inviting them into the full scope of the library’s assets and offerings.
- Teens co-create, co-evaluate, and co-evolve library programs and activities with library staff and skilled volunteers (including mentors and coaches) based on their passions and interests. These programs and activities are connected to teens’ personal, work, or academic interests across multiple literacies; generate measurable outcomes for teens’ skills and knowledge; and are tailored to the unique circumstances of the community.

**BOARD RESTRUCTURING POSSIBILITIES**

2. Develop a plan to pilot a two year effort to include community partners on the board, evaluate its impact, and determine whether or how to change the bylaws to reconfigure board seats in order to have dedicated spaces on the board for these types of individuals. The plan development could be a task for the Standing Board Committee on Fund and Partner Development.
3. Beginning with the committee that starts work Jan. 1, 2017, expand the focus of the Governance Nominating Committee to a Board Development Committee. After one year, evaluate its impact, and determine whether or how to change the bylaws to reflect an expanded committee, including considering making the Board Development Chair an ex-officio member of the board. The Governance Nominating Committee chair could work with the Executive Director to come up with a new charge and vision for the group and submit it to the Board for their consideration.
4. Explore the possibility of switching from three year terms to two year terms on the Board in order to better accommodate changing member leader needs. The Governance Nominating Committee chair could work with the Executive Director to come up with proposal which includes a rationale and suggested bylaws language and submit it to the Board for their consideration.

Based on the on-site discussions, the Board may want to move forward with some or all of these restructuring items as-is or with changes, or delay action until further information can be provided or further discussion can happen.

### **Financial Implications**

- Minimal staff time for preparing the ballot to incorporate a bylaws proposal
- Board and staff time for fleshing out a pilot community partner program for board service
- Board and staff time for articulating the new vision for a Board Development Committee, and appointing and orienting the next group
- Possible expenses for training for the Board Development Committee

### **Suggested Board Action**

The Board moves to accept the proposed bylaws change as outlined above, and directs the Executive Director to work with staff to place them on the 2017 ballot for members' consideration.

### **Additional Resources**

- Board Development Done Right,  
<https://nonprofitevolution.wordpress.com/2013/04/04/board-development-done-right/>
- YALSA Bylaws,  
[http://www.ala.org/yalsa/sites/ala.org.yalsa/files/content/BYLAWS\\_2016approvedchanges.pdf](http://www.ala.org/yalsa/sites/ala.org.yalsa/files/content/BYLAWS_2016approvedchanges.pdf)