

**YALSA Board of Directors Meeting
via Conference Call
August 29, 2013**

Topic: Intellectual Freedom Committee Report

Background: Michael Giller, YALSA’s representative to ALA’s Intellectual Freedom Committee, has provided a report for the board’s consideration.

Action Required: Information

ALA Annual 2013 began my first term on the IFC. Ma’lis Wendt and I are YALSA members that serve on the IFC and represent YALSA for intellectual freedom and privacy issues.

Issues of relevance to YALSA from Annual Conference

Common Sense Media

The issue: This non-profit organization reviews and labels books, movies, music, websites, games, apps, and television. Using icons such as martini glasses to represent alcohol/drugs, lips to represent sex, and bombs to represent violence – they review and label all forms of media.

Areas of concern:

- This type of labeling and rating is in opposition to ALA’s position on labeling and rating, as well as AASL’s position on labeling.
- Children and Teen librarians using Common Sense Media as a selection tool.
- Common Sense Media reviews have been used to help censor materials in certain locations.
- Lack of understanding as to what Common Sense Media does
- ALSC used Common Sense Media on a great websites list until it was caught and removed from the list. ALA did not endorse it. Additional ALSC committees wanted to endorse it.
- This resource is promoted as an alternative, unbiased tool for families and educators. They are currently running commercials on TV aimed at parents.

We met with the other IFC youth division representatives (AASL and ALSC) to discuss strategies. Ideas discussed included:

- Raising awareness of Common Sense Media within ALA youth divisions
- Seeking help from State Chapters
- Utilizing ALSC and YALSA free lists as an alternative to Booklist for libraries that cannot afford to buy expensive review sources.

- Raising awareness in divisions and subdivisions
- Raising awareness in library school programs

YALSA Involvement

- I will write a YALSA Blog post to raise awareness about Common Sense Media and similar practices.
- Can YALSA offer any ideas/support? (RUSA has offered funds to help raise awareness through the development of an app or other resource yet to be determined)