
Follow-up August 25, 2025 Library Board Meeting

From Christal L. Bell-Rivera <cbrivera@mywfpl.com>

Date Fri 9/5/2025 1:44 PM

To Lori NeSmith <lsmith-libbrd@mywfpl.com>

Lori,

I am reaching out regarding the Library Board meeting held on August 25, 2025.

In the interest of maintaining public trust, I emphasize the importance of providing proper advance notice for items intended for discussion or action. Adding items to an agenda without appropriate prior notification or formal request may unintentionally give the appearance of non-transparency or backdoor decision-making. Such practices could place the Board and the Library in a vulnerable position and erode the trust we've worked hard to build with the community.

Additionally, please direct all requests to Library staff through me in my capacity as Interim Director. While past practice under previous leadership may have allowed direct board-to-staff requests, maintaining proper communication channels will enable us to align with the bylaws the Board itself has created and adopted.

Historically, the relationship between the Library Administration and the Board has been one marked by collaboration, trust, and mutual respect. I deeply value that legacy and hope we continue to operate in that same spirit of partnership as we move forward.

When this leadership transition began, several board members graciously expressed their verbal support for me in the interim role. I was genuinely grateful for that encouragement. Continued, unified support from the Board is vital to ensuring stability for staff and uninterrupted service for the community we serve.

As always, I remain committed to supporting the Board in all appropriate ways and to upholding the mission and values of the West Florida Public Libraries.

Respectfully,

Christal Bell-Rivera

Interim Director, West Florida Public Libraries

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