Minutes of WFPL Board of Governance
Regular Board Meeting
Monday, February 23, 2026, at 4:00 p.m.
Pensacola Library
239 N Spring St.
Pensacola, FL 32502

Board Members:

- Dr. Kenneth "Blaine" Wall, Chair
- John Bullock, Vice Chair
- Liza Campbell, Member
- Dr. Joyce Hopson, Member

County Administration:

- Wesley Hall, Assistant County Administrator

Library Administration:

- Christal Bell-Rivera, Interim Director
- Tricia Sheridan, Director's Aide

Absent:

- None

I. Call to Order

- Dr. Wall called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m.
- Proof of Publication was received.
- Quorum was met.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

- Dr. Wall led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States.

III. Public Forum

- Jennifer Yannuzzi
- Jonathan Carter

IV. Approval of the Agenda

- Candidates for the Director position will be discussed under old business.

V. Approval of Minutes

- Mr. Bullock motioned to approve the minutes from January 26, 2026. Dr. Hopson seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

- Dr. Hopson motioned to approve the minutes from February 3, 2026. Mr. Bullock seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

- Ms. Campbell motioned to approve the minutes from February 20, 2026. Dr. Hopson seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

VI. Chair's Report

- Dr. Wall expressed gratitude to Ms. Campbell for her 3 ½ years of service on the board. Her wisdom and insights are highly valued, and it has been wonderful having a librarian as part of the board.

- He thanked the public for attending the meetings and former board member Lori NeSmith for her historical information and assistance.

- Dr. Wall also expressed gratitude to Nikki Powell and her team, along with Mr. Hall. It has been a pleasure collaborating with them and meeting everyone.

- Additionally, he thanked Interim Director Christal Bell-Rivera for doing an admirable job maintaining operations over the past few months.

VII. Assistant Branch Manager's Report

- Grady Miller gave a brief overview of the Pensacola Library.
    - On Saturday, February 21, 2026, Florida Engineering Society held their Math Counts competition and had 125 people in attendance. They thanked the library for the accommodation and services.
    - AARP has been providing their tax services to the public.
    - Part-time Blue Arbor roles are fully staffed.
    - The staff are excited to switch back to TLC.

VIII. Interim Director's Report

- Interim Director Christal Bell-Rivera expressed her gratitude to the Chair for his remarks.

- The financial report was reviewed. Cost center 110503 relates to IT information services. The former director allocated the entire cost of replacing the system-wide computers to line 56401. This amount will be moved to line 55203 and will be reflected in the library budget after the BOCC meeting on March 5, 2026. There are 200 computers that are between 5 and 10 years old. The replacement cycle has begun and will take a year to complete.

- The base salary for county LSTs was increased. The base pay for the Blue Arbor staff will be aligned with the county pay. A shift in the contractual services expenses will be reflected in the budget.

- Spring Break is approaching, and staff expect more foot traffic.

- She encouraged everyone to check out the Winter Olympics interactive exhibit hosted by Youth Services.

- Mr. Bullock inquired about the library's bookkeeping process. Interim Director Bell-Rivera described the internal procedures and mentioned that the county reviews all purchases to ensure compliance with procurement policies and procedures.

IX. New Business

- Discussion about the annual evaluation of the library services director. The newest form was first used in 2025. The form can be reevaluated and changed. The board will review it in the fall before giving it to the director to complete for a self-evaluation.

- The privacy and meeting room policies will be rescheduled on the calendar from December 2026 to February 2027. The director's evaluation will be moved from February 2026 to December 2026.

- Mr. Bullock proposed postponing the evaluation and rescheduling it for December. Dr. Hopson seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

- Mr. Bullock made a motion to temporarily approve the evaluation form and include it in the October meeting for review. Dr. Hopson seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

X. Old Business

- Interim Director Christal Bell-Rivera was asked to leave the meeting so the board could discuss the candidates.

- Discussion about ranking the Library Services Director candidates. The decision was to rank the first choice and an alternative. The discussion proceeded in the order of applicants' interviews.

- The meeting stopped at 4:44 p.m. to enable Mr. Hall to take an urgent phone call. Recording was stopped. The meeting and recording resumed at 4:49 p.m.

- The board finished discussing each candidate and ranked Bradley Vinson as the top choice and Chris Hare as the alternate.

- Mr. Bullock made a motion in accordance with Bylaws Article 7, Section 6; the board recommends Bradley Vinson as the preferred candidate to fill the Library Services Director position. Dr. Hopson seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

- Dr. Hopson moved to appoint Chris Hare as the alternative for Library Services Director. Ms. Campbell seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

- The Chair restated the question posed by Ms. Yannuzzi in a public forum about the absence of meeting minutes on the library's website. Mr. Hall said it would be shared with the BOCC.

- The Chair thanked the board for their time and for keeping an open mind during the search for a new library director. He is encouraged that they all reached the same conclusion.

XI. Open Board Discussion

- The Chair announced that a new City member has been appointed, and hopefully John will continue as a board member. The April meeting will include a vote to elect a new Chair and Vice Chair.

XII. The next special board meeting will be held on Monday, March 23, 2026, at 4:00 p.m. at:

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XIII. Adjournment – Mr. Bullock motions to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Campbell seconds the motion. Dr. Wall adjourns the meeting at 5:33 p.m.