Minutes of WFPL Board of Governance
Regular Board Meeting
Monday, April 20, 2026, at 4:00 p.m.
Century Library
7991 N. Century Blvd.
Century, FL 32535

Board Members:

- Kenneth “Blaine” Wall, Chair
- Joyce Hopson, Member
- Rachel Hendrix, Member

County Administration:

- None

Library Administration:

- Christal Bell-Rivera, Interim Director
- Tricia Sheridan, Director’s Aide
- Leigh Ann Helton, Branch Manager

Absent:

- None

I. Call to Order

- Dr. Wall called the meeting to order at 4:02 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

IV. Approval of the Agenda

V. Approval of Minutes

- Dr. Hopson made a motion to approve the regular minutes for March 23, 2026. Ms. Hendrix seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

VI. Chair's Report

- Dr. Wall stated he received an email from a resident expressing interest in a library for the Beulah/Cantonment area and asked about the process for building a new library. Director Bell-Rivera stated it is a decision made at the county administration level and is based on community need, location and budget. Additionally, with the possible property tax changes, the proposed Myrtle Grove Library is on hold.

- Further discussion regarding possible changes to the library system should the library be faced with a 4-million-dollar shortfall. Director Bell-Rivera noted that public should have knowledge about the outcomes before voting on the property taxes issue.

- The Chair asked for an update to the request for streaming services. Director Bell-River stated it would be very challenging; audio would be easier. Dr. Wall requested she revisit it because anytime people can participate, it is a good thing. Dr. Hopson suggested a Zoom option.

- Dr. Wall asked for an update on the status of new board members. Director Bell-Rivera stated she has received no updates from county administration. Dr. Wall will reach out to County Administrator Wes Moreno.

VII. Manager's Report

- Century Branch Manager, Leigh Ann Helton, introduced herself, and gave a Power Point presentation to the board. She also provided statistics for the circulation of the Century Library and they are trending higher this year compared to last. Dr. Wall thanked her for the presentation and their efforts.

VIII. Director's Report

- Director Bell-Rivera's report focused on financial highlights. She stated the state's aid to the library has not been dispersed. The Clerk of Court put the refund from E-rate in the wrong line and will be corrected. Salaries for part-time staff increased. The OverDrive contract is complete and $600,000.00 has been encumbered to spend on resources.

- There is 8.4 million dollars in reserves, and she does not anticipate having to use any this year. Discussion on reserve goals.

- The revenue from the café contract has been substantially less than years past. Dr. Wall asked about the contract and what percentage the library gets. The director explained it's a three-year contract which will expire in July and we take in between 10-15% each year. Ms. Hendrix asked whether the library intends to renew the contract. Director Bell-Rivera stated the three-year contract expires in July and it will go out for bid.

- Discussion on the cost savings of the vending machines for the schools rather than the libraries. Ms. Hendrix likes the idea of a vending machine in the Beulah/Cantonment area. Dr. Wall suggests it might provide information on data usage.

- Southwest Library had a new AC system installed, so a reduction in the maintenance budget will be reflected in next month's financial numbers.

- The I/T department is moving forward to fill a position that will be cost shared with the library at 30%. Originally the library's share was going to be 80%. The savings will be redirected to the reserve fund.

IX. New Business

- The library will be launching the new library service platform, TLC on May 20, 2026, and the vendor will be onsite on Monday, May 18th to do a full staff training. All libraries will be closed for the training. Ms. Hendrix made a motion to cancel the board meeting scheduled for Monday, May 18th and move the policy review items to the June 22nd meeting. Dr. Hopson seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

- The proposed InterLibrary Loan (ILL) policy was discussed. Dr. Hopson made a motion to approve the policy with proposed changes. Ms. Hendrix seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

- Nominations for the board chair and vice-chair positions were discussed. Dr. Hopson made a motion to nominate Dr. Wall as board chair. Ms. Hendrix seconded the motion. Dr. Wall nominated Dr. Hopson as vice-chair. Ms. Hendrix seconded the motion. All members were in favor of the nominations and they passed unanimously.

X. Old Business

- None

XI. Open Board Discussion

- Dr. Wall congratulated Director Bell-Rivera on her graduation with a Master's degree.

XII. The next regular board meeting will be held on Monday, June 22, 2026, 4:00 p.m. at:

Brownsville Library
3300 W. De Soto St.
Pensacola, FL 32505

XIII. Adjournment – Dr. Hopson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Wall seconded the motion. Dr. Wall adjourns the meeting at 5:22 p.m.