

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

Board Members:

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

County Administration:

- Wesley Hall, Assistant County Administrator

Library Administration:

- Christal Bell-Rivera, Library Director
- Tricia Sheridan, Director’s Aide

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

- Christopher Lewis

IV. Approval of the Agenda

- Sunshine Law presentation has been postponed by the legal office until the two vacant seats are filled.

V. Approval of Minutes

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

VI. Chair's Report

- Dr. Wall welcomed the newest City-appointed board member, Rachel Hendrix.
- Congratulations were offered to Director Bell-Rivera for her promotion to Library Services Director. He is looking forward to her success because it is also the library and community's success.
- Dr. Wall referred to Director Bell-Rivera's question in the interview about what success would look like, and he stated that he is looking forward to seeing her five-year plan.
- Additionally, he stated that three of the four applicants felt it was important to offer employees opportunities to provide feedback. He welcomes ideas.
- Dr. Wall stated that the community has expressed concern that employees are unable to speak to the board or attend board meetings.
- Dr. Wall informed the board that Mr. Bullock has withdrawn his name from future consideration for a second appointment.
- The vote for Chair and Vice Chair positions will not be taken until the April meeting. Dr. Wall felt it was important to have a Vice Chair in place until then and made a motion to nominate Dr. Hopson to serve until April. Ms. Hendrix seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.
- Dr. Wall asked about the possibility of streaming meetings.

VII. Director's Report

- Director Bell-Rivera updated her report with updated employment vacancies.
- The library is on target with the transition from Insignia to LS2. The anticipated "go live" date is May 20, 2026.
- Dr. Hopson asked if the outdated computers were donated to non-profits. Director Bell-Rivera responded that the hard drives are wiped first, and Mr. Hall added that they are then auctioned.
- The library will participate in the Books by the Bay event and assist the Friends with their attendance as well.
- Director Bell-Rivera provided the financial report. Expenditures for fiscal year 2025-26 are higher in the IT cost center.
- Ms. Hendrix asked about the new integrated platform, and the Director provided the history of recent changes and how the library will educate the public about them.

VIII. New Business

- The Bylaws were reviewed. Dr. Hopson made a motion to accept the Bylaws as is with no changes. Ms. Hendrix seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.
- Director Bell-Rivera reviewed the proposed 2026-2027 budget. Dr. Wall asked about the differences between the 2025-26 and 2026-2027 budgets. The Director stated the budgeted amount from the Friends of the Library is a conservative estimate. She does not intend to pull from the fund balance. Director Bell-Rivera has proposed increasing the purchase of digital resources, ebooks, and audiobooks.
- The proposed fiscal year 26-27 budget reflects an increase in maintenance costs due to projects at various libraries, Cost Center 110502.
- Dr. Wall asked for a breakdown of the city taxes compared to the county taxes collected.
- The library will see higher costs for summer programming due to the new partnership with the city's community centers.
- Dr. Wall asked when the Friends would make their donation, and the Director responded that they would make their donation towards the end of the fiscal year, around September.
- Ms. Hendrix made a motion to approve the 2026-2027 budget with no changes. Dr. Hopson seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

IX. Old Business

- Discussion regarding the annual calendar and policy review schedule.
- Dr. Wall requested a meeting at the Westside Library. Director Bell-Rivera stated the city uses the meeting space frequently, so she will have to check the use for a specific day. The 7/27/26 meeting was changed from Southwest to Westside, which is a light policy review date, and will allow board members to experience the makerspace equipment.
- Ms. Hendrix cannot attend the April 27, 2026, meeting, so the meeting date was changed to April 20, 2026, but will remain at the Century Library.
- Dr. Wall asked about the board vacancies. Director Bell-Rivera has submitted the applications but doesn't have a timeline for when they will be presented to the BCC. At this point, the earliest agenda that can be approved is for the May BCC meeting. Dr. Wall expressed hope that new members will be appointed at that time.
- Dr. Wall made a motion to approve the annual calendar and policy review schedule. Dr. Hopson seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

X. Open Board Discussion

- The board members introduced themselves, and Ms. Hendrix shared that she is a native of the area and has worked at UWF for 20 years. Additionally, she is an avid reader and volunteers with the Reading Pals program. She looks forward to helping the board.
- The next board meeting will be held on Monday, April 20, 2026, 4:00 p.m. at:

Century Library
7991 N Century Blvd
Century, FL 32535

- XI. Adjournment – Dr. Hopson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Wall seconded the motion. Dr. Wall adjourns the meeting at 5:20 p.m.