

Minutes of WFPL Board of Governance Regular Board Meeting
Monday, March 24, 2025, at 4:00 p.m.
Pensacola Library, 239 N. Spring St.
Pensacola, FL., 32502

Board Members:

- Lori NeSmith, Chair
- Kenneth “Blaine” Wall, Vice Chair
- John Bullock, Member
- Liza Campbell, Member
- Joyce Hopson, Member

Administration:

- Todd Humble, Director of Library Services
- Tricia Sheridan, Director’s Aide
- Chris Hare, Public Services Division Manager

Absent:

- Christal Bell-Rivera, Deputy Director of Library Services

I. Call to Order

- Ms. NeSmith called the meeting to order at 4:03p.m.
- Proof of Publication was received.
- Quorum was met.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

- Ms. NeSmith led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States.

III. Public Forum

- No public present

IV. Approval of the Agenda – Manager’s report was dropped. The agenda was approved as amended.

V. Approval of Minutes

- Dr. Wall made a motion to approve February 24, 2025, minutes. Ms. Campbell seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

VI. Chair's Report

- Ms. NeSmith welcomed Dr. Hopson, the newest library board member appointed by the Escambia County Board of County Commissioners. Ms. NeSmith asked Dr. Hopson to share her background. Dr. Hopson is originally from Arkansas but has been in Pensacola for 40 years. She taught at Pensacola State College and loves basketball. She is active in the community and mentors for the Boys and Girls Club.
- Ms. NeSmith reminded everyone about the amazing Books by the Bay event located downtown on Saturday, March 29th.

VII. Library Director's Report

- Director Humble shared there is a minor punch list remaining for the Brownsville Library. He thinks the move-in will start sometime in the first week of April. About 85% of the furniture and materials are staged at the Brownsville Community Center. Ms. NeSmith read in the report that there will be a Senior Center at the library. Director Humble explained he had only recently been informed of the change. The Seniors regularly meet between 11:00a.m.- 2:00 p.m. and the library will plan programming around their times. The library will provide some programming, but the leaders of the Senior group will organize their own activities.
- There is a "Celebrate Brownsville" event on Saturday, April 26. The Brownsville Library will be open during that event. As soon as Director Humble gets an exact date for the opening of the Brownsville Library, he will email the board members with the information.
- There was a short discussion on the progress of the new library service platform (Insignia). He shared that Insignia has many more features and uses a specific method for sharing search results that is user friendly.

VIII. New Business

- Ms. Cristi J. Hankins, Assistant County Attorney, presented the Sunshine Law training. Important points of discussion included:

- If someone is prohibited from voting on a measure, they must file a Form 8B and file it with the Director's Aide.
- All special committees must be carried out in the same way as a regular board meeting, which includes providing public notice.
- Director Humble presented the 2025-2026 proposed budget which included the following cost centers: Library-501, Facilities-502, IT-503, Donations-504, Friends-509, Special Needs-550. Ms. NeSmith explained it is the Board's role to ask questions and look for unreasonable requests before voting to approve.

Discussion on various line items, including:

- There is an increase in salary spending to anticipate a 3% pay increase from the County.
- There is a \$470,000 increase to the IT budget because 71 desktops and 18 computers are over the 5-year mark and need replacing. There is an additional \$600,000 for book vending machines at every location.
- Electronic subscriptions are now listed under the IT budget which showed a change of \$425,000.00 on the library's (501) budget.
- The library budget will be adjusted when the IT and Facilities Directors send the library their budget.
- After the Library Board approves the budget, it still needs approval from the budget office and county administration.
- Ms. Campbell made a motion to approve the budget as presented. Mr. Bullock seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

X. Old Business

- No old business.

XI. Open Board Discussion

- Mr. Bullock raised the issue about what is happening to the Fairhope Public Library in Alabama. Director Humble stated Fairhope Library was losing funding was because they violated an Alabama state law.
- Further discussion about the funds for the "Feeding the Gulf Coast" program. Director Humble stated it is possible we could lose that program if the current administration eliminates the Department of Agriculture.

XII. Next Meeting

Monday, April 28, 2025, 4:00 p.m. at the Century Library, 7991 N. Century Blvd., Century, FL., 32535.

XIII. Adjournment – Ms. NeSmith adjourned the meeting at 6:35 p.m.