



TAMPA-HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD

Jimmie B. Keel Regional Library

July 23, 2026

Members Present: Maggie Mardirosian (Chair), Carmen Alvarez (Vice Chair), Phyllis Alpert, Liz Hawley, Mary Kate Downing, Alicia Guy, Bridgette Soto and Ami Marie Granger Welch.

Member(s) Absent: Jessica Ocasio (Secretary), Ginny Kale and Jaclyn Castek.

Staff Present: Chely Cantrell, Aracelis Chapman, Frank Collia, Lyn Begraft, Allie Brazis, Janet Marnatti, Ellen Mizio, Jasmine Qronfleh, Paul Delaney, Marci LaTorella and Jason Griffith.

The meeting was called to order at 4 pm with a quorum present.

The Public Library Board welcomed new member, Ariel Burke representing District 4.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Minutes from the May 28, 2026 meeting were approved as amended.

The Library's Fiscal 2026 Budget reports for May and June 2026 were reviewed along with monthly activity summaries. Clarification was provided regarding the budget for leased books as well as databases and downloads on the activity summaries.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS—None.

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Alpert inquired about the possible elimination of the E-Rate program that provides discounts to fund Internet for public libraries and schools. Staff will look into it and report back.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Library leadership was introduced: Marci LaTorella, Branch Manager and Jason Griffith, Manager of Library Facilities; and Janet Marnatti, Division Manager of Support Services.

The Library's MILO outreach bus was at this year's Lutz Fourth of July parade.

The Teen Advisory Board program (known as TAAB) kicked off its introductory session welcoming 50 student participants.

Preparations are in place for early voting at 14 library locations starting August 3, 2026. A high volume of visits are expected through Election Day.

A media coverage report illustrated the amount of publicity from local networks. Most recently the Library participated in media coverage regarding Summer activities.

There was discussion concerning State property tax reform measures with reference to the recent presentation by the County Management & Budget office to the Hillsborough County Board of County Commissioners. A preliminary budget report of the proposed operating budget for FY27 vs FY26 was also shared.

Staff presented an overview of active borrower statistics indicating over 700,000 active patrons within the past two years.

The meeting adjourned at 5:02 pm. The next regular meeting of the Public Library Board will be Thursday, August 27, 2026 starting 4pm at Arthenia L. Joyner University Community Library.