

BREVARD COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
June 5, 2025

MEMBERS PRESENT

Constantine Daniel, District I
Don Lusk, District II
Winifred Paauw, District III
Dr. Rochelle Kenyon, District IV
Mark Broms, District V – Chair

OTHERS PRESENT

Wendi Jo Bost, Library Services Director
Griselda Clark, Assistant Library Services Director
Laurie Blair, Budget Manager
Karen DiNatale, Administrative Assistant

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:31 am by Chair, Mr. Broms.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Mr. Lusk, seconded by Dr. Kenyon to approve the minutes of the February 20, 2025 Board Meeting. ***Motion unanimously carried.***

Correspondence

None.

Library Services Director's Report

Ms. Bost stated that Library Con was a great success, with over 2,000 attendees. Survey results showed that participants loved the event and want more in the future. One of the highlights was the Young Storytellers of Brevard, who collaborated during last year's Summer Reading Program to create the book *Anthology of Adventure*. They held a panel discussion where participating youth shared their experiences and answered questions from the audience.

We are currently focused on preparing our budget presentation. On June 4, 2025, Ms. Bost presented our budget alongside Laurie Blair to the Interim County Manager. During the meeting, we were asked two thoughtful questions: "What keeps you up at night?" and "What are you most proud of?" These same questions were posed later to our Library Directors. The most rewarding moment for me was realizing that across all Directors, the themes in their responses were consistent. The top concerns—what keeps them up at night—included staffing, security, and the future of funding. When asked what they were most proud of, the common response was how we've become a more cohesive library system, working collaboratively to improve our libraries.

The Summer Reading Program is in full swing! This year's theme is "All Things Space-Related." Our Summer Reading Kick-off was a great success, with over 1,000 attendees—despite the challenging weather conditions. A special thank you to Mary Beaumont for introducing the Silent Disco to the event; it was such a hit that we are now considering purchasing our own equipment. The end of

Summer Party will be held at the Titusville branch on July 26, 2025. We have had requests to have some of the events come to the North end of the County.

We received a generous grant from the Eau Gallie Rotary, which will fund our end-of-summer prizes. Among the prizes, some of our winners will receive telescope kits—perfect for this year’s space-themed program.

We also received an innovation grant for Making a House a Home. We received \$7,800 from NEFLIN, which is being used to support a variety of resources and programming at River House.

Our “Read your Way to K” is going well and we’re excited to continue helping the youth of Brevard get ready for kindergarten. All of our locations are providing these story times.

We received another grant from the Florida Humanities Council to support our Young Storytellers program. This year, we’re excited to host two groups: returning writers from last year and a new group of first-time participants. Our returning writers will have the unique opportunity to participate in virtual sessions with James Born, a New York Times best selling author who also collaborates with bestselling author James Patterson.

Our Library of Things continues to do well! Patrons can check out a variety of unique items, including ukuleles, blood pressure cuffs, and memory kits.

We’ve had several recent organizational changes among our library directors. Two of our directors have retired: Mauri Baumann from the West Melbourne Library and Janice Murray from the Merritt Island Library, who also served as an Area Director.

Heather Palmer, formerly the Director at Suntree/Viera, has transitioned to West Melbourne, where she will now serve as both Branch Director and Area Director. Aleksandra Susanj has been appointed as the new Director at Merritt Island. Chris Sullivan took early retirement, creating a vacancy at the Franklin DeGroodt Library. Laura Eastman-Hawthorne will serve as Interim Director for that location. At the South Mainland Library, Kat Fuhrig will be departing at the end of this week, and Sarah Bayless will step in as Interim Director. We are currently in the process of interviewing candidates for a new Area Director, who will also take on the role of Branch Director at Suntree/Viera.

We have completed the renovations of both the Adult and Juvenile bathrooms at the Cape Canaveral Library and it was finished on budget.

We have removed the cabbage palms from the Titusville Library parking lot and enhanced the landscaping. These improvements have increased visibility, thereby improving overall safety.

We have met with engineers and are approximately 90% complete with the plans for new camera systems at five locations. The project will soon be going out to bid. Once again, we are aiming for standardization, and the system under consideration is similar to the one currently used by the schools.

We are working to comply with a new multifactor authentication requirement that provides staff with a special security FOB. This device will generate a unique code that users enter alongside their password when logging into various county programs, enhancing overall security.

We will be discontinuing our relationship with OCLC for online cataloging due to rising costs. Instead, we have invested in ITS•MARC through our ILS vendor, CARL•X (TLC), along with BTCat, a cataloging tool provided by Baker & Taylor.

With the implementation of the new cataloging software, we are seeking to hire a Cataloging Tech Processor Coordinator to support and oversee related processes.

We are rolling out a new service model for our employees.

Give them the **BOOK**:

Be There. Focus on the individual in front of you. “Be There” is a choice to put them first.

Open-Minded. Promote an open-minded and non-judgmental approach when assisting others.

Outstanding. Strive for outstanding customer service by exceeding expectations.

Kind. Emphasize the importance of kindness and courtesy in all interactions with others.

Mr. Broms asked if anyone had any questions on Ms. Bost’s report.

Mr. Daniels questioned if there be additional parking at Titusville Library for the end of the year summer program.

Mr. Lusk inquired about the budget and asked if we are on track for the September budget. Ms. Blair confirmed that we are in good shape for this fiscal year.

Mr. Broms raised concerns about the Institute of Museum and Library Services, which is currently at risk of being shut down in the next federal fiscal year. He asked if we have analyzed the potential impact on our library. Ms. Bost responded that we do not receive direct funding from the Institute. However, our State Library does receive grants for community programs and databases, which she anticipates might be discontinued. She also expressed concerns about potential challenges with inter-library loans going forward.

Personal Appearances

Ms. Paauw stated that Library Con was great and asked if we could charge a small admission fee when we hold it again. Ms. Bost responded that charging the public admission is not really feasible, but we are considering charging vendors instead. Ms. Paauw agreed, noting that charging vendors could be a good fundraising opportunity.

Unfinished Business

None.

New Business

Mr. Brom brought up our Statistics Worksheet to go over. It was noted that attendance was down, but circulation was up. Ms. Bost stated that our online resources are very popular. Hoopla streaming video content is quite popular and it also provides streaming audio books. We pay for each view. We are currently spending \$26,000 a month for Hoopla. There are no holds on Hoopla multiple users can check the same title. We are shifting some dollars from physical books to e-books, but not at the expense of children’s books. A discussion ensued on the statistical worksheet from meeting room usage to e-resources. It was noted that the statistical worksheet is a good tool for tracking trend spotting and strategizing for the future.

Ms. Paauw expressed enthusiasm for the Makerspace program and suggested establishing a standard Makerspace in all library locations. Ms. Bost responded that the idea is under consideration but noted several challenges. Makerspaces require significant space that must be enclosed to secure the equipment. Additionally, enclosing the room impacts air conditioning and airflow within the facility, which presents further logistical hurdles.

Comments by Public/Friends


None.

Comments by County Library Board Members

Mr. Constantine wants it noted how often Ms. Bost states how proud she is of the staff. Ms. Bost stated staff is so valuable and every person matters.

Dr. Kenyon asked is there any place where patrons can write comments. Ms. Bost stated we do have comment cards at all libraries. Some libraries push them more than others. Ms. Bost stated we have Excellence in Action awards we give out.

Mr. Broms stated our next meeting will be held on August 21, 2025 at Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Library at 9:30 am. Ms. Paauw made motion to adjourn and Dr. Kenyon seconded. Meeting adjourned at 10:55 am.


Dr. Rochelle Kenyon, Secretary

Approved by the Library Advisory Board on **August 21, 2025.**