



TAMPA-HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD

North Tampa Branch Library

May 28, 2026

Members Present: Maggie Mardirosian (Chair), Carmen Alvarez (Vice Chair), Jessica Ocasio (Secretary), Phyllis Alpert, Liz Hawley, Mary Kate Downing, Alicia Guy, Ginny Kale, Bridgette Soto and Jaclyn Castek.

Member(s) Absent: Ami Marie Granger Welch.

Staff Present: Chely Cantrell, Aracelis Chapman, Julio Granda, Frank Colia, Lyn Begraft, Allie Brazis, Janet Marnatti, Ellen Mizio, Nicole Alger, Jasmine Qronfleh, Martin Gonzalez, Antoinette Giamalva.

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

The Public Library Board welcomed three new members: Virginia "Ginny" Kale representing District 1; Bridgette Soto representing District 2; and Jaclyn Castek representing District 3.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Diane Handler inquired how the property tax issue will impact the libraries. Peter Shanahan, spoke regarding disruptions in libraries by patrons using cell phones. *Mr. Shanahan's concerns were addressed by follow-up letter.*

Minutes from the April 23, 2026 meeting were approved.

The Library's Fiscal 2026 Budget report dated April 30, 2026 was reviewed along with monthly activity summaries. Clarification was provided regarding Rentals & Leases.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

As a follow up to Year-in-Review statistics provided earlier in the year, staff presented a comparison of cardholder accounts compared to other library systems in Florida based on service area population.

NEW BUSINESS—None.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Library leadership was introduced: Nicole Alger, Branch Manager at North Tampa Branch; Public Service Division Managers, Allie Brazis and Frank Colia; Support Division Manager, Julio Granda; and Library Brand Innovation Division Manager, Lyn Begraft.

An infographic was shared illustrating the factors that go into the building of a new library.

Library innovations were highlighted that had been submitted for awards earlier this year.

The Library is partnering with County Health Care Services to host an upcoming event where citizens can learn about important County services.

We are monitoring the Governor's announcement regarding increases to homestead exemptions. More information is needed as to whether it will be added to the ballot before any impact scenarios can be considered.

Staff presented an overview of this year's Summer Reading program.

The meeting adjourned at 5 pm. The next regular meeting of the Public Library Board will be Thursday, July 23, 2026 starting 4pm at Jimmie B. Keel Regional Library. (Note the June meeting is canceled.)