LIBRARIES DIVISION – DIRECTOR'S OFFICE
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BROWARD COUNTY LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD AGENDA

Tuesday, November 10, 2026 – 6:00 p.m.
Main Library – 6th Floor Bienes Museum Conference Room
100 South Andrews Avenue
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301

CALL TO ORDER

I. **Minutes of Meeting:** September 8, 2026

II. **Library Director's Report**

a. **FY27 Adopted Budget –** Elsie Lewin – Business Manager

III. **Old Business**

a. **Friends of the Library Report**

b. **Broward Public Library Foundation Report**

IV. **New Business**

a. **Board Member News and Recommendations**

b. **Officer Nominations and Appointments**

V. **Next Advisory Board Meeting:** January 12, 2027

VI. **Adjournment**

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Melissa Pozo at (954) 357-7514.

Broward County Library Advisory Board
Sunshine Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, September 8, 2026 – 6:00 p.m.
Main Library – Bienes Conference Room - 6th Floor
100 South Andrews Avenue, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301

Call to Order:

- Chair Phyllis Scott called the meeting to order at 6:03pm.

Roll Call:

- **Present:** Hannah Hostyk; Ertha Renee Posey; Alison Rials; Phyllis Scott; Karen Smith
- **Absent:** Cindy Baldwin; Arlene Connelly
- **Conference Telephone:**
- **Removed:**
- **Resigned:**
- **Excused:**
- **New Appointees:**
- **Quorum:** Yes
- **Library Staff:** Allison Grubbs, Libraries Director; Elsie Lewin, Libraries Business Manager; Kay Blake, Administrative Officer, Senior; Melissa Pozo, Administrative Specialist.

Minutes of Meeting May 10, 2026:

- The regular meeting minutes were approved as written. Member Rials made the motion, and Member Posey seconded.

<u>Library Director's Report by Director Allison Grubbs:</u>

a. **Overview Recommended Budget –** Elsie Lewin – Business Manager

- For FY27, the Division's budget is projected to be approximately $94 million. Ms. Lewin explained that this is a good healthy budget, particularly considering the uncertainties the County is experiencing. Ms. Lewin noted that BCL is in good financial shape, with the continued support of the Board of County Commissioners and County Administration. There will be a few small reductions but nothing the Division can't manage.
- Ms. Lewin mentioned that the budget is split into four major sections: Administration, Financial & Administrative Services, Support Services, and Public Service.
- The Division has several revenues sources that are anticipated every year, including the State Aid to Libraries Grant Agreement. For FY27 BCL is projected to receive approximately $1 million from the State. Other sources of revenue include some charges for services including paying for a lost book, photocopies, faxes, meeting room reservations, etc. $2.8 million is what the Division is projecting to receive in revenue for FY27.
- Ms. Lewin noted that the budget still needs to be adopted by the Board of County Commissioners through several meetings and budget hearings. These numbers may vary.
- In FY26 the Division had 631 positions and in FY27 expected to have 626 positions. Ms. Lewin clarified that the reduction consists of long-standing vacant positions and will not impact current employees.

- Ms. Lewin added that is important for the public to understand the value of the services BCL provides daily. There are millions who visit the library and borrow items from the library every year, BCL has 1.5 million library card holders. The Libraries Division is well funded, 90% of our budget comes from property taxes. If there is a change in the property taxes, it will have a significant impact on Libraries.
- Ms. Lewin mentioned that the Recommended Operating Budget is very useful information for the LAB members to have, is public information and is also on the County Office of Management & Budget's website. There will be two public budget hearings coming up where the Board of County Commissioners will deliberate the County Administrator recommended budget: September 10, at 5:01pm and September 22, at 5:01pm.
- Ms. Lewin added that in addition to the Operating Budget, there are several projects that the County has committed to funding including: PC replacements (BCL has over 2,000 public computers) and the recommended capital budget for the PC replacements is $650,000. A little over $200,000 for furniture replacement, $400,000 for security camera upgrades, and $154,000 for network equipment.
  Ms. Lewin also added that another big item in the capital budget is for the Main Library. A complete design and construction of the Main library auditorium (multiyear project) for $7.1 million will begin in FY28. The money is set aside for the future fiscal year. Also, $1.7 million is set aside for the construction cost of the Main library terraces for FY28.
- Ms. Lewin said the Division's operations are well funded; however, no funding is allocated for library refresh projects in FY27.
- Member Rials asked for the Main Plaza restoration. Ms. Lewin said that they have been through several different vendors, the County procurement process is complex and there are no new updates yet.
- Member Smith asked if it was possible to make a building wrap around the Main library plaza with pictures with a design so that it looks better. Ms. Lewin will check with the Facilities Management Division to check the cost and if it is possible to do.
- Member Smith also asked about the shortage of staff. Ms. Lewin clarified that is not a shortage, as the positions and funding are available but have not yet been filled. There are administrative steps the Division needs to take to request approval to fill the positions, and it could take time. Member Smith asked about the positions at AARLCC. Director Grubbs added that interviews were recently conducted to fill four vacant positions at AARLCC and are moving through the recruitment process. Ms. Lewin also added that library staff from other branches have been floating to AARLCC to support.
- Member Smith asked if FOBCL is allowed to post library vacant positions on their website. Ms. Lewin said yes, and that vacant positions are listed on www.broward.org/careers. Most of the positions approved to be filled are internal and there have been a lot of promotions.
  Member Posey asked whether there was a concern that, given the time it is taking to fill the vacant positions, they may not be filled, and the positions could be lost. Ms. Lewin said no, County Administration is aware of the needs.

Public Service Update:

- SB-1134 Discussion.
- Early voting August 2026 at several library locations.
- BCL has partnered with two-time GRAMMY® Award-winning neoclassical jazz-pop artist Laufey to release a limited-edition library card.

- Director Grubbs mentioned that the limited-edition library card has been very well received. Some locations ran out of stock.

Facilities Updates:

- **Dania Beach Paul DeMaio (District 6):** Interior repainting completed. Library reopened to the public on August 17.
- **Jan Moran Collier City (District 8):** Close to the public April 17 through early-October 2026 for building repairs.
- **North Lauderdale Saraniero (District 8):** Flooring replacement completed. Library reopened to the public on August 3.

NOTABLE PROGRAMS

Panthers Summer Reading Tour - With 5 appearances at Libraries this summer 1400 customers enjoyed the Florida Panther Patrol, special guest readers, family-friendly games, and the chance to meet the mascot Stanley C. Panther.

The Blues & Sweet Potato Pie: 25th Anniversary Celebration at the Northwest Branch on June 13, celebrated culture and legacy for Juneteenth with activities for the whole family and a sweet potato pie contest and a live blues concert. 400 attended.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

2026 Conference on Children's Literature is presented as part of the Common Ground: 2026 LJ & SLJ Public Library Youth Services Leadership Summit on September 17-18 at the Main Library. The event brings together current and aspiring youth services innovators and public library leaders from across the country to explore cutting-edge best practices, leadership development, and the future of library service.

Old Business

Friends of BCL Report: reported by Alison Rials and Karen Smith

- Chat and Chew meeting on August 20. Meeting was focused on the sponsorship process from beginning to end. All members left the meeting with a sponsorship package. Director Grubbs attended the meeting.
    - Chair Scott asked if she was allowed to attend the Friends general meetings. Member Smith said yes.
- Launched the Parliamentarians class on August 23.
    - Member Posey asked about signing up. Melissa will send the flyer with the information for the classes.
- Member Smith attended a meeting with the Miami Friends about Amendment 3. Very informational.

Broward Public Library Foundation Report by Allison Rials

- Presented their budget to the Board members.
- Discussed the property tax bill, Amendment 3.
- Next meeting: Annual Meeting on October 7.

New Business

Board Member News and Recommendations:

- Member Posey shared that she visited the two libraries in her district, Miramar and South Regional/Broward College.
  - At South Regional Mr. Jerdaine Sterling is the Community Library Manager. This fall, customers can join the chess club, play dominoes, receive one-on-one bilingual technical support and more. The Teen Advisory Board will be reestablished.
  - Miramar Branch has a new Community Library Manager, Mr. Bryan Simpson. One highlight is the Tech 411 program. Customers can take their personal devices, receive assistance with their challenges and ask technology questions. Also, the branch would like to grow their Friends group.
- Chair Scott reported that she distributed the Brainfuse refrigerator magnets to the Boys & Girls Club in Carver Ranches.
- Member Hostyk mentioned that the Marta-Beth Friedman Stirling Road Branch dedicated their StoryBook Path. It was very well attended, and it looks great. Member Hostyk noted that the location is not ideal due to the lack of shade and hopes the library would consider installing a permanent cover. Member Hostyk also added that the Friends of Stirling Road will have their annual meeting the fourth Tuesday of September, award winning Miami reporter for "Killer Train" will be a guest speaker and will be talking about the Brightline.

Next Advisory Board Meeting:
The next Library Advisory Board meeting will be on November 10, 2026.

Adjournment:
Member Hostyk motioned to adjourn the meeting; Member Posey seconded. The meeting adjourned at 7:11 p.m.