



TAMPA-HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD

Arthenia L. Joyner University Community Library

August 27, 2026

Members Present: Maggie Mardirosian (Chair), Carmen Alvarez (Vice Chair), Jessica Ocasio (Secretary), Phyllis Alpert, Liz Hawley, Bridgette Soto, Ami Marie Granger Welch, Ginny Kale, Jaclyn Castek.

Member(s) Absent: Mary Kate Downing, Alicia Guy.

Staff Present: Chely Cantrell, Aracelis Chapman, Frank Collia, Lyn Begraft, Allie Brazis, Janet Marnatti, Jasmine Qronfleh, Antoinette Giamalva, Danni Fanelli, Melinda Phillips.

The meeting was called to order at 4:10 pm with a quorum present.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Genevieve Ponder inquired about the progress of the Florida Sentinel Bulletin digitization project. Library staff will follow up with Ms. Ponder.

Minutes from the July 23, 2026 meeting were approved.

The Library's Fiscal 2026 Budget reports for July 2026 were reviewed along with monthly activity summaries. Clarification was provided regarding leased materials.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Staff provided an update regarding the E-Rate program in response to a board member inquiry at the July 23, 2026 meeting. A notice of proposed changes issued by the Federal Communications Commission is still under the public feedback period. We may know more by year's end about the scope of what will be implemented.

NEW BUSINESS

A nominating committee is being formed in preparation for selecting next year's Library Board officer positions. Those interested in serving on the nominating committee should contact the Library Board coordinator.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Melinda Phillips, Branch Manager at Arthenia L. Joyner University Area Community Center was introduced.

Staff presented an update on construction projects including JFG refresh, SouthShore multi-phased interior renovation and Bloomingdale Regional restroom renovations.

One of the many new initiatives Learning Experiences team is launching is a new Homesteading program.

Staff presented highlights from the 2026 Summer Reading Program.

Ms. Mardirosian asked whether the Library has musical instrument lending programs (other than ukele kits). Staff responded that the Library has considered future plans for a group music instruction program where the library owns and lends the instruments.

Ms. Kale asked how the Library determines what type of programs and activities and where they are held. Staff responded that the Library utilizes a strategic planning process that includes citizen input. There is also a process and standards for vetting external presenters and vendors. The Friends of the Library organization also participate in deciding the number of performances.

The meeting adjourned at 4:45 pm. The next regular meeting of the Public Library Board will be Thursday, September 24, 2026 starting 4pm at Riverview Library.