

**St. Tammany Parish Library
Board of Control Meeting
October 27, 2025
St. Tammany Parish Council Chambers
21490 Koop Dr.,
Mandeville, LA 70471
6:30 P.M.**

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by Charles (Chuck) Branton, Board President. Brent Geiger, Co-Interim Director, called the roll and declared that a quorum was present.

Present (7): Glenn Baham, Chuck Branton, Councilman Jeff Corbin (designated by Parish President Mike Cooper), Tamarah Myers, Pennie Petrie, Dinah Thanars, Travis Thompson

Absent (0): None

Emily Couvillon with the Civil Division of the District Attorney's Office was also present as legal counsel for the library.

P. Petrie led the Pledge of Allegiance. T. Thompson led the invocation.

C. Branton explained the meeting rules and the rules for public comment.

1. Approval of the minutes of the meeting of the Library Board of Control that was held on September 22, 2025.

DISCUSSION: There was no Board discussion.

PUBLIC COMMENT: There was no public comment.

MOTION: G. Baham moved to approve the minutes of the September 22, 2025, LBOC meeting. It was seconded by J. Corbin.

VOTE: Baham: Yes Corbin: Yes Myers: Yes Petrie: Yes Thanars: Yes Thompson: Yes Branton: Yes

RESULT: Motion to approve the minutes carried. (Unanimous – 7)

2. OLD BUSINESS

A. Personnel Committee Report

G. Baham, Personnel Committee Chair, gave an update from the committee. The committee has posted the job advertisement for Library Director and there have been 101 applicants so far. The deadline to apply is November 20, 2025. G. Baham noted that \$645 has been spent on advertising the job position. C. Branton noted that there is no action being taken on this item and no public comment. G. Baham stated that future committee meetings will be held around the parish. T. Myers reported that Livingston Parish has been very helpful in sharing information about their search process. G. Baham noted that applications remain on file for two years, providing a useful resource when other positions become available within the system.

3. NEW BUSINESS

A. Financial Report – September 2025

Tanya DiMaggio, Co-Interim Director, presented the financial report. Additional Ad Valorem Revenue in the amount of \$9,568.59 was received on September 24, 2025. The total Ad Valorem received for the year is \$12,959,740.11. No additional State Revenue Sharing has been received since the last report. The budget percentage for this point in the year should be 75%. Revenues are at 75.04% and Expenditures are at 72.34%. T. DiMaggio gave explanations for lines that were over or under budget. She noted that Publication of Legal Notices is under budget due to shorter board meeting minutes. She noted that Membership Dues are currently under budget but will be in balance on the next report once payment to the Northshore Community Foundation has been posted. She noted that the Improvement to Physical Plant line will be in balance once the generator for the Technical Services building is purchased and installed. They are currently awaiting the gas line installation. She also noted that the Slidell Branch Reading Garden project will be funded through the same Improvement to Physical Plant budget line.

DISCUSSION: G. Baham asked about the Movers line. T. DiMaggio explained that line will be used when the I.T. Department moves to the Technical Services building. C. Branton asked for an update on the elevator. T. DiMaggio noted that the elevator is currently being built and is on schedule to be in place before the I.T. Department's move in December.

PUBLIC COMMENT: There was no public comment.

MOTION: D. Thanars moved to approve the September 2025 financial report. It was seconded by T. Thompson.

VOTE: Baham: Yes Corbin: Yes Myers: Yes Petrie: Yes Thanars: Yes Thompson: Yes Branton: Yes

RESULT: Motion to approve carried. (Unanimous – 7)

B. Co-Interim Director's Report

T. DiMaggio gave a report on facilities, marketing and outreach efforts, Mobile Library services, professional development, programming highlights, contracts, strategic planning progress, public records requests, Statements of Concern, capital projects updates, and transition of materials from the Young Adult (YA) collection to the Teen and Adult collections. The ribbon cutting for the Mobile Library is scheduled for November 18, 2025. The job description for a Maker Space Manager will be posted soon.

C. Branton asked about the silicon coating of the roof and windows at the Lacombe Branch. T. DiMaggio confirmed that the work is complete, the building no longer leaks, and the repairs should last up to 10 years. She noted that we were approved to receive reimbursement from FEMA for the repairs because the damage was due to Hurricane Francine.

G. Baham reported that a concern regarding a book had been raised earlier that day. T. DiMaggio confirmed that the book *Suicide Notes from Beautiful Girls* by Lynn Weingarten will be reviewed the following day. She explained that staff are still proactively reviewing the YA collection alphabetically by author and had not yet reached the book by Weingarten.

T. DiMaggio reviewed the service statistics for September 2025 and the year-to-date statistics. She noted that State Park passes are now included in the virtual statistics because the passes are managed via the State Library's website.

C. Resolution #25-024 Regarding Rules and Regulations Section 113. Officers and Director (Branton)

C. Branton reported that the Louisiana State Legislature enacted changes to LA R.S. 25:215, which governs libraries. He explained that under Act 647, if the Library Director is also appointed to serve as the Head Librarian, that individual is exempt from the previous requirement that the Head Librarian be certified by the State Board of Library Examiners. In the St. Tammany Parish Library system, the roles of Head Librarian and Library Director are held by the same person. C. Branton then proposed Resolution 25-024 to remove the requirement that the Library Director "obtain/maintain certification by the Louisiana State Board of Library Examiners" from Section 113(D)(4)(f) of the Library Board of Control Rules and Regulations.

C. Branton stated that this change provides the Board and future Boards with more options and flexibility in conducting searches for Library Directors. He stated that the State Library has observed that the trend is shifting away from requiring a traditional Master of Library and Information Science (MLIS) and toward a CEO-type of Director. He emphasized that this does not mean that the Personnel Committee has already decided on a particular type of person; it simply brings the Rules and Regulations into compliance with state law.

MOTION #1: C. Branton moved to adopt Res. 25-024. It was seconded by T. Thompson.

MOTION #2: J. Corbin moved to amend the resolution by changing the word "compliance" in the fourth paragraph to "alignment." It was seconded by G. Baham.

PUBLIC COMMENT: There was no public comment.

VOTE: Baham: Yes Corbin: Yes Myers: Yes Petrie: Yes Thanars: Yes Thompson: Yes Branton: Yes

RESULT: Motion to amend Res. 25-024 carried. (Unanimous – 7)

MOTION #3: C. Branton moved to adopt Resolution 25-024 as amended. It was seconded by T. Thompson.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

The following individuals spoke in opposition to the resolution and in support of maintaining the requirement that the Library Director hold an MLIS degree – Joan Simon, Kristen Luchsinger, Jamie Segura, Lisa Rustemeyer, Sonnet Ireland, Barbara Hargrove, Rebecca Bohm, Heidi Weishaupt, Jean Wiggin, and Patricia Casey.

DISCUSSION: G. Baham stated that he has glanced at the applications and most applicants have a college degree. He added that it is likely that most people applying will have an MLIS. He reiterated that this resolution just aligns the policy with state law.

P. Petrie asked how many full-time librarians are on staff. B. Geiger answered approximately 28 MLIS degreed librarians. P. Petrie asked for clarification whether there is one in each library branch. B. Geiger

answered that the large branches have at least 2-3 MLIS librarians, but not all small branches have an MLIS librarian.

J. Corbin stated that it is not unreasonable for the Library Director to hold the same qualifications as the staff they supervise, and believes that having an MLIS degree is a useful requirement. J. Corbin and board members discussed the policy's use of the word "obtain," indicating certification could be earned later, and reviewed the criteria for certification set by the Louisiana State Board of Library Examiners.

C. Branton reiterated his earlier statements in support of the resolution and called for a vote.

VOTE: Baham: Yes Corbin: No Myers: Yes Petrie: Yes Thanars: No Thompson: Yes Branton: Yes

RESULT: Motion to adopt Resolution 25-024 as amended carried. (Yes – 5 | No – 2)

D. Board Meeting Schedule 2026 (Branton)

C. Branton presented the board meeting schedule for 2026.

MOTION: C. Branton moved to approve the 2026 Board Meeting Schedule. It was seconded by J. Corbin.

DISCUSSION: G. Baham noted that some of the meetings were not scheduled for the fourth Monday of the month, and B. Geiger explained that those dates were adjusted due to Memorial Day and availability of the Council Chambers.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Sonnet Ireland – She asked about locations for future board meetings and whether or not some will take place around the Parish for more people to attend. She noted hearing a rumor that the Council Chambers will be unavailable to the Board next year.

C. Branton stated he does not know the status of any issues involving Administration or the Sheriff's Office. B. Geiger clarified that the officers providing security at LBOC meetings are detail officers paid for by the library; therefore, no issues are expected. G. Baham stated that he would like to see some meetings held around the Parish so that more people can attend.

VOTE: Baham: Yes Corbin: Yes Myers: Yes Petrie: Yes Thanars: Yes Thompson: Yes Branton: Yes

RESULT: Motion to approve the 2026 Board Meeting schedule carried. (Unanimous – 7)

E. Holiday Schedule 2026 (Branton)

B. Geiger explained that the holiday schedule follows the traditional schedule outlined in the employee handbook and remains consistent each year. He explained the system-wide closed days, which are days when the library is closed, such as the Saturday after Good Friday, Independence Day, and the Saturdays following Thanksgiving and Christmas.

MOTION: D. Thanars moved to approve the 2026 Holiday Schedule. It was seconded by G. Baham.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Sonnet Ireland – She explained that the system-wide closed days allow employees who are scheduled to work on those Saturdays to receive their day off. She spoke in support of the holiday schedule.

DISCUSSION: Board members spoke in favor of the holiday schedule and giving staff time off. T. Thompson asked about Columbus Day. B. Geiger explained that Columbus Day has traditionally been used for the annual All Staff Meeting. The library is closed to the public, and staff meet for training and development on that day.

VOTE: Baham: Yes Corbin: Yes Myers: Yes Petrie: Yes Thanars: Yes Thompson: Yes Branton: Yes
RESULT: Motion to approve the 2026 Holiday Schedule carried. (Unanimous – 7)

4. Adjournment

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by G. Baham and was seconded by D. Thanars. All were in favor, none were opposed, and no one was absent. Motion carried.

APPROVAL:



Tamarah Myers, Board Secretary/Treasurer