

St. Tammany Parish Library Board of Control Meeting
March 23, 2026
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. Trevor Collings, Director, called the roll and declared that a quorum was present.

Present (6): Glenn Baham, Chuck Branton, Councilman Patrick Burke (designated by Parish President Mike Cooper), Tamarah Myers, Pennie Petrie, Travis Thompson

Absent (1): Dinah Thanars

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

C. Branton led the Pledge of Allegiance. T. Thompson led the Invocation. C. Branton explained the meeting rules and the rules for public comment.

MOTION: C. Branton made a motion to move agenda item 3E (Resolution 26-007) to the top of the agenda. It was seconded by P. Burke. E. Couvillon advised that public comment was not required on this motion.

VOTE: Baham: Yes Burke: Yes Myers: Yes Petrie: Yes Thanars: Absent Thompson: Yes Branton: Yes

RESULT: Motion carried. (Yes – 6 | Absent – 1)

C. Branton explained that T. Collings has advised that additional time is needed to work on this resolution.

MOTION: C. Branton moved to postpone Res. 26-007 with no specified date. It was seconded by P. Petrie.

PUBLIC COMMENT: There was no public comment.

DISCUSSION: There was no Board discussion.

VOTE: Baham: Yes Burke: Yes Myers: Yes Petrie: Yes Thanars: Absent Thompson: Yes Branton: Yes

RESULT: Motion carried. (Yes – 6 | Absent – 1)

1. Approval of the minutes of the meeting of the Library Board of Control that was held on February 23, 2026.

DISCUSSION: There was no Board discussion.

PUBLIC COMMENT: There was no public comment.

MOTION: G. Baham moved to approve the February 23, 2026, meeting minutes. It was seconded by T. Myers.

VOTE: Baham: Yes Burke: Yes Myers: Yes Petrie: Yes Thanars: Absent Thompson: Yes Branton: Yes

RESULT: Motion carried. (Yes – 6 | Absent – 1)

2. OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

3. NEW BUSINESS

A. Financial Report – February 2026

T. Collings reviewed the February 2026 financial report. The library has received the largest anticipated portion of its annual Ad Valorem revenue and remains on track with budgetary projections. He provided explanations for line items that were over or under budget and noted that certain lines will be adjusted in an upcoming budget amendment. Notable line items discussed included Data Lines, Polaris Maintenance, Consultants, and Lease/Purchase Books. Most over-budget items reflect expenditures made earlier in the year and are expected to be in balance by year-end.

MOTION: G. Baham moved to approve the February 2026 financial report. It was seconded by P. Petrie.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Kevin Marino – Mandeville, LA. He asked for an update on the RFID project and expressed support for the project. He voiced opposition to combining the Teen and Children’s Coordinator positions.

C. Branton stated that the RFID project was placed on hold in 2025 and is now up for reauthorization by the Parish Council. E. Couvillon confirmed it is on the April 9, 2026, Parish Council agenda. C. Branton added that he advised the Council the Board may not wish to proceed with the project at this time due to potential budget impacts from other major capital projects. He responded to K. Marino’s questions.

Lisa Rustemeyer – Mandeville, LA. She commented on the RFID project, suggesting that any reallocation from the RFID project be deferred until necessary. She expressed concern about combining the Teen and Children’s Coordinator positions.

C. Branton reiterated and explained that the Parish Council makes the decision of reauthorization. The funds will remain in the capital account until the Board formally requests an action be taken. L. Rustemeyer asked additional questions, and E. Couvillon clarified that the funds are earmarked but are not yet budgeted.

VOTE: Baham: Yes Burke: Yes Myers: Yes Petrie: Yes Thanars: Absent Thompson: Yes Branton: Yes

RESULT: Motion carried. (Yes – 6 | Absent – 1)

B. Directors’ Report

T. Collings thanked the staff and community for the welcome he has received. He provided updates to capital projects (Mandeville renovation, Lacombe replacement, and Slidell renovation), marketing and outreach, professional development, programming highlights, contracts, public records requests, statements of concern, and transition of materials from Young Adult (YA) to Adult or Teen. He reviewed the February 2026 and year-to-date circulation statistics.

C. Resolution #26-005 to Amend Resolution No. 26-004 to Clarify Section 411 “Disposition of Graphic Novels” (Branton)

C. Branton explained that this resolution is intended to correct typographical errors in Resolution 26-004. In the first paragraph under “Section 411. Disposition of Graphic Novels,” the word “and” was replaced with “or,” and “(B)” was removed. These revisions do not alter the substance of the policy.

MOTION: C. Branton moved to adopt Res. 26-005. It was seconded by T. Thompson.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Jamie Segura – Covington, LA. She opposed the resolution, citing concerns that C. Branton sponsored all the resolutions and that the interests of St. Tammany residents were not being considered.

Roxanne Newman – Mandeville, LA. She opposed shelving graphic novels behind the circulation desk, calling it censorship, and noted that rushed resolutions often require edits.

Devin McGee – Madisonville, LA. He stated that children should not be introduced to radical ideologies centered on race, sex, and identity, and expressed support for restricting certain books.

Jean Wiggin – Abita Springs, LA. She stated that she has asked the Board to visit the library and report how many children are observed in the adult section seeking sexual materials. She asked if other libraries hide books behind the desk.

Lisa Rustemeyer – She read a quote by James McFadden referencing Nazis banning books, suggested holding Rules and Regulations meetings, and explained her reasons for opposing the resolution.

Rebecca Bohm – Mandeville, LA. She opposed the resolution, stating that St. Tammany has the most restrictive library system in the area, and further outlined her views.

Three public commenters who did not wish to speak opposed the resolution.

G. Baham referenced the comments about censorship and stated that the books are published and available to be read. He noted that the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals has indicated this does not constitute censorship. P. Petrie asked for clarification that the restricted graphic novels are not hidden and are available for checkout. C. Branton confirmed they are behind the circulation desk and can be checked out. P. Burke clarified that the resolution has already been adopted and that this amendment is only a typographical correction.

VOTE: Baham: Yes Burke: Yes Myers: Yes Petrie: Yes Thanars: Absent Thompson: Yes Branton: Yes

RESULT: Motion carried. (Yes – 6 | Absent – 1)

D. Resolution #26-006 Regarding Statements of Concern with Respect to Graphic Novels (Branton)

C. Branton explained that the library revised its Statements of Concern (SOC) policies, allowing the Board to consolidate certain appeals under a single agenda item. The Board requests that all graphic novel SOC appeals submitted by Kevin Marino be considered at the April 2026 meeting, where the Board will determine a fair time allocation for remarks and vote to accept, modify, or reject staff recommendations. He read K. Marino's suggested course of action and noted that K. Marino is challenging the February 28, 2023, graphic novel resolution and book locations, not content, without having read the books in full.

There was a disruption from the audience. C. Branton issued a warning that any further disruption would result in the individual being asked to leave.

MOTION: C. Branton moved to adopt Res. 26-006. It was seconded by G. Baham.

T. Myers thanked staff for compiling the spreadsheet of listed books and content information, acknowledging the arduous effort involved.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Jamie Segura – She opposed the resolution, supported reviewing each book individually, and stated that the books should be returned to the shelves.

Kristen Luchsinger – She opposed the resolution, stating that requiring patrons to view books in a back room restricts access and that the library card system already restricts children’s ability to check them out.

Devin McGee – He said that while there were past complaints about someone overwhelming the system with SOC’s, “activists” are now doing the same, and staff should exercise discernment with items on the shelves.

Roxanne Newman – She supports consolidating SOC’s for the same book, but not different books from one person, and noted the Board has previously reviewed books individually even when complainants had not read them in full.

Jean Wiggin – She stated that the resolution is insulting to parents in St. Tammany Parish, noting that voters approved the millage and 60% have chosen to give their children unrestricted access to materials.

Kevin Marino – He believes the Board lied to him when they previously discussed grouping some, but not all, books together for review. He checked out all 63 titles to review and continued explaining his opposition to the resolution.

Lisa Rustemeyer – She read a quote from Laurie Halse Anderson aloud. She stated that LA RS 25:225 does not say “restrict” it says “limit access.” She continued expressing opposition to the resolution and asked several questions.

Rebecca Bohm – She opposed the resolution and questioned how the Board would handle multiple SOC’s for the same book submitted by different individuals. She asked about the process for public comment and Board voting.

Three public commenters who did not wish to speak opposed the resolution.

T. Thompson gave suggestions for setting speaker times in advance. P. Burke clarified that the Council Chair or Board Chair is typically listed as a resolution sponsor, and noted that a previously mentioned complainant had withdrawn her SOC’s. T. Collings clarified that this resolution is regarding appeals, not original SOC’s. The Board and Library Administration continued discussing the resolution, including the February 28, 2023, graphic novel resolution and the staff’s subsequent review. E. Couvillon clarified that each title must be voted on to satisfy substantive due process, while the Board may consolidate speaking time for the titles being consolidated under procedural due process.

VOTE: Baham: Yes Burke: Yes Myers: Yes Petrie: Yes Thanars: Absent Thompson: Yes Branton: Yes

RESULT: Motion carried. (Yes – 6 | Absent – 1)

**E. Resolution #26-007 to Amend St. Tammany Parish Library Rules and Regulations Section 407
"Statements of Concern about Library Resources" to Clarify Requests That Will Not Be Considered
(Branton)**

This item was moved to the top of the agenda and postponed with no specified date.

**F. Resolution #26-008 to Extend Time to Allow for Procedural Due Process of Undecided Statements of
Concern (Branton)**

T. Collings explained that this is a standard extension to allow additional time to review outstanding SOCs. The extension period is 120 days from the date of the resolution.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Kristen Luchsinger – She stated she would be in favor of the extension if the SOCs were reviewed individually and noted that the Board has only reviewed four SOCs in the last year.

Roxanne Newman – She asked what the Board would do differently during the extension period, stating that there was no point in extending time if there was no progress in reviewing the SOCs.

Jamie Segura – She opposed the resolution and stated that it is the Board's job to review the books. She stated that it is not always the Council Chair or Board Chair that sponsors resolutions.

Devin McGee – He is in favor of the resolution and mentioned bad faith appeals meant to jam up the due process for SOCs.

Lisa Rustemeyer – She opposed the resolution and stated that the previous Board did not complain about their duties. She stated that the Board has not shown effort or concern for patrons regarding SOCs.

Rebecca Bohm – She opposed the resolution and stated this has gone on for too long.

Three public commenters who did not wish to speak opposed the resolution.

T. Thompson clarified that while there is a backlog, the Board is working on measures to address the SOCs, and continues to carry out their responsibilities. G. Baham acknowledged audience comments questioning his reading speed and comprehension, as well as criticism of the extension of time. P. Petrie clarified to B. Bohm that she has checked out the books that B. Bohm has challenged and is actively reviewing them.

MOTION: T. Thompson moved to adopt Res. 26-008. It was seconded by C. Branton.

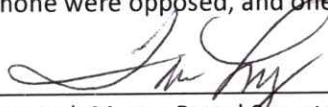
VOTE: Baham: Yes Burke: Yes Myers: Yes Petrie: Yes Thanars: Absent Thompson: Yes Branton: Yes

RESULT: Motion carried. (Yes – 6 | Absent – 1)

4. Adjournment

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

APPROVAL:



Tamarah Myers, Board Secretary/Treasurer