

THE TALBOT COUNTY FREE LIBRARY
100 W. Dover St.
Easton, MD 21601
Minutes of the Board Meeting
July 16, 2026

The meeting was called to order by Mary Pellicano at 5:10 pm. Meeting held at the St. Michaels Library.

Attendees: Mary Pellicano, Charles Yonkers, Ron Engle, Kellsey Stant, Sandy Boyd, Ron Engle, Becky Amaral, Pete Leshner, Talbot County Council Liaison, Dana Newman, Director, Scotti Oliver, Assistant Director.

Excused: Sue Regier, Terry Moore, Andrew Thaler, Alexis Roiter, Chris Franey and Robert Rankin, Town of Easton Liaison

Also attending was guest Jo Powers, Information Services Librarian

Action Items:

Votes were recorded in the minutes but there was no quorum. Board members will vote by email:

- Board members voted on and approved the June 18, 2026, minutes.
- Board members voted on and approved the Collection Development Policy with the noted 3 changes.
- Board members agreed to review bylaws and come back at the September or October board meeting with any questions and/or suggestions.
- Board members voted on and accepted the Treasurer's Report.
- Mary Pellicano and Sandy Boyd will work on an application for Teen Board liaisons.
- Need to have a board member to join the Foundation's committee to craft a job description for a contractual development position. They would join Micheal McMillan, Sue Regier and Mickey Terrone.

Review of the June 18, 2026, minutes: Mary Pellicano asked the board if there were any corrections or changes and hearing none asked for a motion to approve with Charlie Yonkers moving and Sandy Boyd seconding. All were in favor with none opposed. The motion carried.

Guest: Jo Powers, Information Services Librarian

Jo explained her role where she oversees the Information desk subs and is at the I-desk helping patrons. When the St. Michaels library was being renovated, she did a lot of facilities work with helping with the layout of the temporary location. She shared that she enjoys that kind of work. She has been at the library for 21 years and comes to the profession naturally as her father was the Director of the Queen Anne library. Jo went to library science school at

Chapel Hill. Besides working at the library Jo judges dog agility which takes her to different trials across the country and when traveling likes to visit other libraries. Another task she enjoys is being a member of the MD Library social committee where she puts together the annual auction basket. All thanked Jo for her work.

Advocacy sharing:

- Sandy Boyd reported that there were three board members who attended the Popsicles in the Park. It was a great event with lots of kids who were so excited to receive a free book. Sandy heard a lot of positive feedback about the St. Michaels library.
- Charlie Yonkers shared that when he was traveling back to this meeting, the driver for Londonderry told me how he and his daughter loved the library.
- Mary Pellicano reported that she will be at the Farmers Market.

Old Business: None

New Business:

Collection Development Policy

- Dana explained that there were three changes made to this policy as a reflection of the Maryland Freedom to Read Act. Karen Collier, Acquisitions Librarian at TCFL made these changes with footnotes. The board reviewed the document and then Mary Pellicano asked for a motion to accept the three changes with Sandy Boyd moving and Charlie Yonkers seconding. All were in favor with none opposed. The motion carried.

Bylaws committee and bylaws review discussion

- Mary Pellicano explained that at the last board meeting we suspended the bylaws and in doing so, we need to review and discuss them. It was proposed that the board look through them, compare with other libraries and we will come back at our September/October board meeting to see where we are. Please bring ideas and edits.

President's Report:

- Mary Pellicano reported: In a recent New York Times article where it listed what we celebrate in America in the context of the 250th, and in the list of 16 ideals, the first item listed was public libraries.
- We voted on the strategic plan at the last meeting and it is important that we don't let it just sit on a shelf but that it is a living document. We will work as a board to help bring the plan to fruition. Mary recommended that going forward, we move from advocacy sharing at board meetings to strategic plan sharing.

- A handout was given to the board about how to activate our MD State Library training account. United for Libraries is the arm that involves board members and we all have membership via MLA. Board members were encouraged to sign up for a virtual conference on July 28th for a special training for Trustees, Friends and Foundations.

Treasurer's Report:

Mary Pellicano had sent out her report and is included in these minutes. Earlier, the finance committee reviewed the Income and Expense report and Statement of Activities and approved the documents. To note:

- June 30th is the end of the fiscal year and revenues are up at 135% of what was budgeted.
- On the expense side, we ended the year at 145% of what is budgeted. We are doing well.

Mary Pellicano asked for a motion to accept the Treasurer's report with Kellsey Stant moving and Sandy Boyd seconding. All were in favor with none opposed. The motion carried.

County Council Representative's Report-Pete Leshner did not have a report.

Easton Town Council Representative's Report-Robert Rankin was not present and did not have a report.

Librarian's Report - Dana Newman reported:

- For the capital request to help fund the collection the board was reminded that when Baker and Taylor went out of business, we started placing orders with Ingram. The library received invoices from Ingram on July 1st which was too late for the County to process the funds. Dana further explained that when a capital outlay expense is not spent in the fiscal year, you need permission to move funds. Dana is working with the County to get their approval to do this.
- The library has \$24,000 in fundraising so far for our book mobile project with a total estimated cost of \$425,000. It will take 8-10 months to be built and we have Ed Forte writing a grant for Senator Van Hollen's office for \$160,000. We will need to do additional fundraising but feel there is a lot of interest in a book mobile and that there are potential larger donors out there. One goal is to have a contest on how to name the book mobile.
- A list was handed out to the board of where the money went for the St. Michaels expansion and renovation.
- All were encouraged to go see the documentary *Bear Me Into Freedom* and noted that our own Charlie Yonkers voice is in the film.

- There will be several book discussion groups talking about the One Maryland One book, *No Sense in Wishing* by Lawrence Burney. The author will be at BAAM in person on October 3rd to do a program.

Diversity and Inclusion Committee:

Charlie Yonkers said this committee has not scheduled a meeting yet but that he did receive other examples of EDI language.

Teen Liaison:

The library will be working with the school Superintendent to get a process in place to have liaisons on the board. We will also reach out to ChesMrc, BAAM and St. Peter & Pauls. Mary Pellicano and Sandy Boyd will work on an application.

Nominating Committee:

No report.

Friends Report:

- There will be a book sale in July on Friday, July 24th and Saturday, July 25th. There is also the Friends Preview Party held on Thursday, July 23rd from 5-7pm. If someone is not a member of the Friends, they will be able to join at the door and shop at the sale. They can always use help with the book sale.
- The Friends continue to seek additional Council members and volunteers.

Foundation Report:

- Mary Pellicano reported that the Foundation met this morning and that the portfolio remains healthy and that as of July 7, 2026 the balance is \$3,695,227. Moving the weight of some of the stocks was discussed and we note there is still money left in the St. Michaels expansion account. The board also discussed the need for a development position and that currently we do not have an example of a contractual position. It was suggested to create a committee and so Michael McMillan, Sue Regier and Mickey Terrone agreed to serve. Mary said that we should also have a board member join this committee.

The board meeting officially closed at 6:30 pm.

Reminder: The next board meeting is Thursday, September 17, 2026, at 5 pm at the Easton Library.

Respectfully submitted, Katie Dodds