

Library Board Regular Meeting

Results

March 17, 2026 | 6:30 p.m.

Chandler Hamilton Library
3700 S. Arizona Ave.
Chandler, AZ 85248



Board Members

Michael McElhany
Arman Sidhu
Alexis Merritt
Jennifer Pawlik
Parker McCarthy
Faith Risolo

Pursuant to Resolution No. 4464 of the City of Chandler and to A.R.S. § 38-431.02, notice is hereby given to the members of the Library Board and to the general public that the Library Board will hold a REGULAR MEETING open to the public on Tuesday, March 17, 2026, at 6:30 p.m., at Hamilton Library Program Room, 3700 S. Arizona Ave. Chandler, Az 85248. One or more Board Members may be attending by telephone.

Persons with disabilities may request a reasonable modification or communication aids and services by contacting the City Clerk's office at (480) 782-2181(711 via AZRS). Please make requests in advance as it affords the City time to accommodate the request.

Agendas are available in the Office of the City Clerk, 175 S. Arizona Avenue.

Library Board

Regular Meeting Agenda - March 17, 2026

Call to Order/Roll Call **6:30pm**

Unscheduled Public Appearances

Members of the audience may address any item not on the agenda. State Statute prohibits the Board or Commission from discussing an item that is not on the agenda, but the Board or Commission does listen to your concerns and has staff follow up on any questions you raise.

Consent Agenda

Items listed on the Consent Agenda may be enacted by one motion and one vote. If a discussion is required by members of the Board or Commission, the item will be removed from the Consent Agenda for discussion and determination will be made if the item will be considered separately.

1. **January 20, 2026 Library Board Minutes** **Approved 4-0**
Move Library Board to approve the minutes of the January 20, 2026 Library Board meeting.

Briefing

2. **Library Manager's Report**

Discussion

Member Comments/Announcements

Calendar

3. The next regular meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 19, 2026 at 6:30 p.m. in the Sunset Library Learning Lab, 4930 W. Ray Rd. Chandler, AZ 85226.
4. The next Friends of the Library Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 12, 2026 at 1:00 p.m., at the Downtown Library, 22 S. Delaware St. Chandler, AZ 85225.

Adjourn **6:48pm**



Library Board Community Services

Date: 03/17/2026
To: Library Board
From: Courtney Allen, Management Analyst
Subject: Chandler Library Board Minutes

Subject:
Chandler Library Board Minutes

Agenda Item Title:
January 20, 2026 Library Board Minutes

Proposed Motion:
Move Library Board to approve the minutes of the January 20, 2026 Library Board meeting.

Attachments

Library Board Minutes_1.20.2026

Meeting Minutes

Library Board Regular Meeting

January 20, 2026 | 6:30 p.m.
Chandler Basha Library
5990 S. Val Vista Dr. Chandler, AZ 85249



Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Board Chair Alexis Merritt at 6:31 p.m.

Roll Call

Library Board Attendance

Board Chair Alexis Merritt
Board Vice-Chair Jennifer Pawlik
Board Member Arman Sidhu
Board Member Michael McElhany
Board Member Faith Risolo (via phone @ 6:45pm)

Library Board Members Absent

Board Member Parker McCarthy
Board Member Leanna DeKing

Library Board Attendance

Rachelle Kuzyk, Library Manager
Courtney Allen, Management Analyst
Christopher McGinley, Basha Branch Manager

Others Present

None

Consent Agenda

1. December 2, 2025 Library and Parks and Recreation Board Special Meeting Minutes.
Motion to approve the minutes was made by Board Member McElhany, Board Vice-Chair Pawlik seconded. Motion passed 4-0.
2. November 18, 2025 Library Board Meeting Minutes
Motion to approve the minutes was made by Board Vice-Chair Pawlik, Board Member Sidhu seconded. Motion passed 4-0.

Briefing

3. Library Manager's Report – Rachelle Kuzyk

The Library Manager's Report was provided to the Library Board in advance of the meeting for Board Member's review.

Basha Branch Manager Chris McGinley provided a brief overview of recent highlights at the branch. He shared that the Basha staff are in a positive place with school administration. While there have been some ongoing parking and general school-related challenges, he feels the partnership is strong and operating in a good flow.

In programming, Basha continues to lead the way. The branch spearheaded the grant-funded Writer in Residence program. Haley Alcaraz served as the first Writer in Residence and will be presenting at the Local Author Book Fair this Saturday. She also has a new book coming out with Penguin. The current Writer in Residence is Valerie Ipson. The branch intentionally selects authors with diverse specialties. Additionally, a former Writer in Residence, now a well-known local historian and frequent NPR contributor, will also be presenting a program this Saturday.

Basha has also become known as the Puzzling Barons. The branch's puzzle swap is scheduled for January 31, and the annual puzzling tournament will be launching soon. What began at Basha has grown across the East Valley, expanding to Mesa, Tempe, and now Scottsdale. This growth highlights the collaborative spirit of the libraries and their ability to build community-driven initiatives from the ground up.

Although there have recently been several position changes at Basha, the branch has retained most of its core staff. Many team members are exploring new roles while maintaining the strong culture that defines the branch. The staff's ability to connect with and serve the children and teens in this area remains a distinctive strength.

Library Manager Rachelle Kuzyk informed the Board that Sue Van Horne has officially retired. Joel Miller has stepped into the role of Assistant Library Manager and is also currently serving as Downtown Library Manager. The leadership team is exploring a restructuring plan and is awaiting completion of internal HR processes. A question was raised about whether the Downtown position will remain combined with the Assistant Library Manager role or be separated. Rachelle shared that the goal is to divide roles into two dedicated positions. Previously, Sue served in both capacities; however, the Downtown Branch is a large and busy location, which limited the time available for assistant manager level responsibilities. Pending HR approval, the plan is to return to a structure with a dedicated Assistant Library Manager and a dedicated Downtown Branch Manager.

Board Member McElhany asked whether the Discovery Library is considered a fifth branch or part of Outreach. Rachelle explained that it is being designated as a branch. It also serves as the hub for the library's major outreach events, so the terms "Outreach" and "Discovery Library" are sometimes used interchangeably. The Discovery Library is classified as a branch because it is a mobile library that brings services directly into the community. However, it does not operate exactly like a traditional branch, as its collection is a dedicated, secure collection housed on the vehicle. The vehicle is booked for events over the coming weekends and regularly visits Tumbleweed Park. It will also be stationed in front of the Downtown Library on Thursday morning for the Library and Recreation Master Plan consultants, allowing it to be included as one of the branches they visit.

The Discovery Library continues to gain visibility and momentum in the community. Staff attended the Multicultural Festival this past weekend and, despite the challenges of counting attendance due to foot traffic in and out of the vehicle, recorded at least 325 individuals who visited the vehicle or engaged directly outside with materials and handouts. It was a strong turnout and a successful event.

Board Chair Merritt inquired if the schedule is online for the open stops for the Discovery Library. Rachelle responded that the open stops are not online yet, but they will be on the website soon. Closed stops will not be publicly advertised. The Discovery Library will have its own page within the branch pages, and it will also have events on the calendar, so it will live on two of the website pages. Once it's populated with all the open stops, you will be able to go to the calendar and narrow that down to the Discovery Library.

Board Chair Merritt also asked how she should direct people who want to know the location and how much capacity there is for additional open requests. Rachelle explained that the Discovery Library is currently focused on attending city events and is not accepting many additional open requests while operations are still being finalized and processes are being refined.

Rachelle provided the Board with a brief update on the Hamilton renovation project. Construction has reached substantial completion, though the contractor is still working through a punch list. While it may not be the final list, the project is nearing full completion. All soft seating, such as lounge chairs, ottomans, and laptop tables have been ordered. Furniture for the new huddle spaces is also on order, along with office furniture and workstations for the new circulation workroom. The team is now assessing the remaining project budget to determine what may be available for additional shelving that they hope to add to the library. Furniture delivery is expected to begin in the first or second week of March. If the timeline holds, most of the furnishings may be in place by the time of the next Board meeting, which will be held at the Hamilton branch in March.

4. Library Board Ordinance No. 1628

Board Chair Merritt shared that she was unsure where to locate the Library Board Ordinance, noting that it serves as the guiding document for the Commissioning Board. It was clarified that the ordinance is available on both the library's website and the City of Chandler's Boards and Commissions page, and is provided to all Board Members once they are appointed.

<https://www.chandleraz.gov/government/boards-and-commissions/library-board>

Board Chair Merritt also asked about the length of her term as Chair. According to the ordinance, the Chair may serve two consecutive one-year terms. Based on that provision, her current term will expire in November 2026.

The Board also asked whether the ordinance could be modified regarding terms of office. Courtney followed up with the City Clerk's Office and confirmed that the ordinance is governed by City Code and aligns with the structure used for all other Boards and Commissions. Members serve three-year terms, and officers may serve up to two consecutive one-year terms in the same role.

Board Members further inquired about vacancies and attendance requirements. It was explained that a Board Member may be removed after three unexcused absences. Vacancies are filled as they occur, while new appointments and reappointments are processed annually in May.

Members Comments / Announcements

Board Member Sidhu shared that he recently attended the Phoenix Public Library fundraising event, "Raise the Stacks," held at Burton Barr Central Library. The 21-and-over, ticketed event provided after-hours access to the library and was designed to bring the community together in support of library programs.

The evening featured appetizers, drinks, complimentary valet parking, and a cocktail-style atmosphere, along with live music and a dessert reception. Guests were welcomed by the library's bookmobile, which is operated by the Phoenix Public Library Foundation.

The entire floor was closed to allow guests to mingle among the stacks while enjoying food and beverages. The event incorporated multiple revenue-generating components, including both a live auction with an auctioneer and an online-style silent auction. Additional creative fundraising efforts included "mystery boxes" pairing books with wine or beer. Tickets were priced at \$75 per person, with approximately 250 attendees. It was structured as an adults-only, after-hours experience, which appeared to be a strong draw.

Board Member Sidhu noted that the event created meaningful engagement opportunities for the Mayor, City Council, and community members who may not regularly visit the physical library. It also provided an effective platform to highlight library programs and make a compelling case for support, particularly for initiatives that are not funded through the general budget.

It was discussed that if a similar event were considered locally, much of the initiative and oversight would likely need to come from the Friends of the Library particularly due to liability considerations. Overall, Board Member Sidhu commented that an “after dark” library event could be a memorable and impactful way to engage the community and reinforce support for library services, especially during funding discussions.

Unscheduled Public Appearances

None

Calendar

7. The next regular meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 17, 2026 at 6:30 p.m. in the Hamilton Library Meeting Room, 3700 S. Arizona Ave. Chandler, AZ 85248.

8. The next Friends of the Library Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 10, 2026 at 1:00 p.m., at the Hamilton Library, 3700 S. Arizona Ave. Chandler, AZ 85248.

Adjourn

Motion to adjourn made by Board Member Sidhu, Board Member McElhany seconded. Motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 7:07p.m.

Courtney Allen, Board Liaison

Alexis Merritt, Board Chair



Library Board Community Services

Date: 03/17/2026
To: Library Board
From: Courtney Allen, Management Analyst
Subject: **Library Manager's Report**

Overview

With April nearly upon us, we've been busy at CPL with a full calendar of programs, including tax services, our annual spring reading challenge, cultural events, and Discovery Library outreach activities.

Don't forget that April 1st is Library Giving Day and National Library Week begins on April 19th, a great time to advocate for the importance of public libraries in communities across the nation.

The renovation at Hamilton Library is nearing completion, with new furniture and additional shelving to be installed in the coming weeks. Stop by to check it out!

Please share your congratulations with Chris McGinley, who is joining us at the Downtown Library as our new branch manager. The recruitment to fill his vacancy at Basha closes on March 15th, 2026.

Branch Updates

Basha Branch

- Our annual Holi program went well. Good turnout from the community.
- Our Writer in Residence, Valerie Ipson, continues to see good turnout for her 1-on-1 appointments.
- We received a ton of positive feedback from the students on our "Love Your Library" display.
 - Several staff members mentioned by name for the customer service they offer to the community.
 - Overall, a really positive, uplifting passive community engagement.
- Puzzle Swap continues to see major numbers and community support. One of our most popular programs.
- Our longest running program, Stich'n Time has seen a resurgence in attendance.
 - Patrons of all ages are starting to show up.
 - Some of our Talk Time patrons have attended as well.
- Gilbert Christian Schools stopped by for multiple class tours of the library.

Downtown Branch

- Library Specialist, Kathryn Tilton, started in late January. She is a great addition to the Teen Services team.
- Carpets were cleaned throughout the entire building, including our staff and public areas.
- Thanks to a partnership with the Vision Gallery, a multi-media art project was installed in early February and will remain through the end of April. The art project celebrates Hispanic heritage.

Hamilton Branch

- The Lunar New Year Event put on by Hamilton's Teen Advisory Group was a big success again this year with over 150 attendees. Performances included dancing, karate, and the dragon dance.
- The new storytime room has been a hit with parents and kids as storytime returned in full swing at the beginning of February.
- Patrons are loving the new setup and changes made from the renovation. They like how open the space has become.
- The new study rooms should be available soon to the public but have helped with allowing us to continue offering VITA Taxes during the renovation and even allowing for Writer in Residence to come to Hamilton.
- Staff are enjoying the new setup as well and the circulation team can't wait to get into their new room after furniture arrives in the next few weeks.

Sunset Branch

- Sunset's public and staff restrooms have been remodeled with updated tile, countertops, flooring, sinks, and stalls.
- Our new Youth Services Librarian, Sarah, is doing a fantastic job.
- VITA is once again offering free tax preparation at Sunset, and it has been extremely busy and running smoothly.
- We had a very successful collaboration with the Phoenix Suns and player Oso Ighodaro. More than 400 people attended and enjoyed crafts, activities, burritos from Rubios, and tours of the new Discovery Library.

Outreach

- The Discovery Library is officially on the road and has already welcomed over 2,000 visitors.
- The Discovery Library was a huge hit at the City's Multicultural Festival, Airport Day and Innovation Fair.
- In January and February, outreach staff created over 100 new library accounts and circulated nearly 1,000 items.

Collections and Statistics

Active Cardholders

December 1, 2025	74,235
January 1, 2026	74,168
February 1, 2026	74,382
March 1, 2026	74,495

Physical Item Checkouts

November 2025	94,399
December 2025	89,430
January 2026	97,693
February 2026	87,074

CloudLibrary Checkouts

November 2025	20,191
December 2025	21,345
January 2026	22,285
February 2026	18,723

MCLD MAX Usage

November 2025	143 Borrowed, 153 Loaned 1.07 L/B
December 2025	184 Borrowed, 159 Loaned 0.86 L/B
January 2026	223 Borrowed, 213 Loaned 0.96 L/B
February 2026	190 Borrowed, 188 Loaned 0.99 L/B

Programming

January and February 2026 Summary

- We held over 650 programs in our libraries in January and February, with over 13,000 people in attendance.
- The Discovery Library has had 25 events and engaged with 2,128 people. 30+ events are scheduled for the Discovery Library in March and April.
- Early Literacy Series Story School, presented by Make Way for Books, ran from January 21–February 27. This is always successful and we get great feedback. We will have another Story School session starting in April running through May 14.
- Adult Literacy held 38 Talk Time sessions in January and February, with 258 in attendance.
- Our new Early Literacy Specialist Lisa Best has been observing Ready, Set, Kindergarten! and plans to present it at the Chandler Care Center in May.

Systemwide/ Signature Events Coming in March and April

- In-n-Out Burger Cover to Cover Spring Reading program begins March 7 and runs through April 18 for children ages 4-12. For every five books or 300 minutes read, the child receives an achievement award for a free burger. Each child can earn up to three awards. Sign up and materials must be obtained at the library branches.
- Library lecture series for Chandler's Celebration of America (America 250) runs March through May. Special lecture topics starting March 2 covers themes such as history and space exploration connected to Route 66; traveling to Presidential historical sites; the Arizona Trail by mountain bike; Arizona folk music history, and more. Attendees can earn points on their Red, White and Blue digital pass with a scan of a QR code at the program.
- Nature of Things, a series in collaboration with Chandler Nature Center, continues in March through May. Sonoran Desert wildflowers, the 850-mile long Arizona Trail, and natural wonders of the Grand Canyon are featured in the next three programs.
- Writer in Residence series continues through April 21 with local author Valerie Ipson. Ipson is the author of several novels and children's books, including *Ideal High* (2015), *Christmas Future* (2018), *After Bedtime* (2021), *Sweet Dreams, Princess* (2021), and *Baby Bear's Turn* (2023). She will hold one-on-one consultations and three workshops between Basha and Hamilton Libraries.
- During April, encourage people to check out our performances and music-themed youth programs connected to the City's Jazz on the Move series! We'll be hosting several live performances at Sunset, Downtown, Hamilton, and a larger jazz performance at Sunset Park with the Jake Leyba Quintet.

- Water-Wise Workshops in March and April head to Sunset, Hamilton, and Downtown, covering topics such as heat-resistant landscaping, worm composting, and transforming yards into beautiful, natural xeriscape designs.
- Systemwide Spring Art Series will run April 11-May 13. Know anyone who likes to create art? Downtown, Basha, and Hamilton are offering a range of fun and creative art programs, some of which are taught by local artists. Painting, digital art, ink wash, collage, and more. For adults and teens, most require registration.
- Kyrene School District Art Show at Sunset Library to view paintings, drawings, and other artwork created by kindergarten through 8th grade Kyrene students! The show is on display from April 23-May 12.

Information Technology

- The Library guest Wi-Fi has been upgraded at Hamilton, Basha, and Sunset. The Downtown upgrade is scheduled to be completed in mid-March. Coverage and speeds will both see an improvement on the new system.

Friends of the Chandler Library

- Fundraising book sales continue with clearance, media and children's books on site, as well as online sales. Many thanks to those that donate books to the Friends and those that support their library through books purchased.
- Friends sponsored library programs and services are featured on the Library's calendar of events - chandlerlibrary.org/friends
- April 1 is Library Giving Day - #LibraryGivingDay is a one-day fundraising event with the goal of encouraging people who depend on and enjoy public libraries to donate to their individual library system.

Attachments

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Hamilton_Renovation_2
Hamilton_Renovation_3
Hamilton_Renovation_4
Hamilton_Renovation_5
Hamilton_Renovation_6
Hamilton_Renovation_7
Hamilton_Renovation_8
Hamilton_Renovation_9

Hamilton_Renovation_10

Hamilton_Renovation_11

Gilbert Tour

Gilbert Tour

Stitch'n Time

Stitch'n Time











chandlerpublic
LIBRARY

HAMILTON LIBRARY
Home of the Huskies

BOOK
RETURN



STAFF

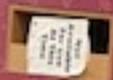




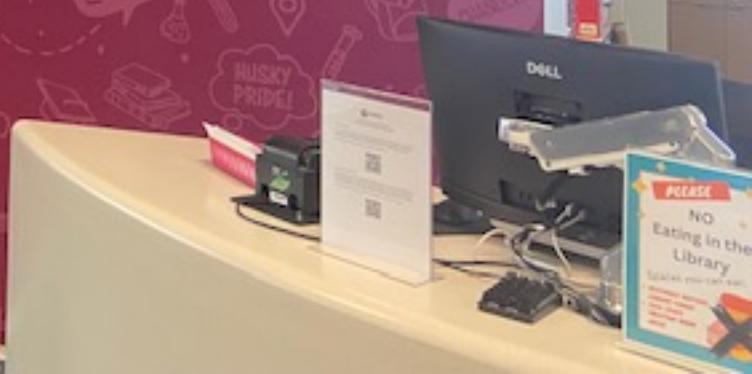
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HAMILTON LIBRARY
Home of the Huskies

BOOK
RETURN



STAFF





3 STUDY ROOM

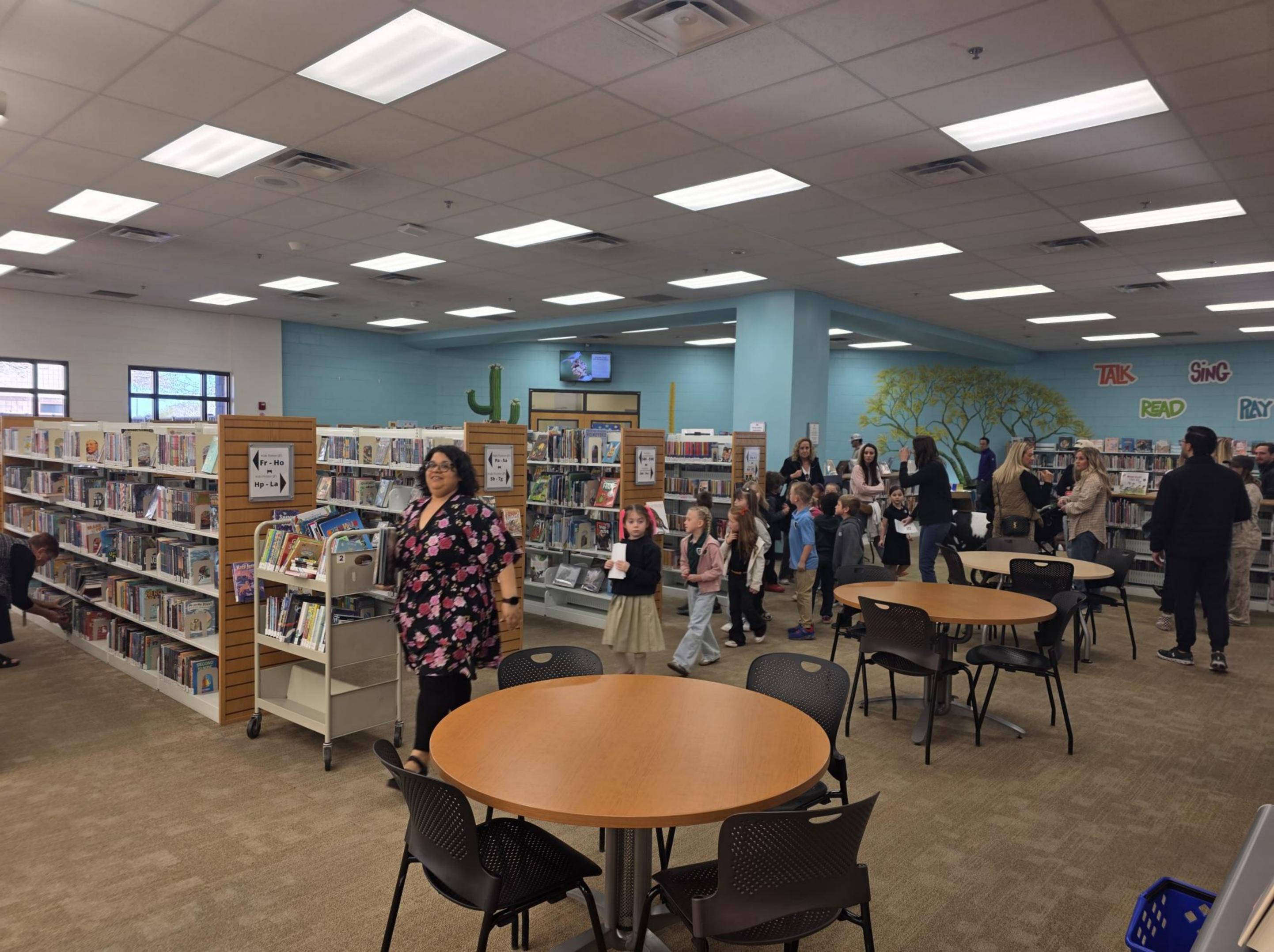
4 STUDY ROOM











← Fr - Ho
→ Hp - La

← Pa - Sa
→ Sb - Tc

TALK
SING
READ
PLAY



This is a public event where photos may be taken. Your attendance at this program implies your consent.

If you prefer not to be photographed, please inform library staff.

THANK YOU





