

**Minutes of Regular Meeting of the  
Oklahoma Educational Television Authority**

1:00 p.m., Tuesday, August 24, 2021  
OETA Media Center Conference Room  
7403 N. Kelley Ave.  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

**DIRECTORS PRESENT:**

Terri Cornett, Chair  
Wendy Argenbright  
Richard Beck  
Lisa Greenlee  
Joy Hofmeister  
Glen Johnson  
Jeanie Webb

**DIRECTORS ABSENT:**

Kara Hall  
Joseph Harroz, Jr.  
James Isaacs  
Mike Martin  
Larry Rice, Vice Chair  
Kayse Shrum

**VISITORS PRESENT:** Chief Assistant Attorney General John Settle and eCapitol News Reporter Tyler Talley.

**STAFF PRESENT:** Executive Director Polly Anderson; Vice President of Finance Shawn Black; Vice President of Production Susan Cadot; External Relations Director Chad Haney; Vice President of Operations Janette Thornbrue; and, Executive Assistant Brandy Kennedy.

The Oklahoma Educational Television Authority Board of Directors met in person at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 24, 2021. A Notice of Meeting had been filed with the Secretary of State and copies of the Agenda and meeting documents were posted in accordance with provisions of the Open Meeting Act.

Chair Cornett called the meeting to order. Anderson called the roll. It was determined that a quorum was present and the meeting was called to order at 1:19 p.m.

**Item #6 (Action)**

The Board reviewed the minutes for the regular meeting of June 22, 2021. The Chair entertained a motion to approve the minutes. Johnson made the motion to approve and Argenbright seconded the motion. Seeing there were no comments or discussion requested, the Chair called for a roll call vote. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried at 1:21 p.m.

**Item #7 (Action)**

Black reviewed the financial and personnel reports with the Board. He stated the cash balance surpassed what had been anticipated. He noted the majority of the expenses listed under "miscellaneous expenses" is for electricity, which includes electricity to the transmitter sites as well as the agency buildings. The Chair entertained a motion to approve the financial and personnel reports. Hofmeister made a motion to approve the reports. Johnson seconded the motion. A roll call vote was conducted and the motion

carried unanimously at 1:26 p.m.

Chair Cornett welcomed Webb, president of Rose College to the OETA Board of Directors. The Chair thanked Johnson for his service, as this was his last meeting as an OETA director. She stated, "We thank Chancellor Johnson for his outstanding dedication, loyalty, and service to OETA. He has worked tirelessly for 14 years to help guide OETA to be one of the top public broadcasting stations in the United States, providing wisdom and rejuvenation while serving the citizens of Oklahoma. We are honored and we thank you for your exemplary service." The Chair then presented a resolution, which follows:

#### RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Glen Johnson has been a board member of the Oklahoma Educational Television Authority (OETA) for the past 14 years, having joined the Board in 2007; and,

WHEREAS, he has served with distinction and has been a vital member of this Board; and,

WHEREAS, he has been a past Vice Chair and Chair of the Board; and,

WHEREAS, Chancellor Johnson helped steer the Authority through troubled times and was part of the executive committee that brought the organization to the healthy state it remains in today;

THEREFORE, be it resolved, that on this 24<sup>th</sup> day of August 2021, this Board recognizes his service to OETA and is very grateful for his service.

Following the resolution, Johnson addressed the Board:

"Thank you so much. Great words. My association with OETA started in 1983. August 24, 1982 was my first election to the House of Representatives at age 27. So 39 years ago, I was on the appropriations committee and was on the education subcommittee. OETA was under that umbrella. I had been a fan at that point just as a citizen, but I got to see all of the very special things that OETA had nationally, such as the opportunities, educational platforms for students. I always tried every year to be here for the telethon, which was very enjoyable. So this relationship for me has in many ways extends almost my entire lifetime.

But as a board member the last 14 years, a couple of those years were tough, and we made it through together. And today, every time Polly sends a communication about our staff, it's another outstanding achievement that has been put into the books on behalf of OETA. We have a lot to be proud of. I've been very honored to serve on the board with each of you and my commitment to OETA will remain beyond my retirement on June 30<sup>th</sup>. Most of all, I leave this Board with a lot of great memories and I resolve that the future is bright with outstanding leadership. I've served on a lot of boards and this is a great Board that I have been proud to be part of. Thank you; this means a lot. I'll remain in touch as I hope to remain engaged with OETA."

Chair Cornett expressed appreciation to Anderson for her OETA presentation given to the Rotary Club in her hometown of Vinita. The Chair stated that her presentation and speech were informative, educational and interesting, commenting that it even made the local newspaper. The Chair informed the Board that she has requested the Executive Director to create a Board Book that will include OETA bylaws, state laws, history, and the members of

the board of directors. The Chair thanked each director for participating in the Board.

**Item #5**

Anderson informed the Board that OETA's *Gallery America* won an Emmy for the episode, "Joe Slack: Iron Man." Anderson noted that fundraising is going well, as donations are even with last year's number. Anderson reminded the Board that OETA just completed a pledge drive, and during that drive OETA raised \$221,000, exceeding the goal of \$220,000. She pointed out that ratings continue to be strong, as OETA is ranking number one in the nation for Antiques Roadshow every week.

Further, Anderson reported that *PBS LearningMedia*, a free educational content site used by teachers, parents and students, has more than doubled its Oklahoma users from 11,000 pre-pandemic to 26,000 today. Anderson also brought to light that OETA is working with Oklahoma City Public Schools to implement six *PBS NewsHour* Student Reporting Labs at a middle and high school level.

Anderson informed the Board that OETA aired a sixty-minute documentary, *Tulsa Race Massacre: 100 Years Later*, which was produced in conjunction with the *Back in Time* and *Gallery America* producers. She specified that in the Tulsa market, the program was the highest rated program in the country compared to all PBS markets. In addition to the program, Anderson noted the education department published companion guides for teachers while the Marketing Department posted it on social media. Further, she informed the Board that the documentary is now open for screenings by community groups.

Anderson pointed out that the request for one-time funds of \$150,000 for new air conditioning to keep sites operational was denied. Recently OETA had a complete air conditioning failure at OETA headquarters in the Vineyard Center. Adams oversaw the repairs, but it was a \$20,000 unbudgeted expense.

Anderson proceeded with an update on the Eufaula transmitter. She reminded the Board that funds were approved by the state to pay up to fifty percent of replacement costs, while the Friends of OETA is providing the other fifty percent of funds. She indicated that OETA expects to have the transmitter running in mid-October.

**Item #8**

Anderson pointed out the form passed out to each board member, called the FCC Biennial Ownership Reports. She indicated these need to be completed by each board member.

**Item #10**

Anderson announced the next regular meeting is set for Tuesday, October 26, 2021 at 1 p.m. at the OETA network headquarters in Oklahoma City, OK.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the Authority, Chair Cornett called the meeting adjourned at 1:38 p.m.

Adopted this day of Tuesday, October 26, 2021.



Terri Cornett, Chair



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Larry Rice, Vice Chair