

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

1:00 p.m., Tuesday, August 27, 2024
OETA Media Center Conference Room
7403 N. Kelley Ave.
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

DIRECTORS PRESENT:

Jeanie Webb, Chair
Wendy Argenbright, Vice Chair
Allison Garrett, Secretary-Treasurer
Karen Auer
Lisa Greenlee
Kara Hall
Bryan Harwell
James Isaacs
Diana Lovell

DIRECTORS ABSENT:

Joseph Harroz, Jr
Kayse Shrum
Ryan Walters

VISITORS PRESENT: Assistant Attorney General Madalynn Martin; Chief Principal of the Cherokee Nation Chuck Hoskin, Jr.; Kim Teehee; Camerin Fite James; Jason McCarty; Dustin Geasland; Daniel Mead; Chuck Garrett; and Friends of OETA Board President Garrett T. King.

STAFF PRESENT: Executive Director Polly Anderson; Chief Operating Officer Shawn Black; Vice President of Engineering & IT Lawson Adams; Vice President of Local Content Susan Cadot; Vice President of Educational Outreach Darrell Strong; Vice President of Programming 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 27, 2024. 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 Webb 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 1:00 p.m.

The Chair invited Friends President King to introduce the honorary guest, Principal Chief of the Cherokee Nation Chuck Hoskin, Jr. King announced OETA is honored to award the Principal Chief as an OETA Champion today for his commitment in supporting OETA. Hoskin said it is an honor as it reflects the work of so many people in the Cherokee Nation who all share the philosophy that if a neighbor is suffering, they will all come together to help. The Chair thanked the Principal Chief for coming to receive the award.

Item #4 (Action)

The Board reviewed the minutes for the regular meeting of April 23, 2024. A motion was made to approve the minutes by Greenlee, and it was seconded by Hall. A roll call vote was conducted, and the motion to approve the minutes carried at 1:08 p.m. The Board then reviewed the summary of the board information and discussion of June 25, 2024. A motion was made to approve the summary by Argenbright, and it was seconded by Auer. A roll call vote was conducted, and the motion to approve the summary carried at 1:10 p.m.

Item #5

Anderson informed the Board that OETA not only received five Emmy nominations, but also won all five Emmys for the following: a *Back in Time* episode, two *Gallery America* episodes, The *Oklahoma News Report's* "Black Frontier Towns" series, and the "Aqui en Oklahoma" series. Anderson commented that the newsroom's primary edit bay is now complete and is in use, while two other edit bays are continuing to be built. Under Operations, Anderson confirmed OETA's ratings are consistently above the national average, while the Marketing Department has focused on cross-promotion through social media platforms. Within the Education Department, she noted OETA's involvement in the ESSER grant is now coming to an end. She advised the Board to review the illuminating comments of teachers who participated in the Art Club conducted using the ESSER grant these last few years.

Regarding the Engineering Department, Anderson reminded the Board that OETA received over three million dollars in state funds to replace the final eleven low-power transmitters, and that they are also working on requesting Next Generation Warning System grant funds to replace two of the full-power transmitters. She showed the Board a graphic where the station covers the whole state with wider coverage in comparison to the commercial stations. Anderson noted that the transmitters had not been replaced in about twenty-five years. She noted that the towers are also used to transmit warning alerts to cell phones such as when there is a tornado or high alert weather event.

Anderson concluded that the VP of Development has tendered her resignation, so a search is open for new candidates.

Item #6

The Chair commended OETA staff for meeting the challenges of providing quality programming, evidenced by the awards OETA receives every year and the commitment to covering the whole state.

Item #7 (Action)

Black relayed to the Board the financial reports. He indicated OETA's trend is below the total expenditures that was budgeted. Black noted that OETA is currently working on the air conditioning replacement project at headquarters. The Board discussed tower leasing. Black noted that OETA is preparing to replace eleven transmitters within the budget the legislature provided for tower improvements. Garrett made a motion to approve the financial and administration reports, and Greenlee seconded the motion. A roll call vote was conducted and the motion carried unanimously at 1:28 p.m.

Item #8

The Chair requested the nominating committee to report on the proposed incoming slate of officers. Greenlee proposed Argenbright as Chair, Lovell as Vice Chair, and Garrett as Secretary-Treasurer. The Chair asked for a motion, and Harwell motioned to approve the slate of officers for fiscal year 2025. Hall seconded the motion. A roll call vote was conducted and the motion carried unanimously at 1:30 p.m.

Item #9

The Chair announced the next regular meeting is set for Tuesday, October 22, 2024 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 Webb called the meeting adjourned at 1:32 p.m.

Adopted this day of Monday, March 24, 2025.

Wendy Argenbright, Chair

Diana Lovell, Vice Chair