

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

1:00 p.m., Tuesday, August 26, 2025
OETA Media Center Conference Room
7403 N. Kelley Ave.
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

DIRECTORS' PRESENT:

Wendy Argenbright, Chair
Dr. Diana Lovell, Vice Chair
Karen Auer
Sean Burrage, Chancellor
Lisa Greenlee
Kara Hall
Dr. Jim Hess
Meyer Siegfried
Dr. Jeanie Webb

DIRECTORS ABSENT:

Joseph Harroz, Jr
Bryan Harwell
James Isaacs
Ryan Walters

VISITORS PRESENT: Oklahoma Office of the Attorney General, Madalynn Martin.

STAFF PRESENT: Interim Executive Director/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; Vice President of Marketing and Communications Jennifer Mullens; Vice President of Development Sally Ray; and Executive Assistant Janet Jones.

The Oklahoma Educational Television Authority Board of Directors met in person at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 26, 2025. Notice of Meeting was filed with the Secretary of State, and copies of the agenda and meeting documents were posted in accordance with the Open Meetings Act.

Chair Greenlee called the meeting to order. Jones called the roll. It was determined that a quorum was present, and the meeting was called to order at 1:01 p.m.

The Chair welcomed the board and recognized the new members. The board was asked to introduce themselves, followed by the staff.

Item #4 {Action}

The Board reviewed the minutes of the regular meeting of June 24, 2025. Chair Greenlee requested a motion to approve the minutes. A motion was made to approve the minutes by Dr. Hess, and it was seconded by Siegfried. A roll-call vote was conducted; Falkner abstained, and the motion to approve the minutes carried unanimously.

Item #5

Chair Greenlee postponed her report until the Executive Session.

Item #6

Interim Director Black reports efforts are underway to replace the Oklahoma City Transmitter Tower. Once this is completed, all the towers will be replaced, ensuring that all equipment is less than five years old and has a 25-year lifespan.

The OETA staff recently attended the Heartland Emmy Awards, where they won the Emmy Award for "Aquí en Oklahoma," a digital series.

Black reported an update on the CPB funding situation. The Federal Government has eliminated all funding to CPB, which directly impacts OETA's base funding. This will lead to a reduction of approximately \$1.9 million moving forward. OETA is actively working to address this issue. Black stated that this funding reduction may be temporary. OETA is currently facing a crisis, and people generally respond quickly. Therefore, OETA is taking this opportunity to adapt. Last year, the OETA fundraiser took place in August, but this year it was moved earlier. The messaging was enhanced, along with an increase in interactions with donors. The changes have had a significant impact.

It's important to note that OETA has been experimenting with various messaging and strategies to encourage donations this year. He emphasized the hard work of both Jennifer and Sally—Sally, the Development Director, and Jennifer, who oversees Marketing—recognizing their efforts in engaging with donors.

Item #7 (Action)

Black reported this year's budget is \$5.6 million, down from \$8.5 million last year, primarily due to a decrease in transmitter funding of \$2.8 million. A budget revision will be necessary, as is customary. OETA finished last year with about \$1.3 million in cash, mostly from one-time transmitter funding for Cheyenne and Oklahoma City. Once these expenses and other costs related to SAS, OETA's line transmission service provider, are settled, OETA anticipates some benefits.

Black emphasized that OETA's monthly expenditures show salaries dominated the budget, with typical monthly costs around \$366. He reports OETA is currently under budget, with no significant trends to report. The final section lists OETA's recent full-time and part-time staff, also including resignations.

Chair Greenlee called for a motion to approve the financial and administration reports. Dr. Lovell motioned, and Harwell seconded. A roll call vote was conducted, and the motion to approve the report carried unanimously.

Item #8 (Action)

Chair Greenlee began by thanking everyone for being there today for the important task of selecting a new leader for OETA. She emphasized that she would like to remind the Board members that they have received some emails regarding this matter, and to reiterate that the joint search committee consists of members from the Friends of OETA Board and two members from the OETA Board, Dr. Webb and me. The committee interviewed five candidates via Zoom on July 23rd and July 24th, and from those interviews, two candidates were selected to be interviewed today.

Chair Greenlee reports that this morning, the Friends of OETA interviewed candidates, and she participated in that meeting. Garrett King, the President of the Friends Board, was asked to join this Executive Session. She emphasized the importance of maintaining communication between boards, stating that the person hired holds the position of CEO of the Friends of OETA Board and the Executive Director of OETA. The OETA Board is the decision-making body for this process, and the responsibility is before us today. Chair Greenlee called for a motion to enter Executive Session for the purpose of interviewing and discussing the hiring or appointment of Candidate A and Candidate B for the position of Executive Director of the Oklahoma Educational Television Authority, including discussions on compensation. Chair Greenlee also requested that Garrett King and Madalyn Martin be included in this session.

Dr. Hess made a motion, and Ms. Hall seconded the motion. A roll call vote was conducted. Chair Greenly, yes. Dr. Lovell, yes. Chancellor Burrage, Ms. Auer, Mr. Faulkner, yes. Ms. Hall, yes. Mr. Harris, Mr. Harwell, yes. Dr. Hess, yes. Mr. Isaacs, Mr. Siegfried, yes. Ms. Thompson, yes. Mr. Walters. The vote was unanimous, and the motion carried. Chair Greenlee dismissed the staff, and the **Executive Session was entered at 1:15.**

Chair Greenlee thanked everyone for their return and noted that Dr. Hess exited Executive Session at 2 pm. Chair Greenlee called for a motion to exit Executive Session. Mr. Falkner motioned, and Dr. Lovell seconded. A roll call was conducted. Chair Greenly, yes. Dr. Lovell, yes. Chancellor Burrage, Ms. Auer, Mr. Faulkner, yes. Ms. Hall, yes. Mr. Harris, Mr. Harwell, yes. Dr. Hess, Mr. Isaacs, Mr. Siegfried, yes. Ms. Thompson, yes. Mr. Walters. The vote was unanimous, and the motion carried. **Executive Session was exited at 3:21.**


Item #9

The Chair announced the next regular meeting scheduled for Tuesday, October 28, 2025, 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 Greenlee called the meeting adjourned.

Adopted this day on October 28, 2025.



Lisa Greenlee, Chair