

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

1:00 p.m., Tuesday, June 24, 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: New Board Member, Jessica Thompson, and 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, June 24, 2025. A Notice of Meeting had been filed with the Secretary of State, and copies of the agenda and meeting documents were posted following the provisions of the Open Meeting Act.

Chair Argenbright 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 1:06 p.m. Chair Argenbright recognized Ms. Auer's presence at 1:10 pm.

The Chair welcomed the newest board member, Mr. Meyer Siegfried, and shared that this will be the last meeting for her and Dr. Webb. She requested that the other guests introduce themselves.

Item #4 {Action}

Chair Argenbright requested that OAG Ms. Martin acknowledge an amendment made to the minutes before the approval. The Board reviewed the minutes of the special meeting of March 24, 2025. A motion was made to approve the minutes with the amendment by Chancellor Burrage, and it was seconded by Dr. Webb. A roll call vote was conducted, and the motion to approve the minutes carried unanimously.

Item #5

Chair Argenbright emphasized that this was her last meeting, expressing her gratitude for the opportunity to serve. She acknowledged Mr. Meyer Siegfried as a replacement board member, as well as her replacement, Jessica Thompson, who also introduced herself. Argenbright officially welcomed Thompson, stating that she will be on board at the next meeting.

Argenbright requested an update from the search committee regarding the Executive Director search. The committee reported that they have reviewed several applications and expect to begin interviews in July. Argenbright noted there is no rush; everything is going smoothly with Interim Director Black.

Item #6

Interim Director Black provided an update on the \$2.8 million FY25 funding for the transmitters. He noted that all low-power transmitters have been replaced to date. The replacement for the Cheyenne transmitter is expected to be completed by mid-July, while the Oklahoma City transmitter is set for replacement in August. Once these updates are finished, all transmitters across the state will have been upgraded within the last five years.

Black emphasized that the video transmission distribution lines are expected to be completed by the end of July. Additionally, the maintenance company hired for OETA has identified sections of the roof that will need repairs, with an estimated cost of \$437,000. He directs the importance of planning for the future, noting that the building next door had been damaged by the storm and flooded, and after viewing the pictures of the damage, he points out that this is the future risk of OETA.

Black also reported that the 2025 federal recissions package has passed and is now in the Senate, with a vote expected around July 4th. He and Ken Busby from the Friends of OETA Board met with Senator Lankford's staff to discuss the impact of losing Corporation for Public Broadcasting funding, which would lead to a 15% budget decrease. Black shared data showing that in 2014, CPB funding accounted for 18% of OETA's budget, compared to 15% this year. Meanwhile, donations have increased from 30% to 51%. Although OETA's budget has grown from \$8.7 million to \$11 million in 2024, reliance on state and CPB funding has declined, highlighting the challenges posed by potential cuts. He also noted that a letter has been sent to Senator Mullen's office to request a meeting.

During the PBS annual meeting, Black reported that he and the Vice Presidents of OETA attended and focused on CPB funding as well as discussions about upcoming shows, including "Weather Hunters." He also shared details about an event taking place tomorrow at the Weather Center in Norman. Additionally, in another important announcement, Ken Burns' 12-part series "American Revolution" is set to premiere in November. We have secured a small grant for OETA to host related events and are excited to partner with them. Other collaborators, including the Cherokee Nation, are interested in participating in a joint screening.

Item #7 (Action)

Black reported on the projected cash balance as of June 1st. The largest funding source is a one-time allocation for replacing transmitters in Cheyenne and Oklahoma City. Thanks to Lawson Adams, Gates Air agreed to reduce its funding request, which resulted in a favorable deal that will help fund the replacement of some of our antennas.

Black highlighted that the tracking of major expenditures of \$1,000 or more, excluding the utilities, is tower-related, including payments to American Tower, Mission Broadcasting, and KOTV, as well as a \$89,000 payment to Gates Air for transmitter work. He emphasizes that we are indeed trending under budget due to unspent funds and staff vacancies, with the expectation to finish the year below budget.

In HR, Black reported the hiring of three new employees in May, including Sally Ray, our new Director of Development. She has extensive experience in fundraising. Jason Stewart returned as a videographer. Janet Jones has also returned as Executive Administrative Assistant after a previous tenure with us. And he concluded his report with an acknowledgement of Polly's retirement at the end of March.

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

Item #8 {Action}

Chair Argenbright announced that her term has concluded and noted that the new term will start in August. She announced the slate as follows: Ms. Greenley as Chair, Dr. Lovell as Vice Chair, and Chancellor Burrage as Secretary-Treasurer. OAG Martin informed the board that since the slate of officers will remain the same, the vote will be to approve the entire slate.

Argenbright called for a motion to approve the slate vote. Dr. Hess motioned, and Dr. Webb seconded. A roll call vote was conducted, and the motion to approve the slate vote carried unanimously.

Item #9

The Chair announced the next regular meeting scheduled for Tuesday, August 26, 2025, at 1 p.m. at the OETA network headquarters in Oklahoma City, OK.

Adjournment

Chair Argenbright called for a motion to adjourn. Dr. Webb motioned, and Mr. Seigfried seconded. OAG Martin called all in favor, and the motion to adjourn was carried unanimously.

There being no further business to come before the Authority. Chair Argenbright called the meeting adjourned at 1:33 p.m.

Adopted this day on August 26, 2025.



Lisa Greenlee, Chair

Diana Lovell, Vice Chair