

Minutes of Regular Meeting of the Authority

1:00 p.m., Tuesday, June 25, 2019
Media Center Conference Room
OETA 7403 N. Kelley Avenue
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

DIRECTORS PRESENT:

Garrett King, Chairman
Joy Hofmeister, Secretary
Treasurer Richard Beck
Terri Cornett
Cheryl Evans
Glen Johnson, Past Chair
Suzanne Lair

DIRECTORS ABSENT:

Burns Hargis
Clarke Stroud, Vice Chairman
Cody Inman
Larry Rice

VISITORS PRESENT: Marc Pate, Counsel, Office of the Attorney General of Oklahoma; Jeri Holmes and Alex Bliss, Counsel, Nonprofit Solutions, LLC.; Patti Sawyer of Whitten Burrage, LLP; Jane Braden of Gooden Group; Sharon Neuwald of Friends of OETA Board of Directors and Miguel Rios of OK Gazette.

STAFF PRESENT: Executive Director Polly Anderson, Executive Assistant Michelle Mesner; Vice President Shawn Black; Vice President Janette Thornbrue; Acting Vice President Susan Cadot; Dave Tamez; Eric Waltman; President of Friends of OETA, Inc. Dr. Bob Spinks.

The Oklahoma Educational Television Authority Board of Directors met in regular session at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 25, 2019 at OETA Network Headquarters in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. A Notice of Meeting had been filed with the Secretary of State and copies of the Agenda were posted in accordance with provisions of the Open Meeting Act.

Chairman King called the meeting to order and Executive Director Polly Anderson called the roll. It was determined that a quorum was present and the meeting was called to order at 1:02 p.m. Chairman King introduced himself and welcomed all guests.

Action Item #4

The Board reviewed the minutes for the regular meeting of 23-April-2019. Chairman King entertained a motion to adopt the minutes, Johnson offered a motion, Lair seconded the motion, and the motion was adopted without objection. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Action Item #5

Possible discussion of and/or action concerning the financial and personnel reports for the period ending 30-May-2019. VP of Finance Shawn Black, confirmed that OETA is under budget and able to complete the year. Executive Director Anderson states she is thankful for the legislature granting salary increases based on current salary. FY2020

OETA will have close to \$63,000 in employee salary increases under the last round of appropriations. OETA did not receive the one time supplemental request of \$1,700,000 to replace the Eufaula transmitter so there is still a possible weakness within the infrastructure with an old tube transmitter that serves rural Eastern Oklahoma. Chairman King entertained a motion to adopt the Financial and Personnel reports, Hofmeister offered a motion, Johnson seconded the motion, and the motion was adopted without objection. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Action Item #6

Executive Directors Report. Director Anderson states Oklahoma City and Tulsa remain very high in the ratings. Oklahoma City usually has seven nights a week in the top three with the strongest ratings in OETA history. Tulsa is continuing to be in the top ten in the nation. Recently The Lawrence Welk Show on Saturday night was the highest rated program of the night of all PBS stations in the country. OETA has now contributed content to PBS Newshour's new *Canvas* series with two of the Gallery America stories added to their online portion of the *Canvas*. This is great exposure for Oklahoma artists nationwide. We hired a new News Director, Rich Lenz, a News Reporter, Ed Murray, and a Multimedia Journalist, Shawn Taylor and we continue to expand our news department. Long time videographer Aaron Byrd was promoted to Chief Videographer and Reporter. This has taken place of two retirements in the news department but is also an expansion of the news department which is one of our strategic objectives. We are still working on the State Capital production studio which will be in the basement of the Capital. We should have access to that room in late 2019. We will be repurposing some existing equipment and some equipment from Tulsa will be going in to that studio. We plan to build uplink capabilities into this studio. OETA entered four (4) entries into the Heartland Emmy competition and received four nominations. We will know the outcome on July 20th, which is when the Emmy ceremony is scheduled. State funding for OETA was flat at \$2,800,000.

Action Item #7

Report of Nominating Committee to recommend candidates for Officers to serve during Oklahoma FY 2020, which will run from July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020. Cheryl Evans, Cody Inman and Suzanne Lair were named to the Nominating Committee. Suzanne Lair was recognized to give the committee's report. Lair moved that the following nominations be made for the offices for FY2020; Chair, Joy Hofmeister, Vice Chair, Terri Cornett, Secretary, Dr. Larry Rice, and Past Chair, Chancellor Glen Johnson. Chairman King entertained a motion, Dr. Beck seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed. Congratulations to the officers who will lead this organization the next fiscal year.

Action Item #8

Chairman King reported that agenda item eight was placed at the recommendations of OETA legal counsel and he asked legal counsel to confirm that agenda item eight is necessary. Patricia Sawyer, legal counsel with Whitten Burrage confirmed that it is necessary.

Executive Session, Chairman King called for a motion to enter into executive session. Hofmeister moved to enter into executive session and Cornett seconded. All were in favor and the motion passed to enter into executive session at 1:21 p.m.

Executive Session, Chairman King called for a motion to exit executive session. Johnson moved to exit executive session and Cornett seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed to exit executive session at 1:42 p.m.

Action Item #9

Recognition of Chair Garrett T. King. Presentation by Chancellor Johnson and State Superintendent Joy Hofmeister to the board in the form of a motion at the conclusion of the reading of the resolution. The resolution follows:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Oklahoma Educational Television Authority (hereinafter known as "OETA") is a government corporation and instrumentality of the State of Oklahoma licensed by the Federal Communications Commission and has been thoughtfully and honorably led by Chair of the Board Garrett T. King from August 23, 2016 to June 30, 2019 and

WHEREAS, Mr. King's tenure has been characterized by a steadfast resolve to ensure transparency of operation for OETA and resolute adherence to the intent of all donors to OETA, and

WHEREAS, Mr. King has been unwavering in his support of all donors, viewers, volunteers and staff of OETA and

WHEREAS, Mr. King's integrity, intelligence and dedication have served the people of the state of Oklahoma in times that were unprecedented in the history of OETA and

WHEREAS, due to Mr. King's honorable efforts, public broadcasting in Oklahoma has a fresh start and a bright future,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the directors of the Oklahoma Educational Television Authority due hereby express our sincere and unrelenting gratitude for Garrett T. King's service as board member and Chair of the board and for his determined, ethical and transparent leadership of the OETA board, we hereby name the OETA Media Center conference room the

GARRETT TREY KING MEDIA CENTER

The OETA board of directors
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
June 25, 2019

All were in favor and the motion passed.

Following the resolution, Chair King addressed the attendees:

"Without objection from the Board I would like to read this statement into the official record of our proceedings.

I represent the Third Congressional District of Oklahoma on this Board. It is a vast and diverse geographic

area of 32 counties which, due to the near-decade I spent as an aide to Congressman Frank Lucas, I am fortunate to know very well.

I am the fourth person to represent the Third District on OETA's governing Board since that congressional district was created in its current form after the 2002 redistricting process. The first was the late Ginger Henton of Altus, a grand dame I knew and admired. The second, another grand dame and Altusan who I have been fortunate to know, was Mary Ann Fergeson, whose husband, Ken, is the first Treasurer of Friends Of OETA, Inc. The Fergesons are pillars of my part of Oklahoma; indeed, of all of Oklahoma, and I am grateful to them both for their support of public television in this state. Speaking of pillars, the third person to represent this sprawling congressional district was the late Dr. Jerry Nye, a professor and author whose name is written in gold at my alma mater, SWOSU. Indeed, it is the unexpired term of Dr. Nye that I was asked to fill when Governor Fallin appointed me to this Board on 20-April-2015, with Senate confirmation following on 19-May-2015. And it has been the giving, generous spirit of Dr. Nye that I have hoped to emulate during my time as a Director of OETA.

I am the twenty-third person to serve as Chair of the OETA Board since 1953. I have served three consecutive terms as Chair. It has, I daresay, been an eventful and educational tenure.

Memories and lessons I will carry with me from my time leading the governing board of this instrumentality of the great State of Oklahoma are many. I am proud of the work this Board has done.

We successfully transitioned OETA to a partnership with a new cooperating charitable foundation, Friends Of OETA, Inc. I am deeply, abidingly grateful to the Friends Of OETA, Inc. Board of Directors--Bob Spinks, Jennifer Eve, Ken Fergeson, Sharon Neuwald, and Glenn Coffee for agreeing to partner with us in this herculean undertaking. OETA and Oklahoma are better because of their philanthropic spirit and tireless commitment to public service.

Following a national search, many hours and many meetings, and reviews with over a dozen candidates, we named the first woman to serve as OETA's Executive Director in our six-plus decades of history. Polly Anderson is a public broadcasting veteran who has led OETA effectively and steadfastly through tremendous challenges and who I know will continue to advance the mission of the Authority as it forges ahead.

During my time as Chair OETA won numerous plaudits that brought honor to our state and swelled my heart with pride. Susan Cadot was honored with the 2016 Governor's Arts Award and in 2018 was named to the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences Silver Circle. In 2019 Bill Perry will be inducted into the Gold Circle. And, OETA was nominated for 11 Emmy Awards during my tenure.

OETA worked with my mentor and Oklahoma stateswoman, former Lieutenant Governor and current Administrator of the Courts Jari Askins to provide coverage of the all-important revenue hearings at the Supreme Court in 2017; of Governor Kevin Stitt's high-spirited and inspiring inauguration earlier this year; and of the historic opioid trial this summer. OETA also hosted "Antiques Roadshow" on a visit to Tulsa.

And, OETA secured the election of the first non-public media professional Oklahoman in history to serve as a Trustee of America's Public Television Stations.

I was privileged to work with former Executive Director Dan Schiedel and former Interim Executive Director Mark Norman, himself a fellow western Oklahoman. Both made valuable contributions to OETA and to Oklahoma and I am grateful for the experience of having worked with each of them.

I am also blessed to have come to know and work with a living legend: Mr. OETA himself, Bob Allen. He will forget more than I shall ever know about the power of public media. I am honored to have come to know such a giant.

I have so enjoyed getting acquainted with OETA's tireless and professional staff. I leave with an unshakeable respect for each person who works to enlighten and inform our state through public television here at America's most-watched PBS station.

I cannot say a strong enough “Thank You” to the Directors with whom I have been privileged to serve on this Board.

Former Directors Fritz Kiersch, Elaine Hobson, Denise Castelli, David Boren, Jim Utterback, Mary Melon, and Jim Gallogly all enhanced this experience and taught me how to best lead our Board during happy moments and rough roads.

Seated Directors have been incredible in their generosity of spirit and their commitment to responsible governance. I have learned a great deal from each of you. Please know that I believe OETA and Oklahoma are stronger and more secure because of you. Keep serving, keep leading, and stay in the arenas where you do both so magnificently. I and my family benefit from your activism and spirit.

I have been so very fortunate to serve as Chair with an Executive Committee of Oklahoma’s finest. Clarke Stroud, Joy Hofmeister, and Glen Johnson have equipped me, encouraged me, warned me, and sustained me every minute of my three terms. I could not have carried out this role without your wisdom and aide. From the bottom of my heart—thank you all. It has been my deepest and most profound honor to serve with you.

During the years of my Chairmanship OETA faced many challenges of many varieties. We have been able to face those challenges on our feet because of our legal advisors. From the Oklahoma Attorney General’s Office we have been privileged to work with Tiffany Wythe, Thomas Schneider, and Marc Pate. All are exemplary public servants. We have been privileged to partner with Nonprofit Solutions LLC, and the incomparable Jeri Towler Holmes and Alex Towler Bliss who have gone above and beyond the call of service. And we have had the tremendous honor of being served by one of our nation’s finest legal minds and statesman, Judge Michael Burrage. Judge Burrage and his colleagues, Patti Sawyer and Renley Dennis, have been incredible resources to the people of Oklahoma and to OETA. I stand in awe of each of them.

I am thankful to my tireless, patient, and loving staff at the SWOSU Office of Institutional Advancement who has so ably assisted me in carrying out this public service function, and to SWOSU President Randy Beutler who so strongly supports our institution’s workforce being involved in making Oklahoma better.

And I am so very, very grateful to my wife, Carissa, and to our daughters, Nellie and Margie. They are young children and have not known a life without their Daddy being OETA Chair. My family has given me space and grace to do this job and I love them very much for that and more.

At the heart of OETA’s mission—in its very name—is education. We sometimes become calloused and jaded to the meaning and power of that word. But I must here bear witness to its incredible capacity to change human life for the better. And for the role OETA has played in that positive and lasting transformation.

I am just old enough to come from a time before Oklahoma became *the* leader in early childhood education nationally. I went to a half-day of Kindergarten at Binger Public Schools while my mother taught at Oney Public Schools and my father grew peanuts near Eakly, amazing, human, real communities which surrounded the Oakdale farming community in northern Caddo County where my family has farmed and worked and lived since 1890.

Every day after my half-day kindergarten classes with Ms. Janelle Hale ended I spent the afternoons with my mother’s mother. Grandma Dora Jean, for whom my youngest child is named. Grandma barely had an 8th Grade education. She was a widow for half a century before she died in 2013. She cleaned the houses of other people for a living. And every afternoon, without fail, while she cleaned the house of Ruby Drake, after “Young & The Restless” was over, my grandma insisted that I would watch OETA. “Sesame Street” and “Mr. Rogers Neighborhood” come to mind. It was then that I fell in love with Aloysius Snuffleupagus, and with the enduring but so very crucial neighborly principal that, as Fred said so many times, “In some ways we are different, but in so many ways we are the same.”

She hadn’t graduated from junior high school, but she wanted her grandson to learn and to grow and to be more and to have more than she had. And she counted on OETA to make that a reality. And OETA did not

fail her. My grandma and OETA were partners in ensuring that I had a good start.

Over the last half-century “Sesame Street” has impacted kids like me, and kids in the Syrian Response Zone where Big Bird, Elmo, and, yes, Snuffleupagus, have delivered a transformative early childhood development program designed to reflect the unique experiences of displaced families. This worthy endeavor represents the largest early childhood intervention program ever created in a humanitarian setting and serves as a scalable model that will impact the way the humanitarian system responds to future refugee crises around the world.

And OETA and our viewers—in Oklahoma City, Tulsa, Caddo County, and everywhere in Oklahoma—get to be a part of that incredible human progress!

And I—a farm kid from northern Caddo County—got to lead OETA. What a privilege. What an honor. I thank each and every one of you for giving me so much for so long.

Superintendent Hofmeister, this pen was passed to me on 23-June-2016 when I succeeded Chancellor Johnson as Chair. It is with full confidence in your incredible capacity and estimable ability that I pass it to you as the 24th Chair of the Authority.

Rest assured—OETA shall never be far from my mind, nor my heart. I shall, gladly, stay tuned.”

Action Item #11

Chairman King noted that the next regularly scheduled session of the Board was set for 1:00 p.m. Tuesday, August 27, 2019 and directed that Notice of the meeting be made in accordance with applicable provisions of the Oklahoma Open Meetings Act.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Authority, Chairman King called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Johnson moved to adjourn the meeting and Lair seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Adopted this 27th day of August, 2019



Joy Hofmeister, Chair



Terri Cornett, Vice Chair