

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

1:00 p.m., Tuesday, June 22, 2021
OETA Media Center Conference Room
7403 N. Kelley Ave.
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

DIRECTORS PRESENT BY VIDEOCONFERENCE:

Joy Hofmeister, Chair
Terri Cornett, Vice Chair
Wendy Argenbright
Richard Beck
Cheryl Evans
Kara Hall
Glen Johnson

DIRECTORS ABSENT:

Lisa Greenlee
Burns Hargis
Joseph Harroz, Jr.
James Isaacs
Mike Martin
Larry Rice

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 for session at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 22, 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 Hofmeister 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 1:21 p.m. All staff and guests were introduced.

Item #5

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 marketing posted it on social media. Further, she informed the Board that the documentary is now open to screenings by community groups.

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 in commission sometime mid-August. Anderson pointed out that the request for one-time funds of \$150,000 for new air conditioning to keep sites

operational was denied. She also notified the Board that the Tulsa transmitter is currently at 49% power but it is going back up today. Anderson commented that there are no replacement parts for this transmitter because the company no longer exists.

Anderson reported that neither March nor June pledge drives met their fundraising goals. She surmised that COVID is the number one factor, as PBS does not have as much new programming due to production issues. However, Anderson noted that from all sources, OETA is about \$900,000 over last year, which does not include the one-time gift of \$1 million from the Richison Family Foundation.

Anderson said that OETA has been nominated for four Emmy Awards for the following programs: *Gallery America's* "Joe Slack: Iron Man;" *Back in Time's* "A Piece of Home;" *Gallery America's* "Mapping the Mother Road;" and, the OETA special *Race in Oklahoma*.

Item #6 (Action)

The Board reviewed the minutes for the virtual special meeting of April 27, 2021. The Chair entertained a motion to approve the minutes. Johnson made the motion to approve and Evans seconded the motion. Seeing there were no comments or discussion requested, the Chair called for a vote. Seven were in favor so the vote was unanimous. The motion carried at 1:30 p.m.

Item #7 (Action)

Black reviewed the financial and personnel reports with the Board. He noted that one employee resigned and one part-time employee was promoted to a full-time photojournalist. He stated the cash balance is on track with the projection, and the projected year-to-date budget is trending just below anticipated. He pointed out that due to water damage from a burst pipe during the ice storm in February that there was a \$61,000 restoration costs, of which \$51,000 is covered by insurance.

Argenbright asked if OETA had seen any cost reductions due to COVID with staff working from home. Black replied that not a significant amount had been saved for electricity. Anderson explained further that the machinery that uses the most electricity must be on at all times in order to broadcast. The Chair entertained a motion to approve the financial and personnel reports. Cornett made a motion to approve the reports. Johnson seconded the motion. A vote was conducted and the motion carried unanimously at 1:34 p.m.

Item #8 (Action)

The Chair reviewed the proposed slate of officers for fiscal year 2022, which stated Cornett as Chair, Rice as Vice Chair, and Greenlee as Secretary-Treasurer. Johnson made the motion to approve and Evans seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried at 1:35 p.m.

Hofmeister thanked the Board for the time to serve as Chair. Johnson stated that Hofmeister provided extraordinary leadership with OETA through unique times, both internal and also external related to COVID. He specified that her positive approach to keep everything flowing has been greatly appreciated.

Anderson also noted that Cheryl Evans and Burns Hargis are retiring and therefore will be leaving the Board. They were both thanked profusely for their service and a memento gift was presented to Ms. Evans. Mr. Hargis was not in attendance.


Item #10

Anderson announced the next regular meeting is set for Tuesday, August 24, 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 Hofmeister called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Johnson moved to adjourn the meeting and Hall seconded the motion. The Chair called for a vote. All were in favor, and the meeting was adjourned at 1:38 p.m.

Adopted this day of August 24, 2021.



Terri Cornett, Chair



Larry Rice, Vice Chair

