

**MINUTES**  
**TELEPHONIC PUBLIC SESSION**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
**CORPORATION FOR PUBLIC BROADCASTING**  
**WASHINGTON, D.C.**  
**Thursday, August 28, 2025**

**Call to Order**

Chair Calvert called to order the public session of the Board of Directors at 2:03 pm ET on Thursday, August 28th, 2025. The following directors participated:

Ruby Calvert, Chair;  
Liz Sembler, Vice Chair; and  
Diane Kaplan.

The following officers and staff also participated:

Patricia Harrison, President and Chief Executive Officer;  
Kathy Merritt, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer;  
Daryl Mintz, Executive Vice President, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer;  
Deb Sanchez, Executive Vice President, Government and External Affairs and Acting  
Corporate Secretary;  
Evan Slavitt, Executive Vice President, General Counsel;  
Clayton Barsoum, Senior Vice President, Government and External Affairs;  
Deborah Carr, Senior Vice President, Operations and Strategy;  
Kathryn Washington, Senior Vice President, Television Content;  
Stephen Wolfe, Chief Technology Officer and Senior Vice President, IT;  
Donna Joe, Vice President and Deputy General Counsel; and  
Katherine Donohue, Board Affairs Manager.

The following guests also participated:

Teresa Safon, consultant; and  
Bill Tayman, consultant.

**Adoption of Agenda and Determination of Closed Status**

Chair Calvert called for a motion to adopt the agenda and close the meeting for agenda items 4 to 9. Upon motion duly made and seconded, the agenda was unanimously adopted as presented.

**Invitation to Disclose Conflicts of Interest**

In accordance with the CPB Code of Ethics for Directors, Chair Calvert invited directors to disclose possible conflicts of interest regarding the meeting agenda. There were none.

**Approval of Minutes**

Chair Calvert deferred approval of the July 24, 2025, meeting minutes to the next board meeting to allow more time for board members to review them.

### **Chair and Director's Remarks**

Chair Calvert welcomed board members, CPB staff, and members of the public to the meeting. She announced that, through unanimous written consent, the Board elected Ms. Sembler to serve as Vice Chair of the CPB Board of Directors.

Chair Calvert stated that this is a very challenging time for public media stations across the country and that the consequences of Congress passing of the Rescissions Act of 2025 are already being felt. She reported that every part of the public media system is experiencing a strain on resources, causing stations to have to lay off staff, disrupt the production of programming, and diminish the services they provide to their communities.

Chair Calvert reported the CPB has been focusing on winding down operations, closing existing grants, and distributing remaining funds in line with our standards of integrity and transparency. While CPB's chapter may be ending, the values that underpinned the public media system: truth, education, community, and service, will endure. CPB's legacy will be the millions of lives that were improved by the services provided and by the continuing work of local stations and CPB will work to support the public media system for as long as it can. Chair Calvert invited remarks from other directors.

Ms. Kaplan thanked Chair Calvert and Ms. Harrison for their strength and leadership. She stated that she felt this was only a temporary setback and that public media will return in one form or another someday. Ms. Kaplan thanked Senator Murkowski for visiting local stations throughout Alaska and acknowledging the vital work they do to serve rural Alaskans. She also thanked various charitable foundations for creating a bridge fund of over \$30 million to keep the public media system intact.

### **President's Remarks**

Ms. Harrison thanked the Board and CPB staff for their hard work and dedication and expressed regret for Congress's decision to rescind CPB's funding.

Ms. Harrison explained that over the course of the year, the Board and executive team have been confronted with a sequence of executive and legislative actions aimed at weakening CPB, including the elimination of the Ready To Learn Grant, the attempted firing of CPB Board members, and the rescissions package. Of these challenges, she stated that the rescinded funds will have the most widespread negative impact on public media, particularly in rural and tribal communities.

Ms. Harrison stated that funding for American public media is different than in other countries because stations still have a responsibility to raise money from their communities rather than relying solely on federal funds. This public-private partnership has kept the public media system efficient and innovative for 60 years, at very little cost to the taxpayer. It is a myth that stations can run entirely on community raised funds, noting that rural and poorer areas have

a smaller donor base and therefore stations that serve such areas are more reliant on federal funds than stations in urban areas.

Ms. Harrison stated that CPB's priority is to use our remaining funds to mitigate the worst impacts of the rescission. CPB is still communicating with Congress to explore opportunities for continued funding, whether that be closeout costs for CPB or an alternative funding source for local stations.

Ms. Harrison announced that Mr. Barsoum has been promoted to Senior Vice President of Government Relations and Ms. Sanchez has taken on the role of Chief of Staff. She stated that the entirety of the CPB Board, the executive team, and the CPB staff are dedicated to stewarding the public media system for as long as possible. She concluded her remarks and opened the floor to questions or comments.

Ms. Sembler thanked Ms. Harrison and her fellow Board members for their leadership. She also thanked Mr. Mintz for his work as CFO and Treasurer and the entire CPB finance team for their tireless work responding to the sudden changes in CPB's financial position. There were no further remarks.

### **Executive Session**

Chair Calvert closed the meeting for executive session at 2:25 pm ET. The meeting adjourned in executive session.

*[The minutes for these discussions are contained in the executive session record of August 28, 2025.]*