

**MINUTES
PUBLIC SESSION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
CORPORATION FOR PUBLIC BROADCASTING
WASHINGTON, D.C.
Tuesday, April 1, 2025**

Call to Order

Chair Calvert called to order the public session of the Board of Directors at 9:38 am ET on Tuesday, April 1, 2025. The following directors participated:

Ruby Calvert, Chair;
Laura Ross, Vice Chair; *(virtual)*
Diane Kaplan; and
Liz Sembler.

Tom Rothman was absent.

The following officers and staff also participated:

Patricia Harrison, President and Chief Executive Officer;
Michael Levy, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer; *(virtual)*
Daryl Mintz, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer;
Teresa Safon, Senior Vice President, Chief of Staff and Corporate Secretary;
Evan Slavitt, Senior Vice President, General Counsel;
Deborah Carr, Senior Vice President, Operations and Strategy;
Kathy Merritt, Chief, Station and System Strategies;
Deb Sanchez, Senior Vice President, Educational Media and Learning Experiences;
Kathryn Washington, Senior Vice President, Television Content;
Stephen Wolfe, Chief Technology Officer and Senior Vice President, IT;
Kimberly Howell, Inspector General;
Kate Arno, Vice President, Community Service Grants and Station Initiatives;
Clayton Barsoum, Vice President, Government and External Affairs;
Sarah Bean, Vice President, Education Content and Innovation;
Brendan Daly, Vice President, External Affairs and Communications;
Cara Dalrymple, Vice President, Human Resources;
Michael Fragale, Vice President and General Manager, Education Content and Strategy;
Beth Jacobs, Vice President, Digital Strategy and Innovation;
Joy Lin, Vice President, Journalism;
Cheraine Stanford, Vice President, Television Content Strategy;
Beth Walsh, Vice President, System Strategies;
Jacquie Gales Webb, Vice President, Radio;

Katherine Donohue, Board Affairs Manager; and

Nathan Vallejo, Executive Coordinator, OCS & External Affairs.

The following guest also participated:

Amy Shaw, President and CEO, Nine PBS

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 8 to 13. Upon motion duly made and seconded, the agenda was unanimously adopted as amended, with the inclusion of a resolution of condolence for the family and friends of recently deceased Amb. Richard Carlson.

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 called for a motion to approve the minutes of the February 6, 2025, meeting. Upon motion duly made and seconded, the minutes were unanimously approved as presented. Chair Calvert also reported that the Board adopted a resolution through written consent to relieve stations of the requirement to provide a community representation statement annually as a condition of eligibility for a Community Service Grant (CSG).

Chair and Directors' Remarks

Chair Calvert reported on proposed legislation aimed at defunding public media. Chair Calvert noted the importance of federal support and the invaluable services local stations provide to the American people, knowledge gained from her firsthand experience at a local public television in Wyoming. Over 70 percent of the federal support that CPB receives goes directly to local public media stations in every state in the country through CSGs distributed by CPB. These stations are very often the only locally owned and operated media station in a community. The funding provided by CSGs is especially important to stations that serve remote parts of the nation, and often during emergencies public media stations are a lifeline of information in those regions. Stations also use these funds for educational content for children, for lifelong learning through local programs, news and documentaries and other enriching content and research-based resources. The American people value the content and services that public media provides.

Chair Calvert reported on the Subcommittee on Delivering on Government Efficiency (DOGE) hearing on March 26, 2025, and commended Ed Ulman, President and CEO of Alaska Public Media, Paula Kerger, President and CEO of PBS, and Katherine Maher, President and CEO of NPR, for their compelling testimony on behalf of American public media. She thanked her fellow board members and CPB staff for their commitment during these times of uncertainty around public media's future. Chair Calvert opened the floor to remarks from other directors.

Ms. Sembler thanked Chair Calvert for her leadership and expressed her appreciation for CPB staff. Ms. Kaplan also thanked Chair Calvert and CPB staff for their hard work. Ms. Ross

thanked the CPB staff and leadership for their dedication and echoed the importance of the essential services provided by public media.

Resolution of Condolence for Amb. Richard Carlson, President and CEO, CPB

Chair Calvert, Ms. Harrison, and Ms. Kaplan expressed their appreciation for Amb. Carlson's service to CPB. Chair Calvert read aloud the resolution of condolence.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the resolution was unanimously approved.

President's Report

Ms. Harrison provided an overview of CPB's mission and role in public media, noting that CPB is not a federal agency, but rather a nonprofit corporation created by Congress to steward the federal government's investment in public broadcasting. CPB's primary purpose is to ensure that every American has access to free content that educates, informs, fosters curiosity, and encourages civil discourse. The federal appropriation for public media only costs the average taxpayer \$1.60 per year, a bargain compared to the rising costs of streaming services and cable packages.

Ms. Harrison thanked the public media leaders who testified at the March 26, 2025, DOGE House committee hearing, and read aloud an excerpt of written supplemental testimony submitted to the committee by Shae Hopkins, Executive Director and CEO of Kentucky Educational Television (KET), where she cited "More than 2 million people, including parents, students, educators, first responders and others use KET's programs, resource and services every week." Ms. Harrison thanked public media advocates in Congress for signing a letter to FCC Commissioner Brendan Carr refuting the agency's allegations about public media underwriting.

Ms. Harrison reported that in the continuing resolution (CR) passed by Congress in March, CPB maintained level funding for its advanced FY 2027 appropriation at \$535 million. While the CR did not change CPB's appropriation for FY 2025, it required CPB to submit an operating plan for the remainder of FY 2025 to the House Appropriation Committee within 45 days of the enactment of the bill. Interconnection maintained its prorated funding of \$60 million for FY 2025.

Ms. Harrison reported on CPB's participation in the America's Public Television Stations (APTS) Public Media Summit in DC. and thanked the CPB Board and staff for their unwavering commitment to CPB's mission and concluded her remarks.

Legislative Update

Mr. Barsoum provided an update on the CR passed by Congress in March 2025, which provided level funding for CPB's FY 2027 advanced appropriation of \$535 million. Mr. Barsoum explained that since CR give agencies more flexibility to reallocate funds as they deem necessary, funds for programs such as Ready To Learn and NGWS may shift in the near future.

Mr. Barsoum reported on CPB meetings with numerous congressional delegations focused around public media's role in addressing natural disasters. The California congressional

delegation was briefed on public media's response to the outbreak of the wildfires in January and the Texas delegation was informed of how public media is reporting on the recent measles outbreak. The APTS Summit is an opportunity for public media leaders to organize and educate lawmakers on the important role their local stations play in their communities. The meetings between public media leaders and lawmakers after APTS resulted in an unprecedented number of appropriations requests from lawmakers.

FEMA: Next Generation Warning System Update

Ms. Merritt reported on how the Next Generation Warning System (NGWS) grant program helps stations improve equipment and structural resilience. Ms. Merritt noted the work of stations such as Oklahoma public radio station KOSU, which provided emergency alerts and 24/7 coverage of the over 100 wildfires that broke out around the Tulsa metro area in March 2025. An NGWS grant allowed KOSU to expand their capacity for issuing tornado alerts, AMBER alerts, fire warning, evacuation alerts and more to all broadcasters in northeast Oklahoma.

Ms. Merritt stated that in the continuing resolution, Congress allocated \$40 million to FEMA for NGWS for FY 2025. The program runs on a cost reimbursement basis, wherein stations spend money on equipment, CPB reimburses the stations, and then FEMA reimburses CPB. CPB received 269 applications for the first round of FY 2022 funds, of which 55 were selected to move forward. CPB has started reviewing the 175 applications that have already come in for the FY 2023 NGWS funds.

Ms. Merritt referenced recent developments with FEMA, noting that on February 19, CPB was no longer able to access the FY 2022 and FY 2023 funds for the NGWS grant program. Given the inability to access the funds for the NGWS grants, CPB issued a stop work order to all grantees to prevent further commitment of funds. CPB is working to have FEMA release the NGWS funds so that work can continue in accordance with the grant agreement.

Ready To Learn Update

Ms. Sanchez reported on the history of the Ready To Learn program and the process by which grants are awarded. While the grantees are awarded funds for a five-year period, Congress must approve the appropriation of the funds every year. CPB and PBS, which apply for the funds jointly, are currently in their fifth and final year of the grant program. The Ready To Learn 2020-2025 grant period focused on preparing students for future careers, introducing workplace skills and key STEM concepts into their learning experiences.

Ms. Sanchez reported that Ready To Learn grants are research-based and that the allocation of funds is focused on areas thought to produce the best educational results for students. Last year, 44 stations in 26 states hosted family learning events and professional development events with educators in support of the program. Ms. Sanchez presented a timeline of the final year of the grant program that will include CPB submitting performance results to Congress and final financial and program reports by early 2026.

Ms. Sanchez introduced Amy Shaw, President and CEO of Nine PBS. Ms. Shaw briefly spoke about her work at Nine PBS and her experience at two Ready To Learn program pilot stations in the 1990s. Ms. Shaw reported that the local/national model of the Ready To Learn program is particularly beneficial to families who live in areas with little to no reliable broadband access, as their children can view the content on television at no charge. Approximately 50% of children ages 3-4 in Missouri are engaged in some form of home learning, so the television and digital content produced with Ready To Learn funding helps fill educational gaps that may exist in children from families who cannot afford early childhood education. Parents and community members have provided overwhelmingly positive feedback about the program and its content and research finds that 94% of children in the learning program increased their confidence in reading, 95% of parents increased their confidence in supporting their child's learning, and 99% of parents reported increased engagement with their children's learning, all thanks to the resources provided by the RTL program. Ms. Sanchez asked Ms. Shaw to talk about the value of public media and the RTL content amid the current environment of media oversaturation. Ms. Shaw stated that PBS is one of the most trusted and reliable institutions in the country, and that trust is crucial in breaking through the media oversaturation and reaching families. Parents are concerned about the volume of content their children have access to on the internet, and programming from PBS KIDS allows parents to have peace of mind that their children are learning from a trusted source. Ms. Shaw concluded her remarks and opened the floor for questions.

Ms. Sembler asked what happens following the end of a grant cycle and whether the content is archived or reused. Ms. Sanchez reported that the content remains available digitally and on broadcast well beyond the life of the grant. Ms. Shaw stated that content from past grants is informing future programming. Chair Calvert asked about feedback received for "Carl The Collector." Ms. Shaw stated that the show has received extremely positive feedback, especially from families with children on the autism spectrum. Ms. Kaplan asked about CPB funding relative to other funding resources for these activities. Ms. Shaw stated that Nine PBS has worked hard to diversify their funding portfolio to include federal funds from CPB, corporate sources, philanthropic organizations, family foundations and many more.

The Board thanked Ms. Shaw for her presentation.

Executive Session

Chair Calvert closed the meeting for executive session at 11:27 am ET. The meeting adjourned in executive session.

[The minutes for these discussions are contained in the executive session record of April 1-2, 2025.]