

LOUISIANA EDUCATIONAL TELEVISION AUTHORITY EXECUTIVE AND FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

♦May 14, 2026♦ 12:00 PM ♦ LPB Board Room

♦7733 Perkins Road♦ Baton Rouge, LA

MINUTES

Members Present: Tracie Woods, Dan Hare, Sonny Cranch, and Chris Wegmann.

Members Absent: Conrad Comeaux.

Members via Zoom: Dr. Laura Lindsay.

Others Present: Howard White.

Employees Present: Clarence "C.C." Copeland, Terri Crockett, Matt Tessier, Kim Ducote, and Trace Purvis (Zoom).

Call to Order: Tracie Woods, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 12:02 PM.

Public Comment: Tracie Woods, Chairperson, asked if any member of the public had any public comment, and there were none.

Approval of Minutes: Sonny Cranch, Secretary, presented the minutes of the Executive and Finance Committee of March 12, 2026. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Dan Hare and was seconded by Chris Wegmann. With all in favor, the motion passed.

Financial Report: Sonny Cranch presented the LETA Financial Report on behalf of Dr. Laura Lindsay, Treasurer. A motion to approve the LETA financial report was made by Chris Wegmann and was seconded by Dan Hare. With all in favor, the motion passed.

Friends of LPB Report: Howard White, FLPB Chair, presented the report for Friends of LPB:

- Dream Getaway Raffle revenue is a 45% increase from last year.
- Save the Dates:
 - *Capturing America: The Carol Highsmith Story* – July 1 premier at Old State Capitol.
 - *Circles: The Life of Billy Cannon* – August 19 preview party at LSU's Lod Cook.

Deputy Director's Report: Matt Tessier, LPB Deputy Director, gave the following update:

- Tier 2.1 financial disclosures are due on May 15, 2026.
- We are tracking numerous pieces of legislation:
 - HB 155 (McMakin) – House Concurrence – creates a drone no-fly zone around the state capitol and surrounding areas.

- HB 50 (Schlegel) – Sent to Governor - Extends the sunset date for the Louisiana Dept. of Education to July 1, 2031.
- SB 1 (Jenkins) – Enrolled – Open Meetings – would allow for voting via electronic voting machine in open meetings in addition to viva voce vote (present law).
- SB 47 (Mizell) – Boards and Commissions – would require inclusion of certain board member information on the DOA's Boards and Commissions website.
- HB 615 (Mike Johnson) Pending S&GA – requires certain boards and commissions to broadcast their meetings and make recordings available for 2 years.
- HB 1 and 398 (McFarland) – main and supplemental appropriation bills.
- May 16 Constitutional Amendment #1 - Would allow the legislature to remove or add officers, positions, and employees to the unclassified state civil service; Constitutional Amendment #2 would eliminate a number of funds in the state treasury (including the EEF) which would be used to retire UAL of TRSL and provide pay raises for teachers and support personnel.
- We've partnered with LSU's Manship School of Mass Communication to create a public service announcement promoting the Imagination Library of Louisiana.

President's Report: C.C. Copeland, LPB President and CEO, reported on the following:

- C.C. explained the effect that potential budget cuts could have on LPB's infrastructure and planned acquisitions and major repairs, including our aging HVAC chiller.
- C.C. provided a report on the PBS Annual Meeting in Austin, highlighting discussions among general managers regarding the challenges and outlook for public broadcasting. Some recent challenges include:
 - Oklahoma's public television network is expected to reach its sunset date on July 1 and begin winding down operations due to their agency not being renewed in sunset renewal legislation.
 - New Jersey public Broadcasting is set to shut down this year due to not renewing their contract with WNET.
- C.C. reported that the future of PBS's dues structure is uncertain, and that PBS has hired Deloitte to review the dues structure. However, a 5% dues increase is expected.
- Negotiations with the Willwoods Foundation are ongoing concerning the potential buyout of WLAE ownership.
- C.C. reported that PBS renewed Ken Burns' contract for 10 years and will incorporate his YouTube channel into a PBS-branded initiative to increase audience engagement and membership.

Chairperson's Report: Tracie Woods, Chairperson, gave the following report:

- The next full LETA board meeting is June 11, 2026.
- The next LETA Executive and Finance Committee meeting is August 13, 2026.

Other Business: There was no other business.

Adjournment: Tracie Woods adjourned the meeting at 1:03 PM.

Submitted by Angela Bessix and Matt Tessier