BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Public Meeting held in-person and videoconference
Pursuant to Texas Govt. Code 511.127
Thursday, January 29, 2026 - 10:00 AM
4700 Mueller Blvd., Suite 100, Austin, TX 78723

Board Trustees	Others Present: Staff	Guests
Diana Thomas, Chair	Christopher Hanson	Paige Saenz, General Counsel
Dick Lavine, Vice Chair	Russell Nash	
Ben Ellinor	Shawna Santos	
Anthony B. Ross, Sr.	Jenni Bonds	
Michael Benson	Mehrin Rahman	
Kelly Crook ±	Michelle Mahaini	
Ed Van Eenoo	Ricardo Carlos	
Jie Li	David Kushner	
Kennard Wright	David Stafford	
Kaz Wojtewicz ±	Teresa Cantu	* Present telephonically
(Krista Laine)	Candace Nolte ±	± Present via videoconference
	Yun Quintanilla	(Absent)

1. Call meeting to order
Chair Diana Thomas called the meeting to order at 10:05 AM.

2. Call roll of Trustees
The following Board members were present in person: Thomas, Lavine, Ellinor, Ross, Van Eenoo, Li, Wright. The following Board members were present via videoconference: Crook, Wojtewicz.

3. Review order of business and establish meeting objectives
Chair Thomas reviewed the order of business and meeting objectives with the Board.

4. Receive System member and public comments
Chair Thomas asked if there were any members of the public who wished to speak, either now or during an agenda item. Mr. Christopher Hanson shared a public comment received from a COAERS member via email regarding the private market's investment program. He shared the Staff's response to the comment and answered Trustee questions.

5. Recognition of outgoing Trustees
Chair Thomas led the discussion in recognizing Ms. Yuejiao Lui for her service to the COAERS Board of Trustees. Trustees expressed their thanks to Ms. Liu for her eight years of service to the Board.

Mr. Michael Benson arrived at 10:12AM

6. Welcome New COAERS Trustees
Chair Thomas welcomed Ms. Jie Li, Mr. Kennard Wright, and Mr. Kaz Wojtewicz to the Board.

7. Election of 2026 Officers: Board Chair and Vice Chair
Chair Thomas noted the nominations for Board Chair and for Vice Chair. Chair Thomas discussed the process for voting for Chair and Vice Chair.

Mr. Michael Benson moved to elect Ms. Diana Thomas as Board Chair and Mr. Dick Lavine as Board Vice Chair for 2026. Mr. Ed Van Eenoo seconded. The motion passed, 10-0.

8. Consider approval of the December 18, 2025 Board meeting minutes

Chair Thomas reviewed the December 18, 2025 Board meeting minutes and asked if the Trustees had any questions or revisions.

Mr. Ben Ellinor moved to approve the December 18, 2025 Board meeting minutes as presented and Mr. Dick Lavine seconded. The motion passed, 10-0.

9. Receive report on the following Board administrative matters including:

- **A. Ethics policy disclosure statements**
- **B. Annual acknowledgement of ethics policy**
- **C. 2025 Annual Financial Disclosure/Conflicts of Interest Affidavits**

Chair Thomas reminded Trustees of the three required forms to complete and that a notary on staff was available to assist Trustees with their forms after the meeting.

10. Receive report from Executive Director on the following matters:

A. Review of 2026 meeting schedule

Mr. Hanson reviewed with the Board the 2026 meeting schedule and answered Trustee questions.

B. 2026 Committee Work Plans and assignment process

Mr. Hanson outlined the process for Committee assignments and noted that the schedule and work plans for each Committee were included in the materials.

C. MET report and upcoming educational programs and conferences

Mr. Hanson reminded the Trustees on their MET hour requirements for the year and informed them of upcoming educational programs and conferences held throughout the year.

11. Discuss and consider the opening of the 2026 performance appraisal process for the Executive Director

A. Convene into Executive Session pursuant to Tex. Government Code 551.074 to deliberate the evaluation, employment, and/or duties of the Executive Director

B. Reconvene into public session and take action, if any, as determined appropriate

Trustees convened into Executive Session at 10:30 AM.

Trustees reconvened into Public Session at 11:33 AM

Chair Thomas noted that there were no decisions made in executive session.

12. Review key meeting takeaways and call for future agenda items

Chair Thomas summarized the actions taken and the information discussed during the meeting. She asked for any future agenda items and there were no further items to address.

Chair Thomas adjourned the January 29, 2026 Board Meeting at 11:34 AM.

Minutes were approved at the April 2, 2026 Board Meeting