



Council of the Cherokee Nation

Meeting Minutes

Education and Culture Committee

Tuesday, April 15, 2008

1:00 PM

Legislative Conference Room

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Coates called the meeting to order at 1:08 p.m.

INVOCATION

Councilor Cobb gave the invocation.

ROLL CALL

Present 17 - Bill John Baker; S. Joe Crittenden; David Thornton Sr. ; Don Garvin; Meredith Frailey; Cara Cowan Watts; Buel Anglen; Jack D. Baker; Tina Glory Jordan; Jodie Fishinghawk; Janelle Fullbright; Harley Buzzard; Curtis Snell; Chris Soap; Bradley Cobb; Chuck Hoskin, Jr. and Julia Coates

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilor Cowan Watts moved for the approval of the March 11th regular session. Councilor Jack Baker seconded the motion. Motion carried.

REPORTS:

1. Talking Leaves Job Corp/Career Services/Voc. Ed - Diane Kelley

Attachments: [Career Services Ed Apr 08.pdf](#)

Ms. Kim Carroll reported in the absence of Diane Kelley. Ms. Carroll announced the written reports have been submitted and offered to answer questions. Councilor Hoskin Jr. inquired as to the publication of votech training. Ms. Carroll stated they are in the process of making changes to the website now to be more user friendly. She stated when they have significant openings in a program they do take out newspaper adds. She stated generally they have waiting lists for all of the vocational programs. Councilor Buzzard mentioned the workshop Career Services is hosting in Catoosa on the 24th in relation to TERO and extended invitation to the Council. Councilor Fishinghawk requested blackberry reminders are given to the Council for this event.

2. Executive Director's Report - Dr. Neil Morton

Attachments: [Curriculum & Instruction April 08](#)
[Higher Education April 08](#)

Dr. Neil Morton announced written reports have been provided and offered to answer any questions. He passed around pictures of the Cherokee Universe.

3. Head Start - Verna Thompson

Attachments: [Early Childhood Unit April 08](#)

Dr. Morton announced Ms. Verna Thompson announced is out but offered to answer any questions. Councilor Glory-Jordan inquired as to when the annual review would be. A Reply was given that it would be next week.

4. JOM - Dr. Shelley Butler-Allen

Ms. Reba Bruner provided copies of their awards banquet program. She stated the students listed in the program are the winners and it is not a complete list of all of the recipients. The Trail of Tears awards will be held on the 24th at the Doubletree in downtown Tulsa.

5. Sequoyah High School - Gina Stanley

Ms. Gina Stanley announced written reports have been provided. She stated graduation would be on the 16th of May and invitations will be provided to the Council. She requested letting the staff know if the Council planned to attend the event to allow them the opportunity to recognize them. They have 14 Gates Millennium scholarship finalists, a nominee for West Point, a student accepted into the Air Force Academy and 2 students accepted to Dartmouth College.

6. Director's Report - Dr. Gloria Sly

Dr. Sly stated she didn't have a report.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Proposed Amendments to the School MVT Apportionment Boundaries

Sponsors: Councilor Baker And Councilor Buzzard

Councilor Buzzard stated he has questions regarding the boundaries but isn't advocating changing from what we normally give out. He stated at this time he would like to withdraw at this time. Councilor Bill John Baker made a motion to go to the true boundaries of the Cherokee Nation and not extend beyond. He stated you are unable to buy car tags outside the boundaries therefore it is wrong to send funds outside the boundaries when they weren't receiving harm to begin with. Councilor Cowan Watts seconded the motion and requested clarification if this still included with a portion in the jurisdiction. Councilor Bill John Baker stated only if they can pinpoint those students. If the school is not within the 14 counties then they shouldn't be included. Councilor Cowan Watts inquired if his motion is that the physical location of the school building has to be within the Cherokee Nation. Councilor Bill John Baker stated that is correct. Councilor Cowan Watts withdrew her second. Councilor Crittenden seconded the motion. Councilor Cobb stated he would not be in support of this motion. He stated he has a school that is currently included and estimated 90% of those students live within the Cherokee Nation jurisdiction and do buy car tags. He stated he supports leaving the legislation as is right now with the 2 mile boundary. Councilor Fishinghawk inquires if any other tribe goes into our boundaries and distributes funds. Dr. Neil Morton stated we are the only tribe with motor vehicle fund distribution. Councilor Fishinghawk inquired as to why this began. Dr. Morton stated school receive funds from the State of Oklahoma motor vehicle tax but do not

receive as much as they do from the Cherokee Nation. When we began issuing car tags the schools feared a drop in funds therefore the implementation began. Councilor Glory-Jordan inquired as to how many other programs extend outside the boundaries 2 miles. Councilor Jack Baker stated his concern is that this was initially set up due to some of the school districts being both inside and outside our jurisdictional areas. Many of the parents are purchasing the car tags with students attending school outside the boundaries. Councilor Hoskin Jr. inquired if there is a way to determine the percent of children attending the school whose parents purchase the car tags. Dr. Morton stated it would be very cumbersome. They could ask the school to certify the residents of the students. He stated transfer students are now included. Councilor Hoskin Jr. inquired as to the State's formula for car tag distribution. Dr. Morton stated it is based on where the tag is sold. Councilor Cobb inquired how many schools are within the 2 mile boundary. Dr. Morton stated there are 96 total funded school districts 39 of which are outside the jurisdiction. Councilor Cobb stated we have already set a prescient and has not heard a good argument to change. Councilor Bill John Baker stated the change to just the Cherokee Nation boundaries would cause Tulsa and Washington counties to loose 11% but Cherokee, Adair, Mayes, Sequoyah and Craig would gain 10% more for the kids that live within the district. Delaware and Rogers would also gain funds. He stated to blatantly send a major check outside the 14 counties is wrong. He stated it was not the intention to educate Cherokee kids the intention was to hold harmless those school districts that relied on car tag money for their education. He inquired if there is a way to determine if a kid going to school outside the district has parents buying Cherokee tags. If this is possible then fund that school that percentage of kids. Councilor Fishinghawk inquired as to the top 3 counties who received car tag funds. Dr. Morton stated he has run the numbers in the buffer zone of how many would be lost. He stated district 5 would loose 244 students, district 8 would loose 418 students, district 4 would loose 1242 students, and district 7 would loose 196 students which translate to approximately \$15 per student. Councilor Anglen stated if these funds are taken away from schools outside the boundaries it is only hurting the Cherokee children. Councilor Thornton stated if a family lives inside the jurisdiction and buys car tags and their child attends school outside the jurisdiction the school should receive funds for the child. He stated he is concerned with what the schools use the funds for the schools are given an open book. Are the Cherokee children who the funds are for actually benefiting from the funds? He stated it should be the schools responsibility to do the paperwork to determine where the children live to enable them to claim them then they shouldn't receive the funds. Councilor Hoskin Jr. suggested pausing this discussion to determine if the Education Department can come up with a more precise way of identifying the Cherokee kids that live within the Cherokee Nation jurisdiction. Councilor Cobb stated it has also concerned him in regard to how the funds are being used.

Councilor Glory-Jordan stated in respect to our Northern boundaries she made a motion to table this to allow Dr. Morton to determine a self proving method certified by the school of how to identify the children. Councilor Hoskin Jr. seconded the motion. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Cherokee Artist Association Proposal/Business Plan Presentation

Mr. Bill Glass, President of the Cherokee Artist Association, provided a packet which included their proposal and business plan along with a letter to the Council. He read the letter into the record. Councilor Bill John Baker stated \$5,000 was approved a couple of years ago at which time they were working on their bylaws, there were given \$5,000 in 2006 but didn't receive funds in 2007. He stated the Artist Association is growing and holding events and is receiving excellent feedback. Mr.

Glass stated the request for \$25,000 is for rent and utilities. Councilor Bill John Baker made a motion to fund \$12,500 to the Cherokee Artist Association for this fiscal year. Councilor Cowan Watts called point of order stating if he belongs to the association he shouldn't be making the motion. Councilor Bill John Baker withdrew his motion. Councilor Cowan Watts agreed with the motion and stated this is a considerable amount of money and stated the Artist Association is going in the right direction. She expressed wishes for them to be involved in the Cultural Tourism projects. Mr. Bill Glass inquired as to how being administered through the Education Service and Arts group would work. Councilor Cobb stated just for oversight and to ensure the bylaws are being followed. Councilor Frailey inquired if they have a plan to become self-sufficient. Mr. Glass stated that is where they are at right now. They are in the process of determining how much of proceeds go back to the Association. Councilor Soap inquired as to why they are coming before the Council for funding when there are programs that could possibly help through Administration. Have these avenues been tried, have you been turned down or don't qualify. Mr. Glass stated he comes to the Council for assistance and isn't aware of any other funding. He requested direction if there is assistance avenues to explore. Councilor Cowan Watts announced they have received \$25,000 in Compassion Capitol Grants and inquired as to how the funds were spent. Mr. Glass stated the funds were spent on computers, gallery lights, camera, printers, copy machines, consulting fees and other start up items. Councilor Cowan Watts inquired how often the building is being used and the number of people attending the meetings. Mr. Glass stated they are holding workshops as well as the meetings in the building. He stated they average approximately 10 people at the meetings. Councilor Cowan Watts inquired if a coop is in their plans or if it has been tried. Mr. Glass stated this summer they are trying to set up half of their building as gallery space. They are considering addressing a coop at a later date. Councilor Bill John Baker called for the question.

Councilor Cobb made a motion to fund the Cherokee Artist Association \$12,500 for one year with it being administered through the Education Service and Arts group and if Article 5 Section 1 of the bylaws change it is reported to this Council. Councilor Garvin seconded the motion. Mr. Doug Evans stated the annual appropriations bill contains charitable donations and within that budget there was a \$5,000 contribution to this organization that they have not received at this time. Councilor Cowan Watts offered a friendly amendment to use the \$5,000 already appropriated and for Mr. Evans to identify the additional \$7,500 for a total of \$12,500 to be moved from this committee to Executive and Finance Committee. Councilors Cobb and Garvin accepted the friendly amendment. Motion carried.

2.

Former Chief's Gravesite Monuments (Discussion)

Councilor Cowan Watts inquired as to how many chief's had been identified. Dr. Gloria Sly stated 12 have been identified. Councilor Cowan Watts requested Mr. Doug Evans identify \$12,000 for a full proposal and for Dr. Sly to provide a list of the Chief's and locations. She inquired if the handout of the sample marker had been approved during previous sessions. Dr. Sly stated she never received directive. She stated two sizes were being considered. One was the 2 foot by 2 foot headstone with an estimate of \$750 and the other was the same size as the veteran's marker at 2 foot by 1 foot at \$710. She stated the sample is in brown but the stones would actually be in black. Councilor Cowan Watts suggested any changes be brought to the meeting next month and then vote on a final package next month. Dr. Sly reminded the Council that permission hasn't been granted for placement at W. W. Keeler's gravesite. She stated there was also discussion regarding the historical marker being placed inside the cemetery gate showing direction to the chief's graves. Councilor Cowan Watts inquired if the recommendation is for 2 markers at each site. Dr. Sly stated she is only giving reminders of the past discussions. Councilor Cowan

Watts inquired as to the estimated cost of the historical marker. Dr. Sly stated when this one was purchased for the orphan cemetery it was \$1,000. Councilor Cowan Watts requested a new estimate for the historical marker and for Dr. Sly to work with Mr. Evans in regard to a proposed budget. Councilor Cobb stated he is familiar with several people on the board for the cemetery where former chief Keeler is buried and offered his assistance if needed. Councilor Hoskin Jr. suggested the bottom of the historical marker inscription read Council of the Cherokee Nation instead of the Cherokee Nation Cultural Committee.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilor Frailey announced Mr. Todd Enlow requested a 10 minute break before beginning the next meeting to allow them time to set up.

Chair Coates announced at 3:15 today representatives from the benefits department will be here if anyone needs to make changes on their insurance or if there are questions.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Cowan Watts moved for adjournment. Councilor Cobb seconded the motion. Motion carried at 2:20 p.m.

STAFF PRESENT:

| | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| <i>Dr. Gloria Sly</i> | <i>Kim Carroll</i> | <i>Tonia Hogner Weavel</i> |
| <i>Dr. Neil Morton</i> | <i>Reba Bruner</i> | <i>Nita Wilson</i> |
| <i>Rita Bunch</i> | <i>Melanie Knight</i> | <i>Gina Stanley</i> |
| <i>Verna Thompson</i> | <i>Callie Catcher</i> | <i>Doug Evans</i> |

VISITORS PRESENT:

| | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| <i>Bill Glass</i> | <i>Tammy Ross</i> | <i>Jim Ketcher</i> |
| <i>Mike Miller</i> | | |

APPROVAL / DISTRIBUTION

Minutes submitted by: Shelli Brittain, Legal & Legislative Coordinator

Motion to approve minutes made by: _____

Minutes attested and concurred by: _____

Date: _____