



Council of the Cherokee Nation

Cherokee Nation Complex
17675 S. Muskogee Ave.
Tahlequah, OK 74464

Meeting Minutes - Final EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Candessa Tehee, Chair

Recording Secretary, Shelli Brittain Coke
Phone: 1-800-995-9465,
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Monday, February 10, 2025

3:00 PM

Tribal Council Offices

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Tehee called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

INVOCATION

Co-Chair Callison gave the invocation.

ROLL CALL

Present 16 - Mike Dobbins; E. O. "JR." Smith; Joshua Sam; Mike Shambaugh; Melvina Shotpouch; Johnny Kidwell ; Candessa Tehee; Danny Callison; Sasha Blackfox-Qualls; Lisa Hall; Daryl Legg; Codey Poindexter; Dora Patzkowski; Kevin Easley Jr.; Julia Coates and Kendra McGeady

Absent 1 - Joe Deere

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilor Dobbins moved to approve. Co-Chair Callison seconded the motion. The motion carried.

REPORTS:

Vocational Programs/Talking Leaves Job Corp/Career Services - Diane Kelley

Ms. Kelley reported the Department of Labor Project Officer is on campus. She reported on the GED graduates and the current ranking of our Job Corp facility. She offered to answer questions from the report provided. Councilor Legg gave appreciation for her staff coming to Cave Springs schools to present some of the Career Services Programs. Ms. Kelley announced the TERO office has moved to the industrial park and the training center is scheduled to move next. Co-Chair Callison inquired if the spring break events were scheduled again this year. Chair Tehee extended thanks and appreciation to the culinary students for our lunch today.

Executive Director's Report - Mark Vance

Mr. Vance provided the following dates for upcoming events:

College Fairs at OSU Tulsa on February 27th and at Roland Casino on March 27th.

The scholarship application for fall 2025 will open March 1st and will close approximately June 25th. The Tribal Consultation will be held February 19th at the Chota Conference Room, the virtual consultation will be held February 26th. The Language Bowl will be at Greasy on March 10th through the 13th. The OKJOM Conference will be held on March 26th and 27th at Durant. The Children's Festivals are planned for April 8th and May 6th. Camp Cherokee will be held in June, dates and locations will be provided to the schools soon. He offered to answer questions from the report. Councilor Blackfox-Qualls inquired about the award notifications for the spring scholarships.

Head Start - Verna Thompson

Ms. Thompson reported on their recent tour of the new Early Childhood Head Start facility. They are currently hosting interns from Northeastern State University. She offered to answer questions from the report.

Sequoyah High School - Terry Heustis

Mr. Heustis announced they are hosting regionals and districts. He provided an update on the athletic programs and their attendance during the flu season. He offered to answer questions from the report. Councilor Dobbins inquired about the effects of the cell phone ban at the State level. He inquired if we are required to follow education mandates from the State level. He offered to answer questions from the report. Co-Chair Callison gave congratulations for the new agriculture program and inquired about housing animals on campus. Chair Tehee inquired about the application dates for the upcoming school year.

OLD BUSINESS

None pending.

NEW BUSINESS

None pending.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilor Easley announced the Foyil Public Schools have had issues with students testing proficient. The Council provided assistance by paying half of the cost for some software. He showed a graph of the students test scores prior to the software and after. He commented on how grateful the teachers, students and parents are for this assistance.

Chair Tehee announced Restored Access will host a Cherokee Wellness Class on the 19th.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Legg moved to adjourn. Councilor Poindexter seconded the motion. The motion carried at 3:27 p.m.

STAFF PRESENT:

Brooke Neff
Mark Vance

Terry Heustis
Corey Bunch

Diane Kelley
Verna Thompson

VISITORS PRESENT:

John Young

Teddye Snell