



Council of the Cherokee Nation

Council House
17763 S. Muskogee Ave.
Tahlequah, OK 74464

Meeting Minutes - Final EDUCATION AND CULTURE COMMITTEE

Julia Coates, Chair

*Recording Secretary, Shelli Brittain
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Monday, January 17, 2011

3:00 PM

Legislative Conference Room

This meeting was originally scheduled for January 10th.

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Coates called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m.

INVOCATION

Councilor Snell gave the invocation.

ROLL CALL

Present 16 - Bill John Baker; Bradley Cobb; Buel Anglen; Cara Cowan Watts; Chris Soap; Chuck Hoskin; Curtis Snell; David Thornton Sr. ; Harley Buzzard; Jack D. Baker; Janelle Fullbright; Jodie Fishinghawk; Julia Coates; Meredith Frailey; S. Joe Crittenden and Tina Glory Jordan

Late Arrival 1 - Don Garvin

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilor Cowan Watts moved to approve the December 13th regular session minutes. Councilor Jack D. Baker seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Councilor Hoskin Jr. moved to amend the agenda to include the Higher Education Reform Act at item #2 for discussion only. Councilor Glory-Jordan seconded the motion. Motion carried.

REPORTS:

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

Ms. Kelley announced they are partnering with the Higher Education department and the Vocational Education Group to go out into some of the schools in the month of

February in hopes to assist in completing some of the FAFSA forms. She announced job program resource fairs will be scheduled to primarily let the business side know what programs and services are available and vice versa. She provided flyers for the first two resource fairs. She announced Job Corp has a new regional director. They will be undergoing an audit through ARRA on the summer youth funds. She announced the State Board of Regents has requested she serve on a search committee for the new President of Connors State College. Councilor Buzzard requested the eligibility criteria for the OJT. Councilor Glory-Jordan requested an update on the Day Work program. Ms. Kelley stated there was 92 people in Tahlequah this morning. They placed everyone that qualified for two days and everyone else who qualified will be placed Wednesday and Thursday. Councilor Glory-Jordan requested an update on the funds remaining. Ms. Kelley stated it is difficult to determine as they never know how many will come in within a week. She stated she would keep the Council updated on the amount of funds available. Chief Smith has been discussing with members of the State Legislature about a pilot program for the Day Workers. Councilor Hoskin requested a breakdown by county the number of participants in the Day Work program. Councilor Bill John Baker inquired if a GED is required. Ms. Kelley stated you can still participate in the program but are requested to be tested. She commented they have implemented random drug testing for the Day Work program. Councilor Bill John Baker inquired if a solution has been determined on the participants not being able to pay rent with the credit card given as payment. Mr. Enlow stated he has met with Callie Catcher to determine alternate ways of payment.

2. Executive Director's Report - Melanie Knight

Ms. Knight provided handouts of information requested during the last meeting and offered to answer questions from the reports provided. Councilor Hoskin Jr. requested a breakdown of the amount of funds the scholarship policy changes would save. He also requested the GPA requirement be figured at 2.0 instead of the 2.5 suggested. Ms. Knight stated the change in GPA would be 71 students as opposed to 326. Councilor Cobb suggested looking at the NCAA scholarship guideline requirements. He further suggested placing a disclaimer on the scholarships so that all applicants have to disclose all funds receiving. Councilor Glory-Jordan inquired if they are considering changing the GPA requirement to a 2.0 instead of a 2.5. Ms. Knight stated they have been considering the change based on discussions with this committee. Councilor Fishinghawk inquired as to the status of the opinion requested from the Attorney General regarding if the spending of motor fuels for scholarships is being done correctly. Ms. Knight stated they haven't received the opinion and that she would follow up. Councilor Glory-Jordan inquired if a time had been set for the disbursement to the motor vehicle competitive grant recipients. Ms. Knight commented a tentative date has been set. They are working on the agreements with the schools at this time. Councilor Glory-Jordan requested to be part of the events which involve the four schools within her district.

3. Head Start - Verna Thompson

Ms. Thompson was not present to report.

4. Leadership - Todd Enlow

Mr. Enlow provided his report. He announced the Youth Choir has 53 new members. The Youth Council swearing ceremonies were held. Saturday, January 29th will be the Night with Cherokee Ambassadors at Northeastern. The deadline for the bike ride applications has been extended to the 15th of February. The December Cherokee hire rate is 31 of 33 new employees for approximately 94%. The

leadership summit will be held on March 22nd.

OLD BUSINESS

None pending.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **TMP-163** Status Update on STEM Strategy Plans and College Prep Curriculum (Discussion Only)
Ms. Knight commented she had a three part report 1) Sequoyah Schools, 2) public school outreach, and 3) the College Resource Center. She introduced Gary Crawford the newly appointed Dean of Academics at Sequoia, Daniel Faddis the Public School Outreach Director for STEM and Gregg Simmons the Manager of the College Resource Center. In regard to Sequoyah they have known for some time there is room for improvement on the academic side. They have implemented a Response to Intervention program that provides an individual learning plan for each student. They are implementing ACT prep courses and begin taking practice ACT test as early as 8th grade. They are using technology like never before. A more collaborative teaching and learning has been implemented as well as parental involvement on the academic side. A partnership has been started with CNB in regard to the Cisco computer course. They have expanded the robotics program. She commented both chemistry and physics are offered but have a low turnout. In regard to public school efforts currently they have Camp Cherokee, Robotics, AISES, and the National Science and Engineering Fair. They will start a science bowl competition with the first competition set for the 24th of February. She commented both businesses and the universities are interested in STEM.
Chair Coates requested tabling the remainder of this discussion until next month as time is running short.

2. **11-004** AN ACT SETTING CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS FOR THE CHEROKEE NATION HIGHER EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY
Councilor Hoskin Jr. announced this item has been provided earlier today. He stated there are three substantive provisions 1) 5B states the Council would receive a 90 day notice of any changes in rules, policies and procedures, 2) 5C1 regarding with the GPA requirement and changing it to a 2.0 requirement and 3) 5C2 deals with students taking longer than 8 semesters to complete their degree. He stated this would be on the Rules agenda for consideration. Councilor Glory-Jordan commented she has voiced her concerns with Ms. Knight and believes they are going to be addressed. Councilor Cobb suggested reviewing the NCAA progression requirements.
Chair Coates announced further discussion and consideration of this item will take place during the January Rules Committee.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Paula Ragsdale provided a handout of topics of discussion for the Executive and Legislative conference at 5:00 today.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Jack D. Baker moved to adjourn. Councilor Crittenden seconded the motion. Motion carried at 4:16 p.m.

STAFF PRESENT:

*Diane Kelley
Paula Ragsdale
Gary Crawford
Angela Drewes*

*Gregg Simmons
Todd Enlow
Daniel Faddis*

*Melanie Knight
Bobby Short
Jeff Vance*

VISITORS PRESENT:

Todd Hembree