



# Council of the Cherokee Nation

## Meeting Minutes

### Education and Culture Committee

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Tuesday, March 17, 2009

1:00 PM

Legislative Conference Room

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#### CALL TO ORDER

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

#### INVOCATION

Councilor Cowan Watts gave the invocation.

#### ROLL CALL

**Present** 14 - Bill John Baker; S. Joe Crittenden; David Thornton Sr. ; Don Garvin; Cara Cowan Watts; Buel Anglen; Jack D. Baker; Tina Glory Jordan; Janelle Fullbright; Harley Buzzard; Chris Soap; Bradley Cobb; Chuck Hoskin, Jr. and Julia Coates

**Absent** 1 - Curtis Snell

**Late Arrival** 2 - Meredith Frailey and Jodie Fishinghawk

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilor Cobb made a motion to approve the February 17th regular session minutes. Councilor Thornton seconded the motion. Motion carried.

#### REPORTS:

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

*Ms. Kelley announced they have submitted a budget that will be on the Executive and Finance Committee this month for additional funding for Summer Youth. She stated they will be working up the allocation per county once they receive the funds requested through the budget and the stimulus package. Ms. Kelley stated they will be launching a green initiative with the job corp. In October they will be Washington DC for the anniversary of Job Corp. President Obama will be declaring it National Job Corp Day. Councilor Hoskin Jr. inquired about the ROSS program. Ms. Kelley stated the program was not refunded last year. They are currently operating on carry over dollars. She stated it is a residential opportunity assistance program that provides vocational training and job assistance for the people living in mutual help housing as well as the low rent projects. Councilor Cowan Watts questioned why the program wasn't refunded. Ms. Kelley stated they submitted a grant application last year and HUD lost the paperwork.*

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

*Ms. Rita Bunch reported for Dr. Neil Morton. She offered to answer questions. Councilor Cowan Watts stated next month she would be bringing forward a resolution requiring our tribally funded programs such as immersion to have tribal citizenship.*

Councilor Garvin voiced concern for some of the NSU students not receiving their scholarship funds. Ms. Bunch stated the upload has begun. They are reviewing options to streamline. The review process has slowed the process down. Councilor Garvin inquired as to who is responsible for the penalties. Ms. Bunch stated the student is responsible. Councilor Fullbright inquired if they had changed the process where there isn't a deadline for the applications. Ms. Bunch stated they are in the process of working out the policy but haven't yet implemented. Councilor Glory-Jordan requested a breakdown of when the scholarships are being paid monthly to calculate the loss to try to determine a solution to the problem.

3. Head Start - Verna Thompson

Ms. Thompson offered to answer questions from the written report.

4. JOM - Dr. Shelley Butler-Allen

Dr. Butler-Allen offered to answer questions from the report. Councilor Soap requested information on the JOM monitoring. Dr. Butler-Allen stated the field specialist is responsible for monitoring schools. She announced they had 445 students place in the Cherokee Cultural competition. An awards banquet will be held in May which everyone is encouraged to attend. Councilor Buzzard voiced concern for the schools always competing against the same students. Dr. Butler-Allen stated they are aware of the situation and are rethinking the situation. She provided a handout for the JOM Conference and Banquet. She requested if anyone plans to attend to please RSVP with Gayle.

5. Sequoyah High School - Gina Stanley

Ms. Stanley offered to answer questions from her report. She announced they have their first lady this year as a finalist for the summer programs and hope to have a military appointment by the end of the school year. She has been accepted into the Air Force and has received an appointment for the U.S. Navel Academy. Councilor Garvin stated he is very impressed with Sequoyah Schools. Councilor Garvin made a motion for a letter to be sent to the faculty and staff of Sequoyah to show appreciation. Councilor Cowan Watts seconded the motion. Motion carried. Ms. Stanley announced they have twelve finalists for the Gates Scholarships this year.

6. Director's Report - Dr. Gloria Sly

No one present to report.

7. Cultural Tourism - Talisha Nichols

Ms. Molly Jarvis announced the education tours will be held March through May. They continue to be the number one requested pamphlet. She gave an overview of the handouts and report provided. Councilor Jack D. Baker stated two to three months ago he spoke to Cultural Tourism and inquired about a bus tour to Red Clay during the Joint Council meeting. He stated at the time he had several organizations interested in the bus tour. He stated it took a couple of months to hear the Cultural Tourism department would not be providing a bus tour due to not having the capability. He voiced concern for the staff not being able to put together a simple tour. Ms. Jarvis stated the staff did put together a plan for the tour. In taking to the Executive Management team it was determined that was not part of the core competency at this time in the phase. They are really focusing on downtown Tahlequah. It was determined by the Executive Management team to not extend the resources into future phases without having the core complete. Councilor Jack D.

*Baker stated the problem is it took two months for a response at which it was too late for anyone else to put together a tour. Councilor Anglen stated they may have missed the boat because it may be another 25 years before this historical meeting comes about again. Ms. Jarvis stated she would take the information back to the Executive Management team. She stated that maybe they didn't put the significance on the event as they should have.*

#### OLD BUSINESS

*None.*

#### NEW BUSINESS

1. "HOW TO IMPLEMENT THE CHEROKEE SCHOLARS PROGRAM"  
PRESENTATION

*Ms. Bunch provided a flyer for the Cherokee Scholars program. She stated the flyer is not ready for distribution it is still in draft form. The Cherokee Scholars program will be a cooperative effort with the Oklahoma Scholars programs. They are working to pilot the program in six different school districts. She stated to be able to mirror the Oklahoma Scholars program they were not able to choose the curriculum. She stated the pamphlet will be made available once they are complete.*

2. A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING AND COMMENDING UNIVERSITY OF  
OKLAHOMA STUDENT AND CHEROKEE CITIZEN SAM BRADFORD

*Councilor Jack D. Baker requested he become a sponsor of this resolution and made a motion for passage. Councilor Cowan Watts seconded the motion. Chief Smith requested the opportunity to make changes on the resolution. He announced Mr. Bradford will be here visiting Sequoyah Schools on April 17th and that evening a community honoring will be held. Councilor Cowan Watts reminded the Chief they would be at Joint Council at Red Clay at this time. Chief Smith replied the Heisman trophy winner doesn't operate on the schedule of the Council. He stated they were given 2 dates before school was out, one of which has already passed and this one. Councilor Hoskin Jr. suggested all Council members sponsor the legislation. Councilor Frailey suggested the Chief amend the legislation and bring it forward to the Rules committee at the end of the month.*

**Councilor Jack D. Baker made a motion to table and bring back to the Rules Committee at the end of the month. Councilor Cobb seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Chair Coates stated they would like to move the regularly scheduled time of this meeting to Monday of the Council meeting at 3:00 p.m. from next month forward. Councilor Jack D. Baker made a motion to accept the Chairs recommendation. Councilor Garvin seconded the motion. Motion carried.*

#### ADJOURNMENT

**Councilor Jack D. Baker made a motion to adjourn. Councilor Crittenden seconded the motion. Motion carried at 2:05 p.m.**

#### STAFF PRESENT:

*Diane Kelley  
Donna Tinnin  
Gina Stanley*

*Nita Wilson  
Verna Thompson  
Melanie Dodge*

*Rita Bunch  
Shelley Butler-Allen  
Rob Daugherty*

*Chief Chad Smith  
Tracy Petty*

*Daryl Legg*

*Nettie Deatherage*

VISITORS PRESENT:

*Molly Jarvis  
Brent Thompson  
David Stewart*

*Talisha Nichols  
Dana Geib  
Shawn Slaton*

*Todd Hembree  
Bob Huffman*

APPROVAL / DISTRIBUTION

**Minutes submitted by: Shelli Brittain, Legal & Legislative Coordinator**

**Motion to approve minutes made by:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Minutes attested and concurred by:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_