



# Council of the Cherokee Nation

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

## Meeting Minutes - Final EDUCATION COMMITTEE

*Candessa Tehee, Chair*  
*Julia Coates, Co-Chair*

*Recording Secretary, Shelli Brittain Coke*  
*Phone: 1-800-995-9465,*  
*E-mail: council-public@cherokee.org*

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Thursday, October 30, 2025

1:00 PM

Tribal Council Offices

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### CALL TO ORDER

Chair Tehee called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

### INVOCATION

Councilor Shotpouch gave the invocation.

### ROLL CALL

**Present** 16 - Sasha Blackfox-Qualls; Lisa Hall; Daryl Legg; Codey Poindexter; Dora Patzkowski; Joe Deere; Kevin Easley Jr.; Danny Callison; Ashley Grant ; Uriah Grass; Clifton Hughes; Kendra McGeady; Joshua Sam; Melvina Shotpouch; Candessa Tehee and Johnny Kidwell

**Late Arrival** 1 - Julia Coates

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilor Deere moved to approve. Councilor Poindexter seconded the motion. The motion carried.

### REPORTS:

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

*Mr. Hunter Palmer gave report highlights in the absence of Ms. Kelley. He offered to answer questions from the report. Councilor Callison commented on being victorious again at the RSU Chili Cook-Off.*

Executive Director's Report - Mark Vance

*Mr. Vance gave highlights from the report. He announced several upcoming events and stated the list would be provided by email. He offered to answer questions from the report. Councilor Deere inquired about bikes for training for the Remember the Removal Ride. Councilor McGeady requested additional information on the archery event coming up in Vinita.*

Head Start - Verna Thompson

*Ms. Thompson announced they are fully enrolled for the first time since the pandemic. She commented on the SHS Band participating in a recent event for the kids. She offered to answer questions from the report.*

Sequoyah High School - Terry Heustis

*Mr. Heustis provided updates on academics, athletics, programs and construction. He offered to answer questions from the report provided.*

Cherokee Nation Foundation - Janice Randall

*No one was present to report.*

#### OLD BUSINESS

*None pending.*

#### NEW BUSINESS

- A. [25-103](#) A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE REAPPOINTMENT OF JOHN SPARKS AS A COMMISSIONER OF THE CHEROKEE NATION GAMING COMMISSION
- Councilor McGeady moved to approve. Councilor Callison seconded the motion. Mr. Sparks was given a few moments to speak. Following comments from Councilors the motion to approve and forward to Rules Committee carried**
- B. [25-104](#) A RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING LYNDON EMBERTON TO THE CITIZEN COMMITTEE ON COMPENSATION
- Councilor Kidwell moved to approve. Councilor Callison seconded the motion. All Councilors requested to be added as sponsors. The motion to approve and forward to Rules Committee carried.**
- C. [25-105](#) A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE REAPPOINTMENT OF CLARICE DOYLE AS A COUNCIL APPOINTMENT TO A BOARD SEAT AS AN EDITORIAL BOARD MEMBER OF THE CHEROKEE PHOENIX
- Councilor Easley made a motion to approve. Councilor Callison seconded the motion. Ms. Doyle was given a few moments to address the Council. The motion to approve and forward to Rules Committee passed.**

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### ADJOURNMENT

**Councilor Deere moved to adjourn. Councilor Poindexter seconded the motion. The motion carried at 1:23 p.m.**

STAFF PRESENT:

*Mark Vance*  
*Hunter Palmer*

*Terry Heustis*  
*Canaan Duncan*

*Verna Thompson*  
*Shella Bowlin*

VISITORS PRESENT:

*John Young*

*Clarice Doyle*

*John Sparks*