



# 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,*  
*E-mail: council-public@cherokee.org*

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Monday, June 16, 2025

3:00 PM

Tribal Council Offices

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### CALL TO ORDER

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

### INVOCATION

**Councilor Patzkowski gave the invocation.**

### ROLL CALL

**Present** 17 - 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; Joe Deere; Kevin Easley Jr.; Julia Coates and Kendra McGeady

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**Councilor Deere moved to approve. Councilor Dobbins seconded the motion. The motion carried.**

### REPORTS:

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

*Mr. Palmer reported in the absence of Ms. Kelley. He offered to answer questions from the report. Councilor Coates requested an update on the Talking Leaves Job Corp. Chair Tehee inquired about the current number of students at the Job Corp center. Councilor Dobbins inquired about the rank of our Job Corp and the specialties at our location.*

Executive Director's Report - Mark Vance

*Mr. Emberton reported in the absence of Mr. Vance. He provided an update on Camp Cherokee. He announced the deadline for fall college scholarships is today at 5:00 p.m. The applications for Miss Cherokee, Jr. Miss Cherokee and the Little Cherokee Ambassadors are now available online and at Cherokee First. The deadlines for Miss*

*Cherokee and Jr. Miss Cherokee is July 10th and July 25th for the Little Cherokee Ambassadors. He provided an update on the Remember the Removal Bike Riders. Upcoming events include the Youth Summit on June 26th, the School Safety Summit July 14th and 15th, and the T.O.S.S. event on July 22nd and 23rd. He offered to answer questions from the report. Co- Chair Callison inquired if there was any association with the School Resource Seminar in Durant.*

Head Start - Verna Thompson

*Ms. Thompson offered to answer questions from the report provided. She commented on the health screenings referred to in the report. She announced the upcoming 32nd Annual Head Start Conference at Hard Rock. Chair Tehee inquired if the perfect attendance record is still standing. She also requested an update on the new building.*

Sequoyah High School - Terry Heustis

*Mr. Heustis commented on wrapping up his first year as Superintendent. He provided an update on the Archery Program. He stated the 9th grade applications were done a little differently this year. They currently have 114 freshmen incoming. Once the new Principal is in place they will be brought before this committee for introductions. He offered to answer questions from the report. Councilor Smith inquired if the construction projects are on track.*

#### OLD BUSINESS

*None pending.*

#### NEW BUSINESS

*None pending.*

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### ADJOURNMENT

**Councilor Deere moved to adjourn. Councilor Dobbins seconded the motion.  
The motion carried at 3:20 p.m.**

#### STAFF PRESENT:

|                       |                      |                         |
|-----------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|
| <i>Brooke Neff</i>    | <i>Hunter Palmer</i> | <i>Verna Thompson</i>   |
| <i>Aaron Emberton</i> | <i>Terry Heustis</i> | <i>Stephanie Isaacs</i> |
| <i>Corey Bunch</i>    |                      |                         |

#### VISITORS PRESENT:

|                   |                    |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| <i>John Young</i> | <i>Teddy Snell</i> |
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