



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

Monday, June 16, 2025

3:00 PM

Tribal Council Offices

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. Heusitis 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:

*Brooke Neff
Aaron Emberton
Corey Bunch*

*Hunter Palmer
Terry Heustis*

*Verna Thompson
Stephanie Isaacs*

VISITORS PRESENT:

John Young

Teddye Snell