



# 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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Monday, December 15, 2025

2:00 PM

Tribal Council Offices

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### CALL TO ORDER

Chair Tehee called the meeting to order at 2:01 p.m.

### INVOCATION

Councilor Callison gave the invocation.

### ROLL CALL

**Present** 17 - Sasha Blackfox-Qualls; Lisa Hall; Daryl Legg; Codey Poindexter; Dora Patzkowski; Joe Deere; Kevin Easley Jr.; Julia Coates; Danny Callison; Ashley Grant ; Uriah Grass; Clifton Hughes; Johnny F. Keener; Kendra McGeady; Joshua Sam; Melvina Shotpouch and Candessa Tehee

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

### REPORTS:

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

*Ms. Kelley reported on the ribbon cuttings recently held with businesses they are working with. The Job Corp is behind from the government shutdown on staffing and enrollment. They are currently ranked 18th in the country. She offered to answer questions from the report. Councilor Callison gave appreciation for the event recently held in Pryor.*

Executive Director's Report - Mark Vance

*Mr. Emberton announced the College Resources Scholarship and concurrent enrollment renewals are due by January 20th. He reported on JOM, the upcoming STEM Fest, the Educational Pathways Summit, Youth Leadership, The Youth Council Inauguration, the Remember the Removal Bike Ride, and the Youth Choir Concert. He*

*offered to answer any questions. Councilor Blackfox-Qualls requested clarification in that the report states the spring renewals has a deadline of the 16th not the 20th as reported today.*

Head Start - Verna Thompson

*Mr. Emberton reported the accreditation visits are now complete. Fifteen staff members have now completed the family development course. He offered to answer questions from the report.*

Sequoyah High School - Terry Heustis

*Mr. Heustis reported on the recent athletic events, the band, the Christmas choir concert and upcoming athletic events. He offered to answer questions from the report. Councilor Grass commented on the great job hosting a recent tournament.*

#### OLD BUSINESS

*None pending.*

#### NEW BUSINESS

*None pending.*

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### ADJOURNMENT

**Councilor Deere moved to adjourn. Councilor Blackfox-Qualls seconded the motion. The motion carried at 2:20 p.m.**

#### STAFF PRESENT:

*Aaron Emberton  
Sheila Bowlin*

*Terry Heustis  
Brooke Neff*

*Diane Kelley*

#### VISITORS PRESENT:

*John Young*