



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, May 12, 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 16 - Mike Dobbins; E. O. "JR." Smith; Joshua Sam; Mike Shambaugh;
Melvina Shotpouch; Johnny Kidwell ; Candessa Tehee; Danny Callison;
Lisa Hall; Daryl Legg; Codey Poindexter; Dora Patzkowski; Joe Deere;
Kevin Easley Jr.; Julia Coates and Kendra McGeady

Late Arrival 1 - Sasha Blackfox-Qualls

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

Ms. Kelley commented on the Spotlight in the report. She announced the Surg-Tech Program is moving to the Tahlequah Cherokee Nation Health Campus. She provided an update on all of the upcoming summer programs. Ms. Debra Lack has resigned her position and Brett Hamby has been named the interim director at Talking Leaves Job Corp. Ms. Kelley reported on the resource fair at the Stilwell Strawberry Festival and commented they would be attending other festivals as well. She offered to answer questions from the report.

Executive Director's Report - Mark Vance

Mr. Vance provided highlights on the cords and stoles, Camp Cherokee, and the JOM Program. He offered to answer questions from the report. Councilor Shambaugh

stated the Valedictorian and Salutatorian checks were received after some of the school assemblies had been held, he requested the checks be provided earlier next year to enable the Council Member to attend and present. Chair Tehee inquired if the stole application is on the GaDuGi portal.

Head Start - Verna Thompson

Ms. Thompson reported the Head Start staff has been furloughed for the summer. They are taking applications for fall. She offered to answer questions from the report provided. Chair Tehee inquired if the applications for Head Start is online.

Sequoyah High School - Terry Heustis

Mr. Heustis provided an update on the athletic events. They are preparing for graduation tomorrow night and the awards assembly is being held today. He provided an update on the construction. He offered to answer questions from the report. Councilor Dobbins inquired if all students take the ACT even if not college bound, if the school pays for the testing, and the average score.

OLD BUSINESS

None pending.

NEW BUSINESS

None pending.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADJOURNMENT

**Councilor Deere moved to adjourn. Councilor Dobbins seconded the motion.
The motion carried at 3:17 p.m.**

STAFF PRESENT:

*Diane Kelley
Brooke Neff*

*Terry Heustis
Verna Thompson*

Mark Vance

VISITORS PRESENT:

John Young

Teddy Snell