



Council of the Cherokee Nation

Meeting Minutes

Education and Culture Committee

Monday, June 15, 2009

3:00 PM

Legislative Conference Room

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Coates called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m.

INVOCATION

Councilor Cowan Watts gave the invocation.

ROLL CALL

Present 11 - Bill John Baker; S. Joe Crittenden; David Thornton Sr. ; Cara Cowan Watts; Buel Anglen; Jack D. Baker; Tina Glory Jordan; Harley Buzzard; Chris Soap; Chuck Hoskin, Jr. and Julia Coates

Absent 3 - Don Garvin; Janelle Fullbright and Curtis Snell

Late Arrival 3 - Meredith Frailey; Jodie Fishinghawk and Bradley Cobb

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilor Bill John Baker made a motion to approve the May 11, 2009 regular session minutes. Councilor Crittenden seconded the motion. Motion carried.

REPORTS:

2. Executive Director's Report - Dr. Neil Morton

Dr. Morton offered to answer questions from the reports provided by the various education departments. In regard to the Sequoyah High School report he announced Megan Williams who will be a Senior at Sequoyah and is the daughter of Cherokee Nation employees Tonia and Wes Williams received a six week summer scholarship for training at MIT. He reported some of the public schools in the State have requested the Oklahoma Segregate Schools Activity Association move private schools up to 4A or 6A. They have received notice that everything is on hold for one year. Sequoyah Superintendent Gina Stanley offered testimony at the hearing held last Tuesday. He announced Higher Education employee Jan Grogram was hospitalized last week with hospital pains. Her parents had an accident in route to check on Jan and are in critical condition. Dr. Morton stated they survived the June 12th deadline date for applications. They are anticipating 5% more completed applications for this year compared to last year. He stated they believe they have enough funding available to cover the increase. They believe they have solved the issue of funds going toward late fees rather than tuition. Councilor Glory-Jordan

inquired if they move funds from directed studies if all of those applicants will still be funded. Dr. Morton stated they would but will need to monitor it closely. Councilor Cowan Watts inquired if there is a waiting list for the directed studies program. Dr. Morton stated at times there is due to the applications being reviewed on a quarterly basis. Councilor Buzzard inquired about the status of the database to track the Sequoyah students and scholarship participants. Dr. Morton stated they have someone working on the database at this time. Dr. Morton stated Northeastern State University with Dr. Betz has taken a pro active roll in recruiting Indian students and provide tutorial services. Chair Coates requested an update on the Immersion school. Dr. Morton provided a handout regarding questions about the Immersion program. He stated they are starting an active and regular meeting with the parents to keep them updated on what the program is and isn't. He stated this should solve some of the problems and questions which have surfaced. He stated the Immersion program is a long range commitment that we do not know right now what the overall impact of immersion will be. He stated three years ago he would not have been able to get a public school within our fourteen county areas to sponsor a true immersion program. He stated he has suggested implementing a programmed home school curriculum with backup of classes for the parents every other week. Councilor Cowan Watts inquired when the program would broaden outside of the Cherokee Nation. She stated they want Cherokee child care in Catoosa for the employees. Councilor Thornton inquired as to the number of applicants on the waiting list for Sequoyah. Dr. Morton stated before school was out there was approximately 60 on the waiting list. He stated he is unsure now that school is out. Councilor Thornton inquired if they are applying for grants to increase the size of the school. Dr. Morton stated they are not that the school is capped out because of the BIA. He stated the seventh and eighth grades are not included in the BIA enrollment numbers.

3. Head Start - Verna Thompson

See the Executive Directors report (item #2)

4. JOM - Dr. Shelley Butler-Allen

See the Executive Directors report (item #2)

5. Sequoyah High School - Gina Stanley

See the Executive Directors report (item #2)

6. Director's Report - Dr. Gloria Sly

See the Executive Directors report (item #2)

1. Talking Leaves Job Corp/Career Services/Voc. Ed - Diane Kelley

Ms. Kelley provided a handout of Summer Youth Employment information and provided an update. At this time there are currently 543 SYEP participants. She stated there are still some youth to place. They are currently operating on the tribal dollars allocated by the Council. They are using the 102477 funds which were allocated for the adults since the Summer Youth and the stimulus funds haven't come in at this time. They are still taking applications for the fall vocational training classes. Cultural and career day events are scheduled for June 29th and 30th at the Job Corp facility. She stated there are numerous changes going on at Job Corp due to retirements. Ms. Kelley stated they are using debit cards to pay the SYEP participants as a pilot and if it works successfully they will use the debit cards for all

other program participants. Councilor Thornton gave appreciation for the professionalism of Ms. Kelley's staff in Sequoyah County.

7. Cultural Tourism - Molly Jarvis

Ms. Jarvis announced they changed the grand unveiling date at the Gilcrease Museum to mid August. They plan to complete the exterior renovations of the Supreme Courthouse on the 20th of June. They dedicated the exhibit in Seminary Hall at NSU. She stated they continue work on the Ross school and cemetery. The TV spot began airing on the 9th of June. Mr. Steve Rush provided a handout of the current brochure. He announced the commercials are airing on the travel, history, and local markets. The radio spots are airing in Tulsa, Oklahoma City, North West Arkansas and Missouri. The survey on the web site has had 1,000 hits since the commercials have begun. They are working on some special tours during the holiday. They are considering shuttle tours on the Thursday and Friday prior to the holiday with a tour in the morning and one in the afternoon both will serve a traditional meal. Saturday they will offering some free walking tours.

Councilor Glory-Jordan requested Ms. Gina Stanley attend the meeting next month.

OLD BUSINESS

None pending.

NEW BUSINESS

1. A RESOLUTION AMENDING RESOLUTION NUMBER 74-88, ESTABLISHING THE NATIONAL TREASURES PROGRAM

Sponsors: Councilor Jack D. Baker and Councilor Julia Coates

Councilor Jack D. Baker stated this resolution limits the number of National Treasurers to three per year, requires at least one crafts person per year and at least one fourteen country resident per year. This resolution further sets up a committee of five members who will determine who the National Treasurers will be. Councilor Glory-Jordan discussion was held regarding the Council approving the National Treasurers and it is not included in this resolution.

Councilor Jack D. Baker made a motion to approve. Councilor Cobb seconded the motion. Councilor Bill John Baker offered a friendly amendment to move this to full Council tonight. The friendly was accepted. Motion carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Thornton made a motion to adjourn. Councilor Cowan Watts seconded the motion. Motion carried at 4:05 p.m.

STAFF PRESENT:

Dr. Neil Morton
Melanie Knight

Jennifer Pigeon

Diane Kelley

VISITORS PRESENT:

Molly Jarvis

Steve Rush

APPROVAL / DISTRIBUTION

Minutes submitted by: Shelli Brittain, Legal & Legislative Coordinator

Motion to approve minutes made by: _____

Minutes attested and concurred by: _____

Date: _____