



# 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, January 12, 2026

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 Callison gave the invocation.**

### ROLL CALL

**Present** 14 - Lisa Hall; Daryl Legg; Codey Poindexter; Dora Patzkowski; Joe Deere; Danny Callison; Ashley Grant ; Uriah Grass; Clifton Hughes; Johnny F. Keener; Kendra McGeady; Joshua Sam; Melvina Shotpouch and Candessa Tehee

**Absent** 1 - Kevin Easley Jr.

**Late Arrival** 2 - Sasha Blackfox-Qualls and Julia Coates

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

### REPORTS:

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

*Ms. Kelley provided highlights from the Fibertech Program. She offered to answer questions from the report. Councilor Blackfox-Qualls inquired about the date for the Surg-Tech graduation.*

Executive Director's Report - Mark Vance

*Mr. Vance reported the College Resources deadline for scholarship renewals is January 20th. The JOM Stemfest is January 21st at the Chota Center. The Tribal Youth Council inauguration is scheduled for January 15th in the Council Chambers.*

*He offered to answer any questions.*

Head Start - Verna Thompson

*Mr. Aaron Emberton reported for Ms. Thompson. He announced the site visits are complete for the accreditation. They are currently at enrollment capacity. He offered to answer any questions.*

Sequoyah High School - Terry Heustis

*Mr. Huestis provided update on all of the school construction projects. He offered to answer questions. Councilor Deere commented on the schools participation in the recently held Tournament of Champions.*

Cherokee Nation Foundation - Janice Randall

## OLD BUSINESS

*None pending.*

## NEW BUSINESS

- A. [26-008](#)** A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE APPOINTMENT OF DEBRA PROCTOR AS A COMMISSIONER OF THE CHEROKEE NATION ELECTION COMMISSION
- Councilor Hall moved to approve. Councilor McGeady seconded the motion. Ms. Proctor was given the floor for a few remarks. The motion to approve carried.**
- B. [26-006](#)** A COMPREHENSIVE CHEROKEE NATION EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP ACT OF 2024, 2026 AMENDMENTS
- Councilor Shotpouch made a motion to approve. Councilor Legg seconded the motion. Councilor Coates requested to be added as a sponsor. Chief Hoskin commented on the changes in the Act. The motion to forward to the Special Rules meeting today carried with the following roll call vote:**
- Yea:** 16 - Sasha Blackfox-Qualls; Lisa Hall; Daryl Legg; Codey Poindexter; Dora Patzkowski; Joe Deere; Julia Coates; Danny Callison; Ashley Grant ; Uriah Grass; Clifton Hughes; Johnny F. Keener; Kendra McGeady; Joshua Sam; Melvina Shotpouch and Candessa Tehee
- C. [26-011](#)** THE CAREER READINESS ACT OF 2019, 2026 AMENDMENTS
- Co Chair Coates moved to approve and requested to be added as a sponsor. Councilor Deere seconded the motion. Chief Hoskin provided input pertaining to the amendments. The motion to approve and forward to the Special Rules meeting today carried with the following roll call vote:**
- Yea:** 16 - Sasha Blackfox-Qualls; Lisa Hall; Daryl Legg; Codey Poindexter; Dora Patzkowski; Joe Deere; Julia Coates; Danny Callison; Ashley Grant ; Uriah Grass; Clifton Hughes; Johnny F. Keener; Kendra McGeady; Joshua Sam; Melvina Shotpouch and Candessa Tehee

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Councilor Callison announced Cherokee Night at Rogers State University where they will play Haskell in basketball is scheduled for January 29th. The Cherokee Nation Royalty as well as Sequoyah High School Band will be present. He inquired if everyone would like to donate funds the same as last year.*

*Councilor Blackfox-Qualls congratulated Councilor Callison for being inducted into the Athletic Hall of Fame.*

ADJOURNMENT

**Councilor Deere moved to adjourn. Councilor Hall seconded the motion. The motion carried at 3:27 p.m.**

STAFF PRESENT:

<i>Jon Asbill</i>	<i>Marcus Fears</i>	<i>Terry Heustis</i>
<i>Corey Bunch</i>	<i>Mark Vance</i>	<i>Jennifer Pigeon</i>
<i>Becky Shepherd</i>	<i>Chuck Hoskin Jr.</i>	<i>Canaan Duncan</i>
<i>Aaron Emberton</i>	<i>Shella Bowlin</i>	<i>Steve Jones</i>
<i>Brian Hail</i>	<i>Brooke Neff</i>	<i>Chelbie Turtle</i>

VISITORS PRESENT:

<i>John Young</i>	<i>Steve Turner</i>	<i>Rick Doherty</i>
<i>Debra Proctor</i>		