



Council of the Cherokee Nation

Council House
17763 S. Muskogee Ave.
Tahlequah, OK 74464

Meeting Minutes - Final EDUCATION AND CULTURE COMMITTEE

Julia Coates, Chair

*Recording Secretary, Shelli Brittain
Phone: 1-800-995-9465,
E-mail: council-public@cherokee.org*

Monday, May 10, 2010

3:00 PM

Legislative Conference Room

CALL TO ORDER

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

INVOCATION

Councilor Bill John Baker gave the invocation.

ROLL CALL

Present 12 - Bill John Baker; Buel Anglen; Cara Cowan Watts; Curtis Snell; David Thornton Sr. ; Don Garvin; Harley Buzzard; Jack D. Baker; Janelle Fullbright; Julia Coates; Meredith Frailey and Tina Glory Jordan

Absent 2 - Bradley Cobb and Chuck Hoskin

Late Arrival 3 - Chris Soap; Jodie Fishinghawk and S. Joe Crittenden

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilor Cowan Watts moved to approve the April 12th regular session minutes. Councilor Jack D. Baker seconded the motion. Motion carried.

REPORTS:

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

Ms. Kelley introduced the Management Team from Job Corp as follows: Jay Littlejohn as Center Director, Charles Ray as Manager over Residential Living, Louise King as the Business Administration Director, Ramona Holt is in the Academics Vocational area, Delbert Stanley oversees the Outreach, Admissions and Placement and Darrell Hamby who oversees the counseling. She also introduced Jeff Vance and George Roach who will be working with the Summer Youth Program. She reported 124 Day Work participants who qualified were transferred over to the Summer Youth Stimulus Program. She provided a handout of Summer Youth application information. The Career Services Learning Center will move in the newly renovated Half Time Sports Pub building. An open house will be held within two to three weeks. They are working to get people trained in Haz-Mat to possibly go to the Gulf for the oil cleanup.

The Adult Education had 20 GED participants who received their diplomas in Mayes and Rogers County, 22 in Adair County, 22 in Delaware County, 26 in Sequoyah County and 59 in Cherokee County. Councilor Fishinghawk inquired if they have started approving the Summer Youth applications. Mr. Jeff Vance stated they are in the process of checking the applications now and the approval process will begin tomorrow. Ms. Kelley stated the list of field offices and the employees is forth coming. Councilor Glory-Jordan inquired about over income funds for the Summer Youth. She stated with the economy the over income applicants need the money more than ever. Ms. Kelley stated the word gotten out that there isn't funding for over income applicants. If funds were appropriated now the funds would not be available until the middle of the summer. Councilor Anglen agreed with Councilor Glory-Jordan. Ms. Kelley stated the program this year is set up for 20 hours per week unless they are married or it is a hardship case.

SUMMER YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM OVER INCOME FUNDING

Councilor Bill John Baker made a motion to pass an agenda item on the Executive & Finance Committee to allow time to locate funds for the over income participants and allow them to work 40 hours per week. Councilor Glory-Jordan seconded the motion. Ms. Kelley requested clarification on the 40 hour per week request for the over income students. Councilor Bill John Baker stated since the funding wouldn't be available until the program is half over it would allow the over income students to get the same amount of hours total for the summer as the under income students get for the summer. Councilor Snell inquired how the over income applicants would be notified if funds are located. Ms. Kelley commented it would be difficult as the Day Program is starting again at the end of this month. She stated if funds are appropriated based on the over income applicants listed on the handout they can work with them but if the applications are opened back up she stated she was unsure if they could place them. She stated they also have job sights for Day Work to place. Councilor Anglen offered a friendly amendment to limit to the over income applicants on the list. Councilor Bill John Baker didn't accept the friendly amendment stating we may have to but would like to have the two weeks until the Executive & Finance Committee to locate funds and to try to reach some of these over income applicants. Councilor Fishinghawk suggested letting the over income participants work later into the fall. Councilor Thornton voiced concern for the motion and letting the over income participants work 40 hours per week when the under income participants only get to work 20 hours per week.

The motion for an agenda item on the Executive & Finance agenda to locate funding for over income Summer Youth applicants carried with Councilors Thornton, Coates and Jack D. Baker opposed.

2. Executive Director's Report - Melanie Knight

Ms. Knight offered to answer questions from the written reports provided. As requested last month she provided an update on the Higher Education Scholarship applications as follows: 423 complete applications, 145 incomplete applications, 16 ineligible applications due to being outside the service area, 3 ineligible applicants due to not being Cherokee and 22 other ineligible applications due to applying for an Associates of Applied Science. These 22 were referred to Career Services. The application deadline is the 11th of June. She stated they do have a priority system with continuing students first then upperclassmen down to freshmen. They may have to observe the priorities this year. Ms. Knight announced the JOM Cultural Competition Banquet is this Wednesday at 10:00 a.m. at the Hard Rock Casino. It has been confirmed there are four Gates Millennium Scholars from this years graduating class at Sequoyah. The Summer Learning Program will offer some

classes for credit in math, English, drivers ed, college prep and ACT prep. The awards assembly for Sequoyah will be held at 9:00 a.m. this Friday. Sequoyah's Baccalaureate ceremony is the 19th of May at 6:30 p.m. with graduation on the 21st at 6:30 p.m. An Eight Grade Promotion ceremony for Sequoyah students will be held on May 17th at 1:30 p.m. She announced the Sequoyah Drama Team will be performing the Wizard of Oz this Thursday and Friday at 1:00 and 7:00 p.m. on both days. The Cherokee Heritage Center will host their 11th Annual Gospel Singing and Hog Fry this Saturday the 15th from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. Councilor Fishinghawk announced she received a copy of "Our Story an illustrated companion for the Cherokee Social Studies Secondary Course". She voiced concern when this was looked at a couple of years ago and Chief Joe Byrd was left out of the book completely. The corrected copy she just received has peel and stick stickers with two paragraphs of language which is appalling. She questioned who wrote the language used and what money was used to fund the books. Ms. Knight stated she would review and visit with the program staff then provide a report back to this committee. She stated this publication is shared with public schools and is produced by the Learn and Serve Group. Councilor Garvin inquired as to the status of the attempt to reclassify the private schools. Ms. Knight stated they are in hopes the Bureau schools will be exempted when and if a decision is made. Mr. Todd Hembree commented it has been tabled for further study on all private schools. Councilor Buzzard inquired about the status of the Oklahoma Scholars Program throughout the schools in our jurisdictional boundaries. Ms. Knight stated it hasn't been as active as they would like. Councilor Buzzard inquired when the schools can begin to apply for the \$25,000 grant. Ms. Knight stated hopefully by late summer. Councilor Buzzard inquired as to the status of placing the Chief's grave markers. Ms. Knight stated the markers are ready and being held in storage. Guidance is needed from the Council on how to proceed or they can develop a plan and see if it is suitable with the committee. Councilor Glory-Jordan inquired how many of the Our Story books had been distributed to the public schools. Ms. Knight stated she was unsure. Councilor Glory-Jordan requested no additional books be sent out until the issue is resolved. This is the history for the tribe and no chief should be reflected in a bad light. Ms. Knight gave her commitment that she would review the issue and not distribute further until the review is complete. Councilor Glory-Jordan stated this is not right and is rude. If they didn't want to say anything good then they should have just said they were Chief for four years with the dates provided. Councilor Crittenden inquired as to the percentage of Cherokee students at Sequoyah. Ms. Knight stated she would research and report back. Councilor Jack D. Baker offered to meet with Ms. Knight to discuss the Chief's markers.

3. Head Start - Verna Thompson

OLD BUSINESS

None pending.

NEW BUSINESS

None pending.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Bill John Baker moved to adjourn. Councilor Fishinghawk seconded the motion. Motion carried at 3:53 p.m.

STAFF PRESENT:

*Diane Kelley
George Roach
Charles Ray
Delbert Stanley*

*Melanie Knight
Jeff Vance
Louise King
Tom Elkins*

*Jennifer Pigeon
Jay Littlejohn
Ramona Holt*

VISITORS PRESENT:

Todd Hembree