



# 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, November 10, 2025

2:00 PM

Tribal Council Offices

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### CALL TO ORDER

**Chair Tehee called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.**

### INVOCATION

**Councilor Callison gave the invocation.**

### ROLL CALL

**Present** 15 - Sasha Blackfox-Qualls; Daryl Legg; Codey Poindexter; Dora Patzkowski; Joe Deere; Kevin Easley Jr.; Danny Callison; Ashley Grant ; Uriah Grass; Clifton Hughes; Johnny F. Keener; Kendra McGeady; Joshua Sam; Melvina Shotpouch and Candessa Tehee

**Absent** 2 - Lisa Hall and Julia Coates

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**Councilor Deere moved to approve as submitted. Councilor Poindexter seconded the motion. The motion carried.**

### REPORTS:

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

*Ms. Kelley reported on the Fiber Tech Program stating they have jobs waiting on them once they graduate. The graduation ceremonies were held for both the GED and Talking Leaves. They celebrated the Talking Leaves Job Corp Birthday recently. She introduced Jessica Jackson an instructor at Talking Leaves and the Stars Program. She offered to answer questions from the report provided.*

Executive Director's Report - Mark Vance

*Mr. Emberton reported on the festival held in Vinta at the Archery Range. He offered to answer questions from the report. Councilor Shotpouch inquired about scholarships. Chair Tehee inquired about the Remember the Removal Riders applications.*

Head Start - Verna Thompson

*Ms. Thompson gave appreciation to the Councilors who participated in the Trunk or Treat at the CDC. She provided an update on the re-accreditation process. She commented on their efforts to assist with families needing food.*

Sequoyah High School - Terry Heustis

*Mr. Heustis reported on the Veterans Program held. He announced the Cherokee Nation took over Sequoyah High School on this date in 1985. He commented on the many strides taken since the takeover. He announced Veterans get in free at the first round of playoffs. Chair Tehee gave appreciation on behalf of the Council for the wonderful lunch and pie.*

OLD BUSINESS

*None pending.*

NEW BUSINESS

*None pending.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Councilor Callison announced over the last several years the Council has supported the NSU vs. Haskell basketball game for the Nike N7 Indigenous Peoples Day Event. He inquired if any of the Council would like to support again this year.*

ADJOURNMENT

**Councilor Deere moved to adjourn. Councilor Blackfox-Qualls seconded the motion. The motion carried at 2:21 p.m.**

STAFF PRESENT:

<i>Ross Winn</i>	<i>Aaron Emberton</i>	<i>Diane Kelley</i>
<i>Terry Heustis</i>	<i>Verna Thompson</i>	<i>Jessica Jackson</i>

VISITORS PRESENT:

*John Young*