



Council of the Cherokee Nation

Meeting Minutes Education and Culture Committee

Tuesday, March 11, 2008

1:00 PM

Legislative Conference Room

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Coates called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m.

INVOCATION

Councilor Crittenden gave the invocation.

ROLL CALL

Present 17 - Bill John Baker; S. Joe Crittenden; David Thornton Sr. ; Don Garvin; Meredith Frailey; Cara Cowan Watts; Buel Anglen; Jack D. Baker; Tina Glory Jordan; Jodie Fishinghawk; Janelle Fullbright; Harley Buzzard; Curtis Snell; Chris Soap; Bradley Cobb; Chuck Hoskin, Jr. and Julia Coates

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilor Cobb moved for the approval of the February 12th regular session. Councilor Bill John Baker seconded the motion. Motion carried.

REPORTS:

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

Attachments: [Career Services Ed \(1\) Mar 08.pdf](#)

Ms. Diane Kelley stated they were in Dallas last week for 5 year contract negotiations. She announced the blue print reading class is under way. The medical coding class is moving full speed. Councilor Soap gave appreciation to Ms. Kelley and her group for assisting at the industrial park in Pryor.

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

Attachments: [Curriculum & Instruction Mar 08](#)

Dr. Neil Morton introduced two new staff members as Jan Grogan and Reletha Sugar.

3. Head Start - Verna Thompson

Attachments: [Early Childhood Unit Mar 08](#)

Ms. Verna Thompson announced she is still unsure when the review will be held in April.

4. JOM - Dr. Shelley Butler-Allen

Ms. Butler-Allen announced on March 27th at 10:00 a.m. they will begin the Cherokee Cultural Competition awards banquet at the Southern Hill Marriott in Tulsa. The Oklahoma JOM conference was a success.

5. Sequoyah High School - Gina Stanley

No one present to report.

6. Director's Report - Dr. Gloria Sly

Attachments: [Culture Resource Center ATTACH 1 Mar 08](#)
[Culture Resource Center Mar 08](#)

No one present to report.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Proposed Amendments to the School MVT Apportionment Boundaries

Sponsors: Councilor Baker And Councilor Buzzard

Dr. Neil Morton provided maps of the boundaries with proposed buffers of 2, 2.5, and 3 miles. Dr. Morton stated Turkey Ford touches the Cherokee Nation at one point but is not included in the jurisdictional boundaries. He stated if the buffer is extended 3 miles it goes through the middle of their play ground. He stated if the buffer is extended to 3 miles it would decrease the amount of funds given to the current schools. He stated there are two schools not included on the original list provided. The two schools are Wyandotte in Ottawa County and Whitefield just outside of Muskogee County. Councilor Buzzard inquired as to the number of schools if the buffer is extended to the 3 miles. Dr. Morton provided a handout of the schools listed by County. Councilor Thornton inquired about additional schools for Sequoyah County. Dr. Morton stated the schools outside the Sequoyah County boundary are in Arkansas and can't be included. Councilor Bill John Baker inquired as to why the boundary was extended the 2 miles to begin with. Mr. Morton stated he was unsure. Councilor Garvin stated the main reason was a lot of the kids lived within the boundaries but attended school outside the boundaries. Councilor Bill John Baker made a motion to move the boundaries back to the lines of the Cherokee Nation. Councilor Cowan Watts seconded the motion with a friendly amendment that the school must have a portion of their district within the Cherokee Nation. Councilor Bill John Baker accepted the friendly amendment. Councilor Soap inquired if some of the schools are receiving funds from both the Cherokee Nation and the Creek Nation. Dr. Morton replied as far as blanket money the Cherokee Nation is the only one providing funds. They may provide funds for special projects but not for car tag funds. Councilor Hoskin Jr. inquired if at the present time the 2 mile buffer is for the school district to be within or the school building itself. Dr. Morton stated currently it is the school building. Councilor Hoskin Jr. inquired if there is a need for an analysis to determine the size of some of these school districts. Dr. Morton stated not over 3 or 4 would. Councilor Cobb questioned what school district implies. He further questioned open transfers. Councilor Thornton stated we are paying for children outside the Cherokee Nation with our car tag money who are not contributing to the program. He stated he could support if it the school district is included within the Cherokee Nation. He commented there are numerous Cherokee's across the state line and don't get help just because it is a state line. If buffers are created it should be all the way

around the Nation. Councilor Glory-Jordan inquired how many this will add and remove. Dr. Morton stated they can plat the school districts for each of the border schools.

Councilor Glory-Jordan made a motion to table to next month. Councilor Bill John Baker seconded the motion. Motion carried.

2. AN ACT AMENDING LA#01-01 "A LEGISLATIVE ACT ENTITLED THE CHEROKEE NATION MOTOR VEHICLE LICENSING AND TAX CODE"; AS AMENDED BY LA#27-01, 34-01, 34-02, 25-04, 29-04, 7-06, 12-06, 17-06, AND 8-07

Sponsors: Councilor Glory Jordan And Councilor Baker

2. *Amendment to Cherokee Nation School Entities RE: Car Tag Allocations. Councilor Glory-Jordan stated last month we were discussing amending the apportionment of funds so the Headstart and Immersion program would be treated the same as Sequoyah High School. She inquired if the Headstart and Immersion programs are included in the funding at this time. Dr. Morton stated they do receive funds but not double like Sequoyah. Mr. Todd Hembree stated it was his understanding to add language for the Headstart and the Immersion programs to receive double funding like Sequoyah based on the principle that they do not receive state funding.*

Councilor Glory-Jordan requested a point of clarification. She inquired if this would now move to Full Council. Mr. Hembree stated it would. She was with the understanding it would have been on the Council agenda this month. Mr. Hembree stated last month it was not on the agenda and for it to be moved to the Council agenda this month the committee agenda would have to of been amended for consideration. Since the agenda wasn't amended it is procedurally correct for it to be an agenda item this month and from here move forward to Council next month. Councilor Glory-Jordan stated she just wanted to understand the process.

Councilor Bill John Baker moved to approve the amendment. Councilor Fishinghawk seconded the motion. Mr. Hembree stated the proposed legislation provided today also includes the amendment to the boundaries which has been tabled. He stated he would have to removed this portion of the amendment to the legislation. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Additional Funding Request for Cherokee Nation Nursing Scholarship Program

Councilor Cowan Watts requested this item be withdrawn from the agenda.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Coates announced the next meeting is tentatively scheduled for April 15th at 1:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Cowan Watts moved for adjournment. Councilor Buzzard seconded the motion. Motion carried at 1:48 p.m.

STAFF PRESENT:

VISITORS PRESENT:

APPROVAL / DISTRIBUTION

Minutes submitted by: Shelli Brittain, Legal & Legislative Coordinator

Motion to approve minutes made by: _____

Minutes attested and concurred by: _____

Date: _____