



Council of the Cherokee Nation

Cherokee Nation Complex
17675 S. Muskogee Ave.
Tahlequah, OK 74464

Meeting Minutes - Final EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Keith Austin, Chair

Recording Secretary, Shelli Brittain Coke

Phone: 1-800-995-9465,

E-mail: council-public@cherokee.org

Monday, September 16, 2019

3:00 PM

Tribal Council Offices

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Austin called the meeting to order at 3:04 p.m.

INVOCATION

Councilor Crittenden gave the invocation.

ROLL CALL

Committee membership was established of those Councilors in the 2019 election.

Present 17 - Harley Buzzard; Joe Byrd; Mike Dobbins; Mike Shambaugh; Mary Baker Shaw; E. O. "JR." Smith; Janees Taylor; Victoria Vazquez; Canaan Duncan ; Joe Deere; Julia Coates; Keith Austin; Dora Patzkowski; Daryl Legg; Rex Jordan; Shawn Crittenden and Wes Nofire

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**Councilor Vazquez moved to approve the August regular session minutes.
Councilor Shambaugh seconded the motion. The motion carried.**

REPORTS:

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

Ms. Kelley gave an overview of the Career Readiness Act and the many different programs included that will be part of her department. Councilor Crittenden inquired if it would be income based. She stated the purpose is to have people trained and ready for positions within our needs. Councilor Crittenden inquired if once the training is complete for HVAC or Information Technology if it would include an Associate's Degree. Ms. Kelley introduced staff that would be involved with the Career Readiness Act. She announced they will be assisting as "Way Finders" at the new clinic for the first three months open. She provided an update on the TANF Program. Ms. Kelley and part of her staff are moving down the hall to the old Health Administration area, this will put all of the career service programs in one area. They are looking at an office in Muskogee. She requested a head count on the Council orientation tonight and tomorrow at the Hard Rock. The GED Graduation is this Thursday this evening.

Councilor Legg requested clarification on higher education participants who do not complete their community service then go to Career Service for assistance. Ms. Kelley announced the 76th Annual NCAI is the week of October 21st and we have our Speaker, Joe Byrd, running for First Vice President and our Deputy Chief, Bryan Warner, running for Eastern Oklahoma Regional Vice President. Councilor Taylor inquired if the specialized training would include medical coding training. Councilor Crittenden inquired if the list of training is in stone and if there are only a certain number of slots available for the trainings. Ms. Kelley reported the first priority will be those who don't have prior training.

Executive Director's Report - Ron Etheridge

Ms. Jennifer Pigeon announced College and Career nights will be October 8th in Vinita and October 22nd here in Tahlequah. The Remember the Removal Bike Ride application deadline is October 11th, so far to date there is three riders and three mentors. The Tribal Youth Council inauguration is October 1st. The OSU Medical School has requested a Cherokee Speaker and language program within their facility. Mark Vance will attend an banquet tomorrow for Oklahoma's Teacher of the Year. Mr. Etheridge gave an update on Senate Bill 441 pertaining the four-day school week. Councilor Byrd commented to the committee that he has been provided with a draft organizational chart for the Education Department and it will be given to the Council once final approval is given. Councilor Crittenden inquired about the number of speakers in the hospitals. Mr. Roy Boney gave a brief overview of the request of the OSU Medical School to have the Cherokee language as part of their curriculum. Councilor Nofire inquired if we have a success rate of college graduates using our scholarships. Councilor Taylor gave appreciation for the volunteers at a community meeting. Councilor Byrd inquired if there is data supporting/not supporting a four-day school week. Ms. Pigeon announced the concurrent enrollment for spring 2020 opens online October 1st with a deadline of December 28th.

Head Start - Verna Thompson

Ms. Thompson introduced Barbara Littledave and Sandra Turner who she has worked with for over thirty-five years. She announced the storm safe shelter is 99% complete. She offered to provide a tour of the shelter at the Thanksgiving dinner. They have received an approximate \$600k grant for health and safety. She gave a list of projects the grant will cover.

Sequoyah High School - Leroy Qualls

Mr. Qualls gave an overview of the report. He announced there are students already submitting applications for college. Pre-ACT testing is scheduled next Wednesday. He gave an overview of the current athletic events and rankings. Mr. Qualls invited everyone to come and tour the campus. Councilor Byrd commented on the need for bleachers for the girls softball fields.

OLD BUSINESS

None pending.

NEW BUSINESS

None pending.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADJOURNMENT

**Councilor Vazquez moved to adjourn. Councilor Shaw seconded the motion.
The motion carried at 4:08 p.m.**

STAFF PRESENT:

<i>Diane Kelley</i>	<i>Hunter Palmer</i>	<i>Verna Thompson</i>
<i>Johnny Deaton</i>	<i>Heather McGinnis</i>	<i>Courtney Dankor</i>
<i>Lorie Blackwell</i>	<i>Travis Gulley</i>	<i>Ron Etheridge</i>
<i>Roy Boney</i>	<i>Tina Glory Jordan</i>	<i>Jennifer Pigeon</i>
<i>Todd Enlow</i>	<i>Chrissi Nimmo</i>	<i>Leroy Qualls</i>
<i>Taralee Montgomery</i>	<i>Chuck Hoskin Jr.</i>	<i>Sandra Turner</i>
<i>Barbara Littledave</i>		

VISITORS PRESENT:

<i>Tim Brown</i>	<i>Charles Gourd</i>
------------------	----------------------