



# 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, September 15, 2025

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 Patzkowski gave the invocation.

### ROLL CALL

*Committee membership was established for the Council Members who were part of the 2025 election.*

*Councilor Callison attended remotely.*

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

**Absent** 1 - Julia Coates

**Late Arrival** 1 - Danny Callison

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

### REPORTS:

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

*Ms. Kelley gave highlights from the report. She announced the chili contest in Mayes County will be held on October 3rd. The GED graduation will be held on September 25th at 6:00 p.m. They will be meeting with the union halls to get them included in grants. She provided an update on the work based learning programs. She offered to answer questions from the report. Chair Tehee commented on attending the Job Corp graduation. Ms. Kelley announced Talking Leaves Job Corp is now #2 in the Nation.*

## Executive Director's Report - Mark Vance

*Mr. Vance reported on the fall scholarships, career fairs, children's festivals, cultural outreach in schools, and the JOM challenge bowl. He announced the Youth Council applications are now online. He offered to answer questions from the report. Councilor Legg inquired if there are scholarships available for citizens who want to be an attorney. Councilor Blackfox-Qualls requested clarification on the youth choir applications.*

## Head Start - Verna Thompson

*Ms. Thompson extended an invitation to the car seat clinic and to the flu shot clinic, both are open to the public. She offered to answer questions from the report.*

## Sequoyah High School - Terry Heustis

*Mr. Heustis gave appreciation to Councilors Hall and Tehee for the safe child sign in and out program. He provided both academic and scholastic updates. The dorm kids will be ready to move back in on the 1st of October. He provided an update on the multi-purpose building. He gave highlights from the FFA cattle judging event, the VR goggles, the archery program and the addition of air rifle. He offered to answer questions from the report.*

## OLD BUSINESS

*None pending.*

## NEW BUSINESS

1.     [25-098](#)     A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING SUPPORT FOR JOE DEERE AS CANDIDATE FOR REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS  
  
*Councilor Blackfox-Qualls moved to approve. Councilor Grant seconded the motion. Councilor Kidwell offered a friendly amendment to change from Area Vice President to Regional Vice President. The friendly amendment was accepted. Councilor Deere gave an update on NCAI events and issues.*  
  
**The motion to approve as amended carried and was forwarded to the September Rules Committee.**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Chair Tehee recognized Councilor Blackfox-Qualls for her being selected to the Obama Foundation and for Councilor Poindexter and staff Brooke Neff for being selected as Next Generation 30 under 30.*

## ADJOURNMENT

**Councilor Legg moved to adjourn. Councilor Blackfox-Qualls seconded the motion. The motion carried at 3:22 p.m.**

STAFF PRESENT:

*Brooke Neff*  
*Verna Thompson*

*Canaan Duncan*  
*Terry Heustis*

*Mark Vance*  
*Diane Kelley*

VISITORS PRESENT:

*John Young*

*Teddye Snell*