



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
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Thursday, May 26, 2011

12:00 PM

Legislative Conference Room

Special Session

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Coates called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m.

INVOCATION

Councilor Garvin gave the invocation.

ROLL CALL

Present 11 - Bill John Baker; Bradley Cobb; Cara Cowan Watts; Chris Soap; Don Garvin; Harley Buzzard; Jack D. Baker; Julia Coates; Meredith Frailey; S. Joe Crittenden and Tina Glory Jordan

Absent 4 - Buel Anglen; Curtis Snell; David Thornton Sr. and Janelle Fullbright

Late Arrival 2 - Chuck Hoskin, Jr. and Jodie Fishinghawk

11-077

A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE CREATION OF A CHARTER SCHOOL WITHIN THE CHEROKEE NATION AND APPROVING THE APPLICATION OF CHEROKEE NATION EDUCATION SERVICES TO CHARTER

Ms. Melanie Knight walked through the summary document provided with a list of benefits as well as challenges and opportunities. She stated overall the benefits far outweigh the additional requirements needed to gain the benefits. Councilor Cowan Watts requested clarification that non-Indian students entering the ninth grade would not be able to attend Sequoyah High School. Ms. Knight stated they would require the parents to sign an acknowledgement that by participating in the elementary program they do not become eligible to participate in the high school program automatically. Councilor Cowan Watts applauded the college prep curriculum being included in the program. Councilor Soap inquired as to the expected enrollment in the charter school. Ms. Knight stated this school year ended with 135 in kindergarten through eighth grade. The pre enrollment for next year is 145 and 160 is estimated to be full capacity. Councilor Soap inquired how the students are selected. Ms. Knight stated the continuing students would get the first priority. A Cherokee proficiency requirement would be in place for starting in any grade other than kindergarten. Once the preferences are satisfied it becomes a lottery situation for the open slots.

Councilor Frailey moved to approve. Councilor Jack D. Baker seconded the motion.

Councilor Glory-Jordan inquired if they had polled the parents of the current students within the immersion school to obtain their thoughts. Ms. Holly Davis, the immersion school Principal, stated they have been discussing through parent meetings the possibility of a charter school. A formal vote wasn't taken but the parents are very supportive of a charter school. Councilor Glory-Jordan inquired if we as a charter school would be graded by the State like the public schools are graded. Mr. Corey Bunch stated we would be graded just like the public schools. Councilor Glory-Jordan stated she agrees with the requirement of taking standardized state testing. She did voice concern for the lottery selection process. She inquired about the selection process for the pre-K selection process if the charter application is successful. Ms. Knight stated they would fully comply with the requirements and guidelines within the grant. She stated the pre-K class would have no preferences therefore any child would be eligible and it would be a lottery situation for those slots. Dr. Gloria Sly stated preference would be given to siblings of current students. Councilor Glory-Jordan inquired if the \$1.1 to \$1.3ml for pre-K through eighth grade would additional funds be needed from our institution. Ms. Knight replied yes, currently the budget for pre-K through fifth and seventh and eighth grade is just over \$2.7ml.

The motion to approve carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADJOURNMENT

**Councilor Garvin moved to adjourn. Councilor Cobb seconded the motion.
The motion carried at 1:05 p.m.**

STAFF PRESENT:

*Dr. Neil Morton
Dr. Gloria Sly
Ashley Canoe
Corey Bunch*

*Jennifer Pigeon
Rita Bunch
Anna Knight
Todd Enlow*

*Holly Davis
Melanie Knight
Doug Evans*

VISITORS PRESENT: