

**EDUCATION COMMITTEE
LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE ROOM
April 17, 2007
11:05 AM.**

STANDING COMMITTEE: Education Committee

COMMITTEE PRESIDED BY: Don Garvin, Co-Chair

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

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|---------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Don Garvin | Buel Anglen | Bill John Baker |
| Jack D. Baker | Audra Conner | Joe Crittenden |
| Meredith Frailey | Taylor Keen | Jackie Bob Martin |
| David Thornton, Sr. | Cara Cowan Watts | |

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

Chuck Hoskin John F. Keener

STAFF PRESENT:

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|---------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|
| Diane Kelley | Jennifer Pigeon | Dr. Neil Morton |
| Gina Stanley | Dr. Shelley Butler-Allen | Verna Thompson |
| Dr. Gloria Sly | Nita Wilson | Diane Woodard |
| Barbara Littlegrave | | |

VISITORS:

Jim Ketcher

QUORUM ESTABLISHED: Yes

LEGISLATION/RESOLUTION: Yes

MINUTES: See Attached

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April 17, 2007

11:05 AM.

CALL TO ORDER / INVOCATION / ROLL CALL:

Chair Garvin called the meeting to order at 11:05 a.m. Council member Frailey gave the invocation. Roll was called and a quorum was established.

Chair Hoskin was in Oklahoma City attending legislation session.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Councilman Anglen moved for the approval of the March 13th regular session. Council member Conner seconded the motion. Motion carried.

REPORTS:

Talking Leaves Job Corp/Career Services/Voc. Ed: Diane Kelley reported the new National Director is emphasizing more into the Academic piece with Math and Reading gains on the placements for students. They are one of four centers in their region that is carrying their OBS and have so for the last six months thanks to Jay Littlejohn and his staff. Jerry Caviness, HBI instructor for electrical trades and his students received a plaque from Habitat for Humanity and Home Builders for their work in helping with rebuilding houses in Shreveport and New Orleans. Joyce Rose will be recognized by the Tahlequah Chamber in May for the Jack Kaufman Award which is the community service award. They have staff that will be traveling to Denver for a training session and some that will be attending the training session during summer break. They have a review coming up September 10th-14th which is the last leg of their five year contract and at the end of the review in September they will be notified as to whether they are designated for another five years. They are currently the only center in the fourteen states of their region that can certify a work keys testing. They have hired a new person to work in their Pryor/Catoosa office as an Employment and Training Counselor. They also hired a GED teacher who will be working in Pryor/Catoosa full time.

Executive Director's Report: Dr. Neil Morton reported on the school visitation program and provided a listing of schools to be visited this week. At the end of this week, all high schools in our jurisdictional area will have been visited by a team from Human Resources, Education Administration, and Higher Education. They are changing the Higher Education Program from a money disbursement center to a college counseling center. The main purpose these past two years has been to receive applications, react to those applications, disburse checks to colleges and have had minimal contact and counseling with students concerning other scholarship opportunities that may exist beyond the Cherokee Nation Scholarship. Dale Miller who has been Director of Higher Education requested to be transferred to Sequoyah High School to fill a need for a driver's education instructor due to an illness of a Sequoyah employee. Nita Wilson on an interim basis will serve as coordinator in the Higher Education Program. They have 135 new applications that are complete and 136 applications that still lack information. The Trail of Tears Awards is scheduled for Thursday, April 19, 2007 and will be held at the Crown Plaza in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Reba Bruner

is requesting a list of Council Members that will be attending in order for her to add them to the list of people for whom parking fees will be paid. The Immersion Program entered the 5th Oklahoma Native American Youth Language Fair at the Sam Noble Center in Norman on April 5th and they swept the contest in both the group presentations and significantly in the individuals. The Valedictorian and Salutatorian Award checks will be ready next week and they will contact all schools and get their schedules for their awards assemblies so that those Council Members that have recipients in their districts may attend and present those awards. They sent notices to every high school in the area plus all of the high schools in the counties bordering the area which totaled 162 high schools. They followed up after the April 10th deadline by calling each school that had not responded and they had 40 valedictorians and 17 salutatorians in the area. He distributed a list with the name of the school and the name of the students should the Council members wish to send congratulatory letters. Their staff will notify the Council members of the awards assemblies or however the schools choose to make the presentations.

Head Start: Verna Thompson introduced and yielded her report to Diane Woodard, the Senior Program Specialist over the Education domain for Head Start. She is required to inform the Council of the National Reporting System results each year. Diane Woodard gave the second quarter report for the Head Start National Reporting System, the Cherokee Nation Early Childhood Unit 2006-2007 Outcomes Profile, and the standardized assessment.

Council member Yargee asked what kind of testing is done with students below the age level. Ms. Woodard stated that is done by individualized instruction.

Johnson O'Malley: Dr. Shelley Butler-Allen stated the 2007 Oklahoma Johnson O'Malley Conference was very successful with Cherokee Nation as the host tribe and had between 400 and 450 conference participants. She announced the 2006-2007 Cherokee Cultural Competition Awards Reception is scheduled for Thursday, May 3rd at 10:00 a.m. and will be held in the "Place Where They Play". She gave an update on the Cherokee Challenge Bowl that was held the first two weeks in April and stated they are preparing for the Cherokee Nation Youth Leadership Institute/Retracing Cherokee Footsteps which is a two week journey into Tennessee, Georgia, and North Carolina.

Council member Cowan Watts expressed concerns of parents and JOM Counselors in Rogers County and asked what would be the appropriate way of having those addressed. Dr. Butler-Allen stated she would like to field them first and if there are no resolve with the issues then the concerns will be addressed by Dr. Morton.

Sequoyah High School: Gina Stanley gave a reminder of the celebration that is scheduled for Tuesday, April 24th at 1:30 p.m. May 1st the basketball teams will be at the Capital and will be presented citations on the floor of both the House and the Senate. She will notify Ms. Miller with confirmation on the time for the presentation. Baccalaureate is scheduled for May 16th at 6:30 and graduation is scheduled for May 18th at 6:30 p.m. They are in the process of beginning a formal assessment for the Marshal Service in light of the Virginia Tech tragedy. BIA Engineers are visiting the campus and the purpose for their visit is to evaluate where they are at in terms of items that need to be corrected or repaired for minor improvements and also to look at backlog items that go on their FINR projects. The exit meeting was done this morning and they were impressed with the campus. The track bleachers are completed and next week they will have folks out from Albuquerque to do a final inspection and to issue a certificate of occupancy for the bleachers and

the gym. She reported the school has three confirmed Gates Millennium Scholars, two students that received the Student of Today Award from the Masonic Lodge, one student who won the State Vocational Essay Contest and she will go on to compete Nationally in Florida, the Cheerleaders competed in the NCA Six Flags Over Texas Championships in Dallas, Texas and won second in the co-ed division. Angel Goodrich was named the Oklahoma Gatorade Player of the Year and Nathan Stanley was named a Pre-Season All-American. They have begun the planning and design for the library expansion and the classroom additions. They are working on the development of a new master plan for the school and are in the process of development for a 21st century grant, which is an after school and summer program and they are partnering with the Boys & Girls Club and the Cherokee Nation Education Department. They are hoping to have a strong emphasis on Math and Science.

NEW BUSINESS:

A Resolution Authorizing the Development and Submission of a Grant Application to the Department of Education for a Native American Career and Technical Education Program. Kim Carroll stated they are asking for permission to develop and submit a grant application to the Department of Education for conducting a NAPTEP program. Council member Cowan Watts moved to approve. Councilman Bill John Baker seconded. Motion carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Next meeting date is tentatively scheduled for May 15th, 11:00 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

Council member Conner moved for adjournment. Councilman Jack Baker seconded the motion. Motion carried.

APPROVAL/DISTRIBUTION:

Minutes submitted by: Gayle Miller, Recording Secretary

Motion to approve minutes made by: Audra Conner

Minutes attested and concurred by: Don Gartin

Date: 5-15-07