



Council of the Cherokee Nation

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

Meeting Minutes - Final EDUCATION COMMITTEE

David Walkingstick, Chair

Recording Secretary, Shelli Brittain

Phone: 1-800-995-9465,

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Tuesday, February 21, 2017

3:00 PM

Tribal Council Offices

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Walkingstick called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

INVOCATION

Councilor Taylor gave the invocation.

ROLL CALL

Present 16 - Janees Taylor; Harley Buzzard; Frankie Hargis ; Don Garvin; Jack D. Baker; Joe Byrd; Curtis Snell; Victoria Vazquez; Rex Jordan; Wanda Hatfield; Shawn Crittenden; Buel Anglen; Bryan Warner ; Dick Lay; David Walkingstick and Keith Austin

Late Arrival 1 - David Thornton, Sr.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilor Jordan moved to approve the January 16th regular session minutes as submitted. Councilor Taylor seconded the motion. The motion carried.

REPORTS:

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

Ms. Brenda Fitzgerald reported in the absence of Ms. Kelley. She reported the testing center in Pryor opened today. We have a new regional director for Job Corp. Ms. Kelley is meeting with the Department of Labor officials regarding the Talking Leaves Job Corp facilities remodeling and repairs. They are hoping to launch a new apprenticeship training program. The welding graduation will be held on March 3rd. They have been in meetings with the Pipefitters Union in Tulsa. She offered to answer questions from the report provided. Councilor Crittenden inquired if it would be possible to do a partnership with the funeral homes.

Executive Director's Report - Ron Etheridge

Ms. Jennifer Pigeon reported for Mr. Etheridge. She announced the online scholarship applications for the 2017/2018 school year will be open March 1st with a

deadline of June 15th. Chair Walkingstick inquired if the deadline time could be changed to midnight instead of 5:00 p.m. He also requested clarification on the requirement of having FAFSA to award the scholarships. He further inquired if it is possible to send out the scholarship denial letters earlier. Councilor Buzzard spoke of a citizen who voiced concern for the Cherokee language certification test being too difficult.

Head Start - Verna Thompson

Ms. Pigeon offered to answer questions for Head Start.

Sequoyah High School - Leroy Qualls

Mr. Qualls provided a supplemental report on the recent athletic accomplishments. He offered to answer questions from the report provided. Councilor Taylor inquired if there had been any change in Drywater's ranking for the scholarship. Councilor Buzzard inquired if they had started the agriculture class. Chair Walkingstick announced the Oklahoma Senate panel passed an Education Savings Account Bill yesterday which will provide vouchers for parents to send their children to either a private or charter school. Councilor Byrd inquired about the championship banners that need to be hung at the Sequoyah gym.

OLD BUSINESS

None pending.

NEW BUSINESS

1. [17-022](#) A RESOLUTION MODIFYING THE REQUIREMENTS TO SERVE ON THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF CHEROKEE NATION'S SEQUOYAH HIGH SCHOOL
Councilor Jordan offered a motion to approve. Councilor Vazquez seconded the motion. Councilor Baker offered friendly amendments to change the language in Section 3a to read; and the one additional member must be a member of a federally recognized tribe. This was accepted. He offered a friendly amendment to remove the last sentence stating the board must always have a four-fifty majority Cherokee membership. He stated this is redundant. The friendly was accepted. Councilor Baker offered a friendly amendment to Section 3c to require 3 of the 4 Cherokee board members to live within the jurisdiction instead of all board members. The friendly was accepted.
Following discussion the motion to approve with the friendly amendments carried with the following roll call vote:
Yea: 9 - Harley Buzzard; Don Garvin; Jack D. Baker; Joe Byrd; Curtis Snell; Victoria Vazquez; Rex Jordan; Buel Anglen and David Walkingstick
Nay: 7 - Janees Taylor; Frankie Hargis ; David Thornton, Sr. ; Shawn Crittenden; Bryan Warner ; Dick Lay and Keith Austin
Abstain: 1 - Wanda Hatfield

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Walkingstick announced March 24th is the Public School Appreciation Day at the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino. He also announced the next committee meeting day will be March 20th.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Jordan made a motion to adjourn. Councilor Vazquez seconded the motion. The motion carried at 3:48 p.m.

STAFF PRESENT:

*Canaan Duncan
Leroy Qualls
Jody Reece*

*Chad Harshaw
Jennifer Pigeon*

*Courtney Jordan
Brenda Fitzgerald*

VISITORS PRESENT:

*Jay Neugin
Gary Cooper*

Teddye Snell

Dianne Barker Harrold