



# 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 Coke*  
*Phone: 1-800-995-9465,*  
*E-mail: council-public@cherokee.org*

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Monday, May 13, 2019

3:00 PM

Tribal Council Offices

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### CALL TO ORDER

Chair Walkingstick called the meeting to order at 3:10 p.m.

### INVOCATION

Councilor Lay gave the invocation.

### ROLL CALL

**Present** 15 - Wanda Hatfield; Shawn Crittenden; Buel Anglen; Bryan Warner ; Dick Lay; David Walkingstick; Keith Austin; Harley Buzzard; Mike Dobbins; Mike Shambaugh; Mary Baker Shaw; E. O. "JR." Smith; Janees Taylor; Victoria Vazquez and Canaan Duncan

**Late Arrival** 2 - Rex Jordan and Joe Byrd

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilor Shaw moved to approve the April 15th regular session minutes as submitted. Councilor Anglen seconded the motion. The motion carried.

### REPORTS:

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

*Ms. Kelley gave highlights from the Strawberry Festival held over the previous weekend. Mr. George Roach and Ms. Jan Grogran just completed a review of their Vocational Training program. The Job Corp had a review on their academic program. The Career Services Department staff is working with Higher Education staff to exchange resource information. They are also discussing placing a field rep in the Career Services field offices to assist with the higher education scholarships. The TANF program should start in November. She provided an update on the Day Training Program at CNB. The Culinary Program and the Day Training Programs are assisting at the Tahlequah Casino. They are expanding their office in Tulsa. They have had a leak in their building in Pryor and an elevator issue in Sallisaw. Councilor Vazquez commented on the success stories in the report. Councilor Crittenden asked about TANF in Stilwell. Councilor Shambaugh inquired if all of the positions have been filled*

*for the new grants recently received. Councilor Hatfield requested clarification on the Day Training Program. Councilor Byrd inquired who is now over the Re-Entry Program. Councilor Hatfield asked about the unemployment rate here at the Cherokee Nation. Chair Walkingstick inquired about graduations.*

Executive Director's Report - Ron Etheridge

*Ms. Jennifer Pigeon reported in the absence of Mr. Etheridge. She announced the Performance Arts Summer Camp deadline is today. The Remember the Removal Bike Ride sendoff is scheduled for 9:00 a.m. on May 28th.*

Head Start - Verna Thompson

*Ms. Thompson announced they received a \$1.3ml grant which includes sixteen new positions on top of all of those already vacant for a total of 32 positions. She provided an update on the storm shelters at the Head Start sites. She reported on the upcoming annual review. Councilor Hatfield inquired if a teaching degree is required to teach at the Head Start. Councilor Shambaugh inquired about the locations of the open positions.*

Sequoyah High School - Leroy Qualls

*Mr. Qualls reported on State tournament qualifications, All-State, the band teacher retiring and twenty-one students going to Boys State and Girls State. They have one Gates Scholar this year. He gave dates and times for the upcoming Senior graduation activities and the last day of the school year. They have ninety graduating seniors this year. He gave highlights from track events. They passed their state accreditation without any deficiencies. Councilor Dobbins inquired how the Valedictorian and Salutatorian are selected and if there is more than one of each. Councilor Byrd requested an assessment of compliance on safety at the Sequoyah Campus. Chair Walkingstick inquired about the graduation for the Immersion school.*

#### OLD BUSINESS

*None pending.*

#### NEW BUSINESS

*None pending.*

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### ADJOURNMENT

**Councilor Byrd moved to adjourn. Councilor Anglen seconded the motion. The motion carried at 3:39 p.m.**

#### STAFF PRESENT:

*Verna Thompson  
Paiten Qualls*

*Leroy Qualls  
Taryn King*

*Jennifer Pigeon  
Todd Enlow*

*Diane Kelley*

VISITORS PRESENT:

*Tahlina Nofire Blakestad*

*Teddy Snell*

*Gary Cooper*