



# 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, August 12, 2019

3:00 PM

Tribal Council Offices

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### CALL TO ORDER

Chair Walkingstick called the meeting to order at 3:16 p.m.

### INVOCATION

Chair Walkingstick gave the invocation.

### ROLL CALL

**Present** 17 - Rex Jordan; Wanda Hatfield; Shawn Crittenden; Buel Anglen; Bryan Warner ; Dick Lay; David Walkingstick; Keith Austin; Harley Buzzard; Joe Byrd; Mike Dobbins; Mike Shambaugh; Mary Baker Shaw; E. O. "JR." Smith; Janees Taylor; Victoria Vazquez and Canaan Duncan

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**Councilor Vazquez moved to approve the July 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 announced they received a letter from the national office approving TANF and more detailed information would be provided at the Council orientation. Talking Leaves Job Corp has passed all of its accreditation to be admitted to advanced education and certifications. They also received their Oklahoma State Department of Education accreditation for 2019/2020. She reported on the four county resource guide grant they received. Ms. Kelley commented on the Council orientation and tours, she welcomed the current Council to also attend the tours. She reminded everyone about community entries in the upcoming holiday parade. Councilor Crittenden requested clarification on participants at the Tulsa Welding school getting financial help.*

Executive Director's Report - Ron Etheridge

*Mr. Etheridge announced the Cherokee Ambassadors have been selected. The Jr.*

*Miss Cherokee competition is this Saturday and the Miss Cherokee competition is the following Saturday. The Tribal Youth Council applications are currently online. Mr. Etheridge announced he has been appointed to a committee to study the bill being proposed for a four-day school week. Chair Walkingstick inquired if the bill is for a mandate. Councilor Taylor inquired if the number of hours in the school year would be changed. She also inquired if the area superintendents have been contacted for their input. Councilor Dobbins inquired about the number of contestants for Miss Cherokee. He inquired about increasing the incentive to compete in the Miss Cherokee competitions. Councilor Shambaugh inquired about the number of scholarship applicants this year and if they would all be funded. Councilor Crittenden inquired about reasons for denial. Councilor Buzzard inquired if there is a way to tract the scholarship funds of the students who drop out of school. Councilor Byrd announced the current scholarship awards given to the top three contestants in the Miss Cherokee competition. Councilor Shaw inquired if there are only four contestants could all four receive scholarships.*

Head Start - Verna Thompson

*Ms. Thompson commented on the scholarships given to the Head Start participants. Head Start classes for the fall started today. She extended a welcome to the outgoing Council to attend the Thanksgiving lunch at their facility this year. They will be continuing their participation in the faces research project. They are starting focus groups this month which are comprised of employees of the Cherokee Nation. The focus groups consist of recruitment, retention and reward and another on documentation. She provided an update on the Webber Falls Head Start facility. Councilor Vazquez inquired about the Children's Village safe room and if it could be toured. Councilor Crittenden inquired if the head start scholarship funding is tribal or federal dollars. Ms. Thompson gave appreciation to Councilors Warner and Jordan for their support and involvement in the review process.*

Sequoyah High School - Leroy Qualls

*Mr. Qualls reported school started last Wednesday. They continue to be three teachers short with 368 students enrolled and 74 students in the dorm. They have parent/teacher conferences scheduled for the 27th and 29th. He provided dates for upcoming sporting events. The BIA is scheduled a facility assessment and inspection on August 26th. He announced student Lexi Keys has commented to attend the University of Texas in San Antonio.*

## OLD BUSINESS

*None pending.*

## NEW BUSINESS

*None pending.*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Warner moved to adjourn. Councilor Duncan seconded the motion.  
The motion carried at 4:03 p.m.

STAFF PRESENT:

*Diane Kelley  
Ron Etheridge  
Leroy Qualls*

*Taryn King  
Jennifer Pigeon  
Chrissi Nimmo*

*Todd Enlow  
Verna Thompson*

VISITORS PRESENT:

*Tralynna Scott*