



# Council of the Cherokee Nation

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

## Meeting Minutes - Final EDUCATION COMMITTEE

*Keith Austin, Chair*

*Recording Secretary, Shelli Brittain Coke*  
*Phone: 1-800-995-9465,*  
*E-mail: council-public@cherokee.org*

---

Monday, February 10, 2020

3:00 PM

Tribal Council Offices

---

### CALL TO ORDER

**Chair Austin called the meeting to order at 3:04 p.m.**

### INVOCATION

**Councilor Patzkowski gave the invocation.**

### ROLL CALL

**Present** 15 - Harley Buzzard; Mike Dobbins; Mike Shambaugh; Mary Baker Shaw; E. O. "JR." Smith; Janees Taylor; Victoria Vazquez; Canaan Duncan; Joe Deere; Julia Coates; Keith Austin; Dora Patzkowski; Daryl Legg; Rex Jordan and Wes Nofire

**Late Arrival** 2 - Joe Byrd and Shawn Crittenden

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**Councilor Nofire moved to approve the January minutes as submitted.**  
**Councilor Vazquez seconded the motion. The motion carried.**

### REPORTS:

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

*Ms. Kelley gave an update on the Muskogee office, TANF program, Summer Youth, and Youth Leadership. The DOL Corporate review started two weeks ago at the Job Corp. Last week we hosted the Tulsa and Guthrie Job Corps for quarterly meetings. They celebrated Groundhog Day by having students job shadow. They will hold a celebration for the Wayfinders on Friday, February 21st. There are several training sessions scheduled for the various 102-477 programs. She offered to answer questions from the report. Councilor Buzzard inquired about getting a resource book for the different departments, programs, and contact information. Councilor Coates requested clarification on the Summer Youth Leadership program for the At Large.*

## Executive Director's Report - Corey Bunch

*Mr. Etheridge announced the Public School Appreciation Day is scheduled for March 5th at the Hard Rock in Tulsa. This year will set another record with over \$5.5ml given to the qualifying schools. The Trail of Tears Award of Excellence deadline is March 3rd. He gave an update on the Remember the Removal Bike Riders training. He offered to answer questions from the report provided. Councilor Crittenden inquired if Cherokee speaking was included as a category for the Trail of Tears Award. Councilor Vazquez requested information in writing regarding the Trail of Tears Award to forward out. Councilor Taylor requested clarification on the community service volunteer hours through the nonprofit organizations. Councilor Buzzard stated more needed to be done to protect our children at Sequoyah and the Immersion center. He voiced concern for people being allowed to resign without when involved in an investigation and nothing being reflected on the employment record. Councilor Legg inquired about someone with a disability being able to participate on the Remember the Removal Bike Ride. Councilor Coates inquired if the Trail of Tears Award is available for the At Large. Councilor Crittenden inquired about creating a smaller version of the Remember the Removal bike ride for citizens. Councilor Legg announced they will have their first Miss Native American Pageant in Sallisaw this weekend.*

## Head Start - Verna Thompson

*Ms. Thompson announced the parking lot and driveway have been asphalted at one of their facilities. She commented on the infant massage classes. Next month she will bring the recruitment team. Ms. Thompson recognized her staff in attendance. She announced they have job opening in all of their areas.*

## Sequoyah High School - Patrick Moore

*Ms. Jolynn Choate gave highlights from the report provided including the wrestling tournament held at SHS, the attendance at the Speech and Debate qualifying tournament, hosting the Districts in basketball, College Horizons, a student puppet show, the academic team is regional champions, ACT testing, 3 students in work study, college signings, Women in STEM, Senior Night Recognition, elder outreach, the track meet, the polar plunge and spring break. Councilor Byrd commented on the outstanding job they are doing to academically prepare the students. Councilor Duncan bragged on the Stilwell all girls wrestling team. Councilor Byrd inquired about the revisionary clause of the Heritage Center.*

## OLD BUSINESS

*None pending.*

## NEW BUSINESS

*None pending.*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Chair Austin extended an invitation to everyone for this Thursday to the Oklahoma Veterans Center in Claremore for Valentines with Vets.*

## ADJOURNMENT

**Councilor Shaw moved to adjourn. Councilor Vazquez seconded the motion.  
The motion carried at 3:54 p.m.**

## STAFF PRESENT:

*Holly Davis  
Diane Kelley  
Chrissi Nimmo  
Frankie Hargis*

*Taralee Montgomery  
Ron Etheridge  
Verna Thompson*

*Todd Enlow  
Tina Glory Jordan  
Jolynn Choate*

## VISITORS PRESENT:

*Teddy Snell*

*Tim Brown*