

Council of the Cherokee Nation

Cherokee Nation Tribal Council 17763 S. Muskogee Ave. Tahlequah, OK 74464

Legislation Text

File #: 21-098, Version: 2

A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING, COMMEMORATING, AND CELEBRATING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF SEQUOYAH SCHOOLS, AND REAFFIRMING CHEROKEE NATION'S COMMITMENT TO ENSURING THE CONTINUED VITALITY OF SEQUOYAH SCHOOLS

WHEREAS, the Cherokee Nation since time immemorial has exercised the sovereign rights of self-government in behalf of the Cherokee people; and,

WHEREAS, the Cherokee Nation is a federally recognized Indian Nation with historic and continual government -to-government relationship with the United States of America; and,

WHEREAS, the academic year 2021-2022, marks 150 years since Sequoyah Schools first established and continued to build a better Cherokee Nation by educating the future generations; and,

WHEREAS, Sequoyah Schools was founded as the Cherokee Orphan Training School in 1871 through a legislative act passed by the Council of the Cherokee Nation; and,

WHEREAS, in 1914 the school and its property was sold to the United States Department of the Interior, but ultimately in 1985, Cherokee Nation again assumed the operation of Sequoyah School; and,

WHEREAS, since 1871, Sequoyah Schools has grown to include two separate schools, d⊖SGI⊕J (Tsunadeloquasdi) Cherokee Immersion Charter School (Kindergarten through eighth) where instruction is delivered in the Cherokee language, and Sequoyah High School that provides an academic curriculum centered on the unique cultural identity of students; and,

WHEREAS, today Sequoyah Schools enrolls more than 370 student, representing twenty-two (22) tribes and five (5) different states; and,

WHEREAS, the faculty and alumni of Sequoyah Schools are renowned for their scholarly, cultural, and community contributions made throughout the last 150 years; and,

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WHEREAS, the office of the Principal Chief and the Council of the Cherokee Nation desire to recognize, commemorate, and celebrate 150 years of history, legacy, and achievements of Sequoyah Schools; and

WHEREAS, nothing herein constitutes an appropriation of funds, precludes Council's constitutional role of oversight and appropriation of funds and all subjects herein are expressly subject to Council budget appropriation and oversight;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE CHEROKEE NATION that the Council of the Cherokee Nation supports an investment of a minimum of \$20 million capital investment at Sequoyah Schools, subject to the normal appropriations process, with a capital plan or plan(s) to be submitted to the Council for review by its Education Committee within fiscal year 2022, to ensure that Sequoyah Schools continues in its mission of providing an educational institution that promotes personal and cultural development for another 150 years.