

**OKLAHOMA ADVISORY COUNCIL ON INDIAN EDUCATION**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**Oklahoma State Department of Education**  
**State Board Room, Room 120**  
**2500 North Lincoln Boulevard**  
**Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73105**  
**Wednesday April 8, 2015**  
**10:30 AM**

**1. Call to order and recording members present and absent.**

**Jim Parrish**

Meeting called to order at 10:40 a.m. in the OSDE State Board of Education Room by Chair Parrish

**2. Establish a Quorum**

Roll Call of members – 10 members present. Nancy Fields, Lucyann Harjo, Rhonda Hayworth, Matt Higdon, Lisa John, Wayne Johnson, Mary McCormick, Chair Jim Parrish, Dwight Pickering, and, Paul Pinkerton were present.

**3. Welcome**

**Jim Parrish**

A. Introduction of new members – Introduced new member, Rhonda Hayworth, who replaces Jack Shadwick, a member of the Ottawa Tribe and serves as Tribal Librarian and Historian.

B. Acknowledgment and Recognition of Host – – Chair Parrish thanked representatives of the Oklahoma State Department of Education for hosting this quarterly meeting of the Council.

C. Introduction of Guests – Brenda Stevenson, Dr. Norma Neely – American Indian Institute, Brandon Tucker – Career Technology,

**4. Discussion and possible action to approve or disapprove the OACIE Minutes for the February 11, 2015 Regular Board Meeting. (Action item)**

Motion by Mary McCormick and seconded by Lisa John as amended. Motion carried 9-0 with 1 abstention.

**5. Discussion on current issues, goals, and updates for SDE**

**Joy Hofmeister,  
State Superintendent**

Chair Parrish met with Supt. Hofmeister this morning but she could not with the Council because of the Legislative Session

**6. Updates and reports on Oklahoma Indian Education**

**Dwight Pickering**

Mr. Pickering reported that he would be meeting with Supt. Hofmeister very soon but has met his new supervisor, Dr. Cindy Koss, who is supportive of the initiatives that have been undertaken through Indian Education including the STEP Grant program, the Indian On-Line Resources being housed on the OSDE website, and others. He stated that he attended the state JOM Conference recently and reported a new initiative with the Juvenile Justice System which is trying to create an intervention program with Rep. Seneca Scott, Muscogee Council Member Dodie Warrington Barnett, Lucyann Harjo and about 20 other members from tribal groups throughout the state. This initiative evolved from the increasing numbers of American Indian students who are being housed in detention centers throughout the state. He also reported on the Higher Education retreats he has been attending with Matt Higdon in Stroud and Anadarko. He announced the Oklahoma Indian Education Summit to be held in June in Norman, OK. Dr. Neely reported that the Summit will be a full two days with a reception on Monday evening along with a special activity that will be announced later. She stated that on Tuesday would have a closing luncheon which will be extended into the afternoon and that invitation would be sent out soon. Chair Parrish reported that this would be the third time to hold this event and that it was moved to June to give educators an opportunity to attend without the conflict of school. He also reminded the Council that this event was open to all persons so that we could move the concept of "Indian Education for All" really being for everybody. Ms. John asked about the cost of registration and Dr. Neely responded that there would be a fee but that arrangements could be made to help the Council with the costs.

Ms. John asked what the final approval process for what is being housed on the On-Line Resources. Mr. Pickering responded that OSDE is developing a review committee with approximately 75 persons participating in the planning of this resource and have been asked to be involved with the approval process. He said that currently four persons have agreed to serve on the Committee and that he has approached tribes to participate on this Committee. Ms. John remarked that she felt that this committee should be a different group because the resources could come from tribes and not necessarily connected to classroom strategies. She stated that she sees it as a content committee and as a website committee which would have a different focus. Chair Parrish remarked that content would be different if it came from the tribes or an individual. Mr. Pickering responded that the Committee was still growing and that they would take suggestions on how to address these types of issues. Chair Parrish asked if someone from a tribe wanted to participate they would just contact OSDE about participating. Mr. Pickering responded affirmatively and that he was waiting for contact people from each tribe to respond. Chair Parrish remarked that this review Committee would be vital to the process of approving appropriate, authentic resources with tribal approval. Ms. Harjo remarked that she understood Ms. John's concern about the need for two separate committees and that the Committee was working on final processes to take into consideration the concerns brought by tribal representatives.

Mr. Pickering reported on the emerging issue of charter schools and that there is current legislation under consideration which would allow tribes the opportunity to sponsor a charter school which could promote language, history, and culture. OSDE has training that would help tribes to develop charter schools if they so choose once this legislation is passed. Ms. McCormick remarked one of the goals of the Council was that Indian history should be taught in all Oklahoma schools as part of the public school curriculum. Chair Parrish responded that this goal would remain a part of the Council's mission.

Mr. Pickering reported on the BIE Tribal Consultation held recently in Oklahoma City which involves potentially moving the Oklahoma City office. He said that there would be a JOM Consultation on April 10<sup>th</sup> in Oklahoma City. Ms. McCormick asked where the office would be moved to and Mr. Pickering responded that the plan is to move it to Flandreau, SD. He invited Council members to attend this meeting. Ms. McCormick asked why the relocation of the BIE couldn't be brought up at the Sovereignty Symposium where all tribes would be gathered. Ms. Harjo remarked that the BIE/BIA relocation was being planned because of the lack of tribal leadership involvement in these consultations. She stated that when the BIA tries to consult with tribes then a disconnect occurs because tribal leadership has not expressed concern and she doesn't understand why this occurs. Ms. John responded that it is because of communication and tribes do not hear about these consultation in a timely manner and they take the tribes for granted which is a sign of disrespect. She stated that the BIE is required to give notice in advance and communication is lacking. She asked if the State Superintendent had written a letter to the BIE expressing her concern about a potential move for the Oklahoma City office because she is a stakeholder in this decision. Mr. Pickering responded that he would ask Supt. Hofmeister to submit a letter in that regard. Dr. Johnson remarked that the Muscogee Nation did respond to the tribal consultation. He stated that any time there is a tribal consultation, the agency reports only those who stand before the microphone. He said tribes are too siloed and depend on national organizations. He stated that there hasn't been a student count for JOM since 1995 which he felt was absurd. He questioned why the BIE was not acknowledging sovereignty or treaty rights. He lamented that there are a lot of tribes that do not have tribal education departments because funding which comes to the state for Indian students is not now accountable. He stated that there will be no tribal control until the state recognizes tribal education departments as local education agencies. Ms. Harjo asked Mr. Johnson what can be done to prevent the BIE from moving that they can voice on Friday. Ms. John stated that the consultation process is not meaningful as it now stands.

**7. Report on results from 2014 state testing as it relates to American Indian students.**

**Dwight Pickering**

Mr. Pickering stated that he was not able to get this information at this time because of agency privacy guidelines. He mentioned that he does get the end of the year report but couldn't get the information for the Council.

**8. Discussion on the Education Bills of the 2015 Legislative Session.**

**Tom Crimmins**

Chair Parrish reported that Mr. Crimmins could not be at the Council meeting today but that there were several bills that relate to Indian education. He stated that Mr. Crimmins is retiring at the end of June and would resign from OACIE and asked for suggestions from Council members be sent to him.

**9. Updates and Reports on the following items related to Indian Education**

**A. Higher Education**

**Matt Higdon**

Mr. Higdon submitted a narrative report on activities of the Board of Regents including the Indian Education Retreats they sponsored during the past year. He stated that tribal funding for scholarship has been a challenge as tribes have not submitted information but the Regents have been able to compile some information.

**B. OCIE Report**

**Lucyann Harjo**

Ms. Harjo reported that OCIE will host the Oklahoma Legislative Summit at the State Capitol in conjunction with the Muscogee Nation, the Osage Nation, the Cheyenne-Arapaho Tribes, and the Tribal Education Department National Assembly on April 22, 2015. Over 820 American Indian students who have earned GPAs of over 3.9 and will be honored on April 27, 2015 at the University of Central Oklahoma in Edmond, OK. She stated that several tribes have not responded to the On-Line Curriculum Resources Committee.

**C. Career Tech**

**Joe Robinson**

N/A

**D. NJOMA and TEDNA**

**Wayne Johnson**

Dr. Johnson said the big concern of JOM was the student count and the use of census. He stated that the consideration is how to come up with an adequate count. He reported that TEDNA is a small organization but is growing. He said the group has recently walked the halls of Congress to address Indian education legislative issues. He encouraged all the tribes to consider creating tribal education departments for the good of the tribe. Dr. Johnson remarked that tribes need the State to recognize tribal education departments as local education agencies.

**10. Discussion and action on changing the location for the Regular Board meeting for October 22, 2015. (Action item)**

**Jim Parrish**

Chair Parrish asked Mr. Tsoitigh if he had coordinated a planned meeting in Andarko and Mr. Tsoitigh responded that he had not done that. Chair Parrish stated that he would entertain a motion to table a vote on that meeting. Motion made by Ms. John and seconded by Ms. Hayworth. Motion carried 10-0.

**11. Public Comments**

None

**12. New Business**

None

**13. Closing remarks and announcements.**

Chair Parrish reported that the next OACIE meeting would be at the Hard Rock Hotel in Catoosa. Ms. Harjo asked Chair Parrish if he would mention exemplary programs and he responded that he would. Chair Parrish reported that Ms. Billy of the Choctaw Nation was a part of the Committee which recently developed Native language standards. Chair Parrish stated that he was forming a Committee to consider what an exemplary program would look like and he asked for any volunteers to participate.

**14. Adjournment (action item)**

Ms. John motioned to adjourn the meeting and seconded by Ms. Hayworth. Motion carried 10-0.

Minutes were provided by Jacob Tsothigh, Recording Secretary, for the Oklahoma Advisory Council on Indian Education on July 8, 2015 and were approved on July 8, 2015.

  
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OACIE Chairperson