

Oklahoma Advisory Council for Indian Education
Quarterly Meeting
Hard Rock Hotel – Tulsa, OK
Wednesday, November 9, 2011

- I. Welcome – Lori Price, Cherokee Nation- Education Services, introduced Mr. Roy Boney and Mr. Jeff Edwards of the Cherokee Nation Language Technology Systems. Mr. Boney explained the nature of the language technology program and introduced the slide presentation. He talked about the history of the Cherokee syllabary invented by Sequoyah and the first tribal newspaper. The Cherokee Telephone Company was introduced in 1866. Mentioned that Will Rogers provided radios for the Cherokee Nation. Developed a Cherokee typewriter and an IBM Selectric Typewriter Ball. Has evolved through the computer era.

Mr. Edwards talked about the Cherokee Language School Pre-K through 6th grade and the language curriculum which follows the Oklahoma PASS standards. Spoke on an illustration of the 50 states with Cherokee Nation names. Mr. Edwards showed a slide with Cherokee students learning on computers. The tribe issues laptops to students for their use at home. These laptops allow students to have video talks with elders in the community and even with the Eastern Band of Cherokees. Displayed an i-phone with the Cherokee language keypad that had been developed by Apple in conjunction with the tribe. Cherokee on the i-phone is not an “app” but an operating system. The school also uses i-pads for classroom work. The Tribe now makes e-books (e-pub) in the Cherokee language that utilizes children’s story tales. Cherokee is the first language to be developed for an operating system.

Mr. Boney talked about the Cherokee language being incorporated into the Facebook program. He explained that it has become an “active” language now where everyday utilization is being realized. Wikipidea even has a Cherokee translation application. Google now has a translation interface for their search engines. Google has had 3 million hits in recent weeks. The Tribe is getting close to developing devices that operate almost entirely on the Cherokee language. He explained the objectives of incorporating the language into the world of technology to get students engaged from their world view. The school is located on the Sequoyah Indian School complex area in Tahlequah, OK. They ended their presentation with a video about their communications technology to assist in language preservation for the tribe.

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Welcome – Lisa John, Chair

Roll Call - Present – Lori Hamilton, Esther Bell, Mary McCormick, Lucyann Harjo, Ray Rodgers, Dr. Joe Robinson, Greg Anderson, Paul Pinkerton, Lisa John, Dr. James King, Jim Parrish, Desa Dawson, and Dwight Pickering Absent – Dr. Henrietta Mann, Corey Bunch, Tom Crimmins, Ann Brower, Gina Timberman. Guests included Jacob Tsotigh, recording secretary, Roy Boney, Jeff Edwards, Lori Price, and Suzette Brewer

Invocation – Mr. Jim Parrish provided the invocation

Introduction of Director, American Indian Education – Ms. John introduced Mr. Dwight Pickering as the new Director. He spoke on his experience in Indian education for over 30 years and acknowledged the blessing of his family and tribe. He mentioned the pressure of the position but pledged to do his best. He stated that he has spent time familiarizing himself with the history of the office and some of the barriers. Mr. Pickering mentioned that he also spent time reviewing the minutes and the objectives of the Council. He stated that he is ready to move forward to help the Council on the state level.

Acknowledgment of Guests

- II. **Review of Minutes** - Ms. John explained that previous minutes had some questions about a sentence that was unfinished which was a side conversation and not a part of the minutes from page 9, the second paragraph, third line. Ms. McCormick asked if the council was required to have verbatim minutes. Ms. John said she had asked Mr. Pickering to research this question. He explained that a summary would suffice for the purpose of the minutes. Ms. McCormick explained that she had taken minutes for the Sac & Fox Nation for 18 years and never had 31 pages. Dr. Robinson motioned to remove the questionable sentence and seconded by Lucyann Harjo.

Motion carried 11-0.

July 27, 2011 Minutes – Ms. John asked for any edits, concerns. Esther asked about including a statement made by Jacob and his son's teacher. She "stated" on page 1 number two to clarify the statement. Ms. McCormick asked for the minutes to be mailed to members and Ms. John said that members may request that through Mr. Pickering. Mr. Parrish wanted to clarify the statement about an adjunct teacher requiring a Master's degree and it should say that a Bachelor's degree is needed, page 10 near the bottom. Mr. Pickering mentioned that Mr. Curtright's name needed to be corrected. Motion made to approve minutes as corrected by Dr. Robinson and seconded by Ms. McCormick.

Motion carried 11-0.

- III. **Discussion on current issues/goals/updates**

Mr. Pickering spoke on behalf of Dr. Barresi and said she was attending to the issue of flexibility. No updates are needed at this time. Ms. McCormick asked for copies of legislation that were mentioned in previous minutes to be provided to the Council. Mr. Parrish asked for copies of education legislation for the next meeting. Ms. Dawson mentioned that OSDE has a legislation liaison, Jessica Russell, that could give the Council updates on education legislation that might be pending. Ms. Dawson mentioned that OSDE receives summaries on a routine basis which could be provided. Ms. John mentioned that the Council appreciated Dr. Barresi's presence in the past meeting.

IV. Old Business

A. Updates

Ms. Hamilton gave an update on the Tribal Education Departments National Assembly. She mentioned Montana as a resource because of its history in working with TEDs and elected tribal leaders. They will follow up that meeting with a dialogue with state officials. She mentioned the plans for the CCSSO sponsoring a meeting on Common Core State Standards to provide for tribal input into this process including issues related to language. NCAI and NIEA would serve as a conduit for communication for this project. Montana has some legislation pending that could serve as a model for other states.

NIEA – Office of Indian Education Update, Ray Rodgers. OIE staff members were present at the 2nd Annual Federal Technical Assistance Workshop. He mentioned that over 30 workshops were given through the pre-conference. He said that Joyce Silverthorne is the new director of OIE and replaces the acting Director Janelle Leonard. He mentioned that every school district would start their program year on July 1st and it would be easier to get grant extensions. G5 Financial System was mentioned. Applications information was given out. Mr. Parrish mentioned the Kline Amendment and exemptions from that for Title VII and Impact Aid. Mr. Rodgers mentioned the need for more webinars from OIE to assist grantees. Ms. Bell asked if the webinars could be available through local school district websites. Mr. Rodgers said he would check into accessibility especially by parent advisory committee members. Lori mentioned she had a jump drive which includes ESEA reauthorization material. She will email that material to Lisa for distribution to the Council. He mentioned the Common Core State Standards implementation process that will be undertaken by states in the months ahead. Mr. Parrish asked about the reauthorization of ESEA and what the time line might be for passage. Mr. Rodgers mentioned that tribes are operating from the sovereignty background which could be of benefit to tribes.

Mr. Rodgers mentioned the discretionary program that supports teacher professional development grant programs that might help support Indian education. Southeastern Oklahoma State University currently has a program. Chris Westbury is the director of that program. He mentioned the need for more partnerships especially with tribally controlled colleges. Ms. John mentioned the possibility of having Chris Wesbury attend a future meeting to explain his program and services. She explained that the program has developed a learning community for the students to get them engaged. Mr. Rodgers excused himself following his presentation to attend to a family illness. He asked for consideration of communications for the general public.

Ms. John asked a guest to introduce herself to the Council. Ms. Suzette Brewer, an adjunct professor at Northeastern State University, explained her background and experience with Indian programs. She is working with a program to address literacy in the NEOSU area with rural schools

B. Discussion on Unfinished Council Tasks

Ms. John mentioned a discussion on the Land Run issue. She distributed a document, “The Formation of the State of Oklahoma” on issues related to the Land Run from a historical perspective. She mentioned the Lindsay School District which does a good job of creating

awareness of both sides of this issue. She urged the Council to look at school districts in their areas which might be doing an effective job of implementing instructional strategies which address both sides in a positive light.

She suggested that Council members might have resources from their tribes which they might share and asked them to send those resources to her to share with Dr. Barresi.

Ms. McCormick mentioned a map book that was used in her Oklahoma History class as a good resource. She mentioned that students need to know where the Oklahoma tribes came from originally. She asked the Council to make some recommendations to share with students.

Ms. John asked the Council members to gather information and resources before the next meeting to prepare for Dr. Barresi.

Ms. Harjo mentioned that OCIE has asked the Council to attend their annual meeting in December to gain input for the members to hear about this issue.

C. Career Tech Presentation on “emerging occupations”

Dr. Robinson made a presentation on the Career Technology website which include the “State of Oklahoma – Economic Overview Report” which outlines various occupational areas and the level of need for workers in these areas. He also presented information through a report, “State of Oklahoma – Cluster Employment Analysis” which outlined specific information on employment areas and level of demand and availability. He mentioned that you can get information on each Technology Center with county break-out information as well. He stated that members could look at the Centers located in their area. He said members could contact Sheryl Hale of the Career Technology Department for more information. He mentioned that he provided two links which have more thorough information on the Career Tech Centers with downloadable resources.

Ms. John asked if anyone had produced the Career Tech information for use by tribes or organization. She suggested that this report was very useful about employment areas. She said she would take this information back to her tribe for utilization. Dr. Robinson mentioned specific areas that were needing students to enroll and were going unused. Ms. Hamilton wanted to know how the tribe could stay updated on career opportunities. Dr. Robinson offered to include tribal representatives in future Career Tech meetings held in her area. Ms. Hamilton asked about a Career Tech conference for the whole state and Dr. Robinson mentioned they have one in August. He offered to assist tribes in setting up a meeting to discuss potential collaborative initiatives. Mr. Scott mentioned ONET and a guidance component called Career One Stop as a resource for tribal members. Mr. Tsoitigh mentioned the possibility of the Career Tech program collaborating with tribal WIA programs as they plan their statewide conference in the future. “Seamless educational transition plan” was mentioned as a concept being promoted by the Career Technology Center program to help students plan for their future.

D. Topics/Issues/Concerns of Council Members

Ms. John mentioned that she received a request from the field for the possibility of developing a website to promote better communication. She asked Ms. Dawson if the State Department had any recommendations. Ms. Hamilton mentioned that OCIE has a website and it might be possible to house information, resources, etc. about the activities of the OACIE. Ms. Dawson asked about developing resources that would require updating on a regular basis. OSDE staff members are currently receiving training on maintaining the department's website. She offered to inquire about OSDE's website for a potential link or to house information about OACIE. Ms. John remarked that it might be better to house that information on OSDE's website as a first option. A second option would be to house some stuff on the OCIE's website as well as meeting announcements. Mr. Pickering mentioned that he is learning about OSDE's website and public access. He said he appreciated the support of Ms. Dawson as he transitions into his position. Ms. John clarified that a page is needed and not a website. Mr. Parrish remarked that resources had been found that could help with the work of the Council that were developed years ago so that it doesn't have to re-invent the wheel.

Lunch break

D. Topics/Issues/Concerns of Council Members (cont'd)

Ms. McCormick brought some issues to the Council she felt could be addressed. She mentioned the purpose of the Council to support American Indian students. She mentioned the goal of Dr. Barresi to have third grade students meet reading proficiency levels before being passed on to the fourth grade which she felt should be supported by the Council. She wanted the Council to be on record as commending Dr. Barresi for her statements on Indian education at the University of Oklahoma's Indian Education Summit. She remarked on the issue of Indian tribal relocation to Oklahoma and that students need to know more about Indian history. She asked that the Council move on recommendations and the goals of Dr. Barresi as an organization to support her efforts. She urged the Council to get the notice of the State Legislature for the good work it does.

Ms. John suggested that a motion could be made to approve the recommendations of Ms. McCormick. Dr. Robinson cautioned that these items were not on the agenda and therefore should not be considered until they are on the agenda for the next meeting. Ms. John asked Ms. McCormick for a copy of the article which mentioned Dr. Barresi's request for input on teacher effectiveness. Dr. Robinson remarked that this request came from a bill passed three years ago, SB2033, and that request was made to fulfill the legislation.

Ms. Bell mentioned that item #1 was passed prior to Dr. Barresi's assuming the position of State Superintendent. Dr. Robinson mentioned that this legislation might still be questioned by local school superintendents. Mr. Pinkerton mentioned the issues the district face in trying to implement this legislation. Ms. Dawson mentioned that the State Department has a Literacy Director who could help districts with strategies related to implementation of this law. She said the state does have a few years before full implementation is required and that consideration funding will have to be made. Mr. Parrish remarked that the Council needed full information on anything that is being considered for approval. Ms. John asked for legislation to be sent to the Council which focused on the issue of social promotion.

Ms. John asked Ms. Dawson to provide information on the social studies curriculum planning committee. Ms. Dawson remarked that the State Department had received 65 recommendations for potential participants. Mr. Pickering and Ms. Dawson were a part of the initial meeting. She said there were several areas which have to be addressed with potential changes to PASS. Kelly Curtright wanted to be sure to include American Indian educators and Roy Boney, Regina Berna, and Al Whiteman were a part of that process. The Textbook Adoption cycle has been moved back two years because of the economic climate in Oklahoma which should give textbooks more opportunity to work on changes which address the Council concerns. Mr. Pickering remarked that there are several areas which might need input in the planning process. Ms. John asked the Council for their individual recommendations to be submitted in the next two weeks. She suggested that the Council might want to include a committee to work on this issue.

V. New Business

A. Review and consideration of Council By-Laws

Ms. John spoke on the advice of OSDE Counsel that the Council's By-Laws should reflect how it functions. She credited Mr. Bunch with doing the bulk of the work on developing this document. She mentioned the issue of proxy voting as a concern for the Council. Ms. John asked for a motion which was made by Ms. McCormick and seconded by Ms. Bell.

Motion carried 9-0.

B. Election of Officers 2012

Ms. John mentioned that Corey Bunch resigned his position as Vice-Chair to accept a principal's position at Marietta Public Schools. Gov. Fallin will ask for recommendations from tribal governments for the Tribal Education Department representative to the Council. Ms. John asked the Council to solicit input from their individual contacts. Ms. Pickering mentioned that the Recommendation Form is on-line.

VI. Closing Comments/Announcements

Ms. John mentioned that Gov. Fallin is receptive to American Indian concerns. Ms. Dawson mentioned that the Social Studies Committee meets one more time on December 12th but that there will be a Public Comment period which will be open until February. She said that Mr. Curtright stated that American Indian concerns still need to be made to the committee. Ms. John asked if someone could submit input before the Dec. 12th meeting and Ms. Dawson replied that this would be possible. She recommended that the Council go on-line to look at the PASS Standards because it outlines what school districts could to access this process.

Mr. Pickering mentioned Council members need to submit travel forms and return the name tags to the Registration desk. He has visited with the Departments that handle the Council business and has a good sense of what is needed to continue to support the work of the OACIE. He gave his office number to the membership. He mentioned the need for language revitalization and thanked Ms. Dawson for her work in that regard.

Ms. John distributed the OCIE Call to Conference and mentioned that OCIE wanted a panel representing the OACIE to give a presentation on Tuesday, Dec. 6th, from 10:30 a.m. until 11:45 a.m. She asked if the Council wanted to honor this request. Seeing no objection she named Lucyann Harjo to spearhead the response to the request. Ms. Harjo asked for volunteers to participate in responding to the OCIE request. Ms. John asked if Ms. Hamilton would like to participate. Mr. Parrish mentioned that he would like to participate in the panel. Ms. John asked for other volunteers and Mr. Pickering offered his assistance. Ms. McCormick wanted to volunteer as well. Ms. John mentioned that Ray Rodgers might want to participate as well.

Ms. Harjo mentioned that she just joined the Big Brothers and Big Sisters organization as a Board of Directors member and asked for volunteers to help with the mission of this organization especially with American Indian children. She stated that the organization wanted to involve tribal groups as much as possible and would conduct outreach in that regard. She asked for anyone interested to contact Kristie Smithson.

Ms. Dawson mentioned the work of language revitalization and an article in the Language Educator about efforts in Oklahoma with tribal groups and school districts.

A. Election of Officers for 2012

Ms. John mentioned that she had asked for volunteers for the position of Chair. Mr. Pickering mentioned the challenges of the Council and felt that Ms. John has done an excellent job of chairing the organization and asked the Council to vote for her to continue her leadership. Ms. John replied that change is always a good thing and that she was appointed to serve on three boards with the Chickasaw Nation. She stated that she would like to continue as Vice-Chair. Ms. McCormick nominated Lisa John. Ms. Harjo nominated Ray Rodgers. Ms. John received 4 votes. Mr. Rodgers received 4 votes. Ms. John voted for Ray who was elected as Chair. Ms. Bell nominated Lisa as Vice-Chair and she was elected 8-0.

The next meeting of the Oklahoma Advisory Council for Indian Education will be held on January 11th with an alternate date of January 18th at the Chickasaw Nation Education Department. A suggestion was made to tour the Early Childhood Development Center prior to the next meeting.

Motion made by Ms. McCormick and seconded by Ms. Bell to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 2:27 p.m.

Minutes were provided by Jacob Tsoitigh, Recording Secretary, for the Oklahoma Advisory Council on Indian Education on _____ and approved on _____.