

OKLAHOMA ADVISORY COUNCIL ON INDIAN EDUCATION
AGENDA
Regular Meeting
Oklahoma State Department of Education
Oliver Hodge Building, 2500 N Lincoln Blvd
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
Wednesday, February 10, 2016
10:00 A.M. Room 217

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Lucyann Harjo

Mr. Pickering introduced Darin Bowens as a new Administrative Assistant for Indian Education who comes from Richmond, VA. after serving in the military. Ms. Bell asked how long the reimbursement process would take and Mr. Bowens responded that it would take a few weeks. She also asked about car tags having to be submitted every time a claim is made. He responded that once it is submitted it should not have to be resubmitted.

Meeting called to order at 10:24 a.m. by Chair Harjo and opened by Vice-Chair Parrish.

2. Establish a Quorum

Roll call was made with 10 members present 8 members absent

A. Introduction of new members

Lucyann Harjo

Chair Harjo asked about an update on the replacement for Tom Crimmins. Mr. Pickering mentioned that he had submitted a request to the Secretary of State. Chair Harjo asked about a replacement for Wayne Johnson of the Muscogee Nation and Mr. Pickering stated that a request had been made to the Muscogee Nation for a potential replacement. Ms. McCormick asked about a new directory for membership and Mr. Pickering mentioned one would be forthcoming.

B. Acknowledgment and Recognition of Host

Chair Harjo

C. Introduction of guests

Becky Foster, Career Tech, who will replace Dr. Robinson who is retiring in March. Brian Hendricks, Secretary of State Office, Tom John of the Chickasaw Nation, Funston Whiteman, Dove Academy, Phil Gover, Teach For America, Catherine Fatheree and William Nuttle of Bureau of Indian Education, Norma Neely of the American Indian Institute.

3. (Action Item) Discussion and possible action to approve or disapprove the OACIE minutes for the November 18, 2015

Dr. Robinson mentioned that he was neither here nor there. Ms. Bell commented on Item #11 which mentions future dates and places. She suggests that one of the future meetings be held at the Professional Oklahoma Educators in Noble, OK. Ms. McCormick stated that she would need a map for directions to the OEA headquarters. Ms. Hayworth mentioned that an email could be sent with directions to the members before the next meeting. Ms. McCormick stated that the new OACIE Directory should be shared with other Indian education organizations. Ms. John moved to accept the minutes as corrected and seconded by Dr. Robinson. Motion passed 10-0.

Regular Board Meeting

4. Discussion on current issues, goals, and updates for Oklahoma State Department of Education

Joy Hofmeister
State Superintendent

Mr. Pickering stated that Supt. Hofmeister was testifying before Congress today and could not be here. He mentioned that the Oklahoma Academic Standards had been approved by the State Board of Education.

5. Report from the State Department of Education as it relates to American Indian students

Dwight Pickering

Mr. Pickering stated that tribes were involved with the development of the OAS and they did have an opportunity to submit comments. He mentioned that letters of support would be sought from tribes about their approval. He stated that several bills related to Indian education are under consideration. Ms. John asked if the Standards could be sent to the Council for their review. Mr. Pickering replied that he would send those to the membership. Ms. John stated that she felt that the Council should have had an opportunity to comment on the standards which were developed. Ms. McCormick replied that she agreed with Ms. John. Mr. Parrish stated that the standards were presented to the legislature on Feb. 1st for their consideration and it will have 30 days to approve or disapprove the standards. Ms. John asked what input was given such as inclusion of boarding schools or what was recommended. Mr. Pickering responded that he wasn't sure what was finally submitted but tribes did have a chance to make comments primarily from an academic viewpoint. Ms. Fatheree requested that the BIE would like to be informed of the proposed standards as well. Mr. Pickering mentioned that he would be monitoring bills related to Indian education.

6. Recommendations for Professional Development and Charter Schools in OK

Funston Whiteman

Chair Harjo introduced Mr. Funston Whiteman, of Dove Academy, and Mr. Phillip Gover, of Teach For America. Mr. Whiteman mentioned the value of charter schools for American Indian students. He stated that there are not significant American Indian student populations in Oklahoma City and that they are sprinkled throughout the district. He stated that the K-12 was more vital to American Indian students than higher education. He recommended Oklahoma City, Moore, Norman, Shawnee, and possibly Muskogee would be able to sustain an American Indian charter school. He stated that utilizing an American Indian curriculum would be attractive to Indian parents. He said there is no ownership of schools in Oklahoma and that Mr. Gover might have some information about charter schools which could be useful in the discussion of this concept. Mr. Gover gave an overview of TFA. He stated that over 9,000 students had been brought in to teach in Oklahoma. He mentioned that last spring the legislature passed charter school legislation that would be beneficial to American Indian students. He stated that currently the Native American Community Academy serves as a model for other communities and have initiated several charter schools in New Mexico. He stated that models such as this needed to be made aware of in Oklahoma in order to develop a pipeline for potential American Indian teachers. He stated that reclaiming tribal sovereignty is behind the model and a change agent for initiating potential charter schools. He mentioned the Oklahoma Public Resources Center could provide seed money to begin to develop tribal authorizers. Mr. Tsothigh asked Mr. Gover to explain what an authorizer is. He responded that the authorizer serves as a school board in their community they reside. Ms. Roth asked if it would be possible to develop a coalition of tribes in Tulsa to apply for the potential grant. Mr. Gover responded that a consortium could be developed but that the funding would go to a single tribe. Ms. John asked if the grant would come from TFA. Mr. Gover stated that no it comes from the OPRC. Ms. Bell asked who a charter school would be accredited by. Mr. Tsothigh responded that the Oklahoma State Board of Education is the accrediting agency. Mr. Whiteman stated that the Dove Academy was started by owners from Turkey. Ms. Bell asked if the owners had to meet state requirements. Mr. Whiteman responded that the Academy does have to meet state accreditation requirements. Ms. Bell asked if students get a state diploma and Mr. Whiteman responded that they do. Ms. McCormick asked Mr. Whiteman what he meant by not being able to be a principal because there are other requirements to meet. Mr. Gover closed with an offer to speak with any Council members about further information on charter schools.

7. Updates and reports on the following items related to Indian Education

A. Higher Education

Matt Higdon

Mr. Higdon stated that he had two more retreats for Indian education coming up this spring. Ms. Bell asked who are invited to the retreat and Mr. Higdon responded that anyone involved with Indian education could attend. He has presented to the Westmoore Public Schools and will present to the Sapulpa College & Career Night in a couple of weeks. Mr. Higdon stated that there are a number of programs that would benefit American Indian students through the Board of Regents. Ms. McCormick commented that agencies communicate with the heads of the tribes then those in departments might not get the information. Ms. John asked if the information was on the OACIE website and Chair Harjo responded that the information should be placed there.

B. Career-Tech

Joe Robinson

Dr. Robinson distributed an enrollment by race table including American Indian student population. The table provided numerical information on specific student populations. Ms. McCormick asked what specific skills were needed now. Dr. Robinson stated that welding and STEM areas were highly sought after. Ms. John asked what age group this included. Dr. Robinson responded that primarily 11th & 12th graders. Ms. McCormick stated that her tribe was considering an assisted living facility and needed workers in that area. Dr. Robinson responded that he would send a resource that could provide training on filing systems.

C. Oklahoma Council for Indian Education (OCIE)

Lucyann Harjo

Chair Harjo reported that OCIE would host an Indian Education Legislative Day on April 21st at the State Capitol. Chair Harjo stated that SB 1200 addresses the needs of the Juvenile Justice System with relation to the American Indian community. Mr. Hendricks stated that non-violent offenders were being housed in detention centers and this should not be occurring. He said the legislation is trying to address status offenders. "To only impact delinquent offenders" was the term which needed to be added. Ms. John asked that information on specific issues related to potential bills needs to be summarized and succinct.

D. National Johnson O'Malley Association (NJOMA)

William Nuttle & Catherine Fatheree

Ms. Fatheree mentioned that she had just attended the National JOM Conference and Oklahoma would host the National JOM Center and the Education Line Offices would be closed and would become Education Resource Centers. Oklahoma would come under the Flandreau ERC. Mr. Nuttle remarked that JOM Programs had been responsive and tribes had given their opposition to moving the Oklahoma ERC in consultations that were held but the changes would still occur. He stated that he did not know what a National JOM Office would look like. Ms. John stated that the tribes should then provide input concerns about how the new office would take shape. Ms. McCormick stated her disappointment that Oklahoma had lost their BIE office because of the number of tribes here in the state. She stated that the elected tribal representatives should have responded more forcefully. Chair Harjo mentioned that a document could be developed through gmail which could be worked on by Council members. Mr. Nuttle stated that the National Conference considered the upcoming amended student count and tribes in Oklahoma should comment on this process. Ms. John asked if resolutions could be sent to the Council which were passed by that Conference.

E. Tribal Education Departments National Assembly (TEDNA)

Quinton Roman Nose

Mr. RomanNose commented on the JOM issue by saying the BIE has been neglectful of national programs because of the narrow focus on the schools that organization funds. He mentioned that BIE has had over 20 different Directors in the past few decades. He mentioned TED grants administered by BIE and Sovereignty in

Education grants that are now available to tribally operated schools through the BIE. He suggested that the Oklahoma National JOM Office should administer all the BIE programs. He commented that TEDNA has been functioning for over 20 years and that the federal government is now promoting tribal education departments as tribal education agencies. He stated that each TED is different among tribes. Federal, state, and local policy should be considered by tribal education departments. Native Youth Community Project has been unveiled to promote community collaborations. Mr. Julian Guerrero was introduced as the new Project Director for TEDNA's NYCP grant project. Mr. Guerrero stated that they are trying to create a model for tribal education departments. Absentee Shawnee, Northern Cheyenne, Cheyenne & Arapaho Tribes, and the Muscogee Nation are partners in this grant program. Mr. RomanNose mentioned the potential for school closings with legislation being introduced in the Oklahoma legislature. Chair Harjo asked what needed to happen in monitoring the bills that potentially might be enacted. Ms. John stated that things might change if Indian people would vote.

F. American Indian Cultural Center and Museum

Nancy Fields

8. (Action Item) Discussion and vote on changing the date for the July meeting

Mr. Pickering stated that the EngageOK would be in the same place at the Cox Convention Center and our meeting on July 20th will be held in the same room. The meeting would occur from 10:00 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. Motion made by Ms. John and seconded by Ms. Hayworth. Motion carried 10-0.

9. Discussion on the Education Bills of the 2016 session

Mr. Parrish remarked that the 1 cent sales tax proposed by President Boren had been affirmed by the Oklahoma Supreme Court. HB 2247 would allow retired teachers to make more money. HB 1549 would provide for more math. Two school choice bills are HB2949 and SB 1263. He mentioned a website that could inform organizations about potential bills. Ms. McCormick reminded the Council that we have laws that address public education and including choice takes away from the structures of education and the Council should issue letters of support for those who deserve it.

Action items:

10. Discussion and vote on the 2016 Quarterly Meetings (action item),

Chair Harjo explained that the Council usually hosts the Native American Caucus "Meet and Greet" and the next meeting is on April 13th. The Council will host a meet and greet on that date at 8:00 a.m. at the State Capitol. The Council needs a sponsor for the breakfast and Ms. John stated that the Chickasaw Nation would host this year's reception. Mr. Pickering stated that the reception should be from 8:00 a.m. until 9:30 a.m.

11. Public Comment

Mr. Pickering stated that the Oklahoma Academic Standards were too large to email and that he would send out the document through the mail. Mr. Pickering mentioned that Mr. Hendricks would comment on consolidation of dependent schools. Mr. Hendricks responded that the quality of education at these schools is significant. Mr. Higdon stated that he used to be a principal at a dependent school and the dynamic of these schools is unique.

12. New Business

13. Closing remarks and announcements.

Mr. Pickering announced the National American Indian Drop Out Prevention Conference to be held on March 6-9, 2016 at the Cox Convention Center. Mr. Pickering also mentioned the State JOM Conference is April 11-12, 2016 at Tulsa, OK. The Oklahoma Indian Education Summit will be June 14-16, 2016 in Norman, OK. Engage

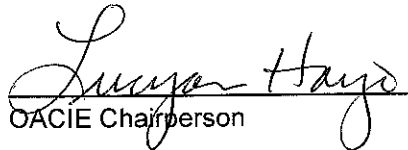
OK will be July 19-21st at the Cox Convention Center. Dr. Robinson thanked the Council for his participation with the group. Ms. McCormick stated that she appreciated the information that was shared today and would like to see more like this. She asked that the Council meeting be announced in the daily newspaper with mention of the representative from the Governor's office.

14. Adjournment (action item)

Motion to adjourn made by Dr. Robinson and seconded by Ms. Bell. Motioned carried 10-0.


OACIE Chairperson

Minutes were provided by Jacob Tsotigh, Recording Secretary, for the Oklahoma Advisory Council for Indian Education on April 13, 2016 and were approved on April 13, 2016


OACIE Chairperson