

OKLAHOMA ADVISORY COUNCIL ON INDIAN EDUCATION
AGENDA
Regular Meeting
Oklahoma State Department of Education
Conference Area 315
2500 N. Lincoln Boulevard
Oklahoma City, OK 73105
Wednesday, February 11, 2015
10:00 AM

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

James Parrish, Chairman

Meeting called to order at 10:35 a.m. by Chair Parrish

2. Acknowledgement of Quorum

3. Welcome & Opening Comments

James Parrish, Chairman

A. Introduction of new members

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. He mentioned that the Choctaw Nation would be providing the noon meal in support of the Council.

C. Introduction of Guests.

Dode Warrington Barnett of the Muscogee Nation Tribal Council, Jessica McBride from Mvskoke Media, Crystal Jensen, Anna Kelly of the Office of Juvenile Affairs, Debbie Hogue-Downing, retired educator, Royce Freeman, Norman Public Schools, Heather Cozad of Delaware Nation, Archie Mason of the Osage Nation Congress, Reba Scott of the Choctaw Nation, Meghan Miles of the Cheyenne & Arapaho Tribes STEP Program Coordinator, Kendra Woodburn, Karen Onco of Western Heights Public Schools and Rep. Seneca Scott of Tulsa County

4. Discuss and vote on the OACIE Minutes of April 8, 2014 Regular Meeting

Motion by Lisa John and seconded by Lucyann Harjo. Motion carried 10-0. A request was made to edit Item #10 to change the line about Esther Bell's granddaughter to her Aunt's granddaughter

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

Joy Hofmeister,
Oklahoma State Department
of Education
State Superintendent

6. Updates and reports on Oklahoma Indian Education.

Dwight Pickering

Mr. Pickering stated that OSDE welcomes the new State Superintendent Joy Hofmeister, to the Department. He mentioned that the OACIE Annual Report was given at the last Oklahoma State Board Education meeting. He mentioned that Debbie Billy was introduced at that Board Meeting as the National Teacher of the Year by NIEA. He mentioned the new initiatives the State Department was working on including the Juvenile Justice Bureau. Work on the cultural resources site on the OSDE website continues as it was unveiled in July. He stated that the tribes have been engaged but not all have been engaged in the process. A new aspect of the website was the display of the tribal flags that rotates every six seconds and that some information will be included on the logos in the future. He stated he was working with Matt Higdon and the Board of Regents for Higher Education. He said that he has attended the retreats that Matt Higdon has been sponsoring throughout the state with Indian education leaders. Mr. Walkingstick asked Mr. Pickering if he was familiar with HB 1034. He stated that this bill mentioned it pertains to tribes and charter schools. Mr. Crimmins stated that it was SB 34 and pertained to tribes and charter schools on Indian trust land throughout the state. He thought the bill has some legs on it. Mr. Walkingstick asked if the charter schools would fall under the Oklahoma State Standards. Mr.

Crimmins thought so but there were concerns about less restrictions including tenure for teachers. Mr. Walkingstick asked if charter schools would be eligible for Impact Aid and state funding. Mr. Crimmins thought they would be eligible for both funding sources. He stated that if the Comanche Nation applied for charter schools it would impact Elgin Public Schools in terms of funding. Mr. Pickering acknowledged Mr. Crimmins for his knowledge of public education funding to help create awareness of the body.

Chair Parrish elaborated on the collaboration of the State Board of Education and Board of Regents that is a result of the work of the Council

7. 2014 Annual Report as reported to the State Board of Education.

Dwight Pickering

8. Presentation by the Oklahoma Native American Juvenile Justice Task Force

**Lucyann Harjo
Dr. Paul Ketchum**

Mr. Pickering opened by introducing Lucyann Harjo as the Director of Norman Public Schools Indian Education and stated that the district has several students that are in the Juvenile Bureau. He stated that Rep. Seneca Scott had planned on conducting an Interim Study to review the situation of American Indian students involved with the Juvenile Bureau system. He mentioned that a task force was formed as a result of that Interim Study that included the Muscogee Nation, Choctaw Nation, Seminole Nation, Oklahoma Juvenile Justice Bureau and Rep. Seneca Scott of Tulsa.

Ms. Harjo remarked that Norman school district includes 15 special sites that address juvenile issues. They are known as Juvenile Detention Centers and house American Indian students whose numbers have increased over the years and she was concerned about their academic needs while they were in these Centers. She stated that the students needed a lot of intervention because of academic challenges as well as their home situations. She stated that students needed transition opportunities to re-engage them in their home communities. She provided information on Dr. Paul Ketchum's research who was scheduled to present his research at the OACIE meeting today but had a death in the family. Ms. Kelly of the Office of Juvenile Affairs was introduced and explained the concept of disproportionality through a PowerPoint presentation. Rep. Seneca Scott discussed some legislative remedies that might be on the horizon to help reduce some of the challenges that are a part of the juvenile justice system. He stated that this was being addressed through a notification legislation that has been introduced. Ms. Harjo stated that the Juvenile Justice task force is developing resources and starting a communication network to better serve Indian children in the Juvenile Justice system. Chair Parrish stated that he was pleased with the potential for collaboration that exists on these emerging issues and that is why this Council was created. He stated that he has asked Lucyann to email her presentation PowerPoints so we can send those to the Council

9. Updated and reports on the following items related to Indian Education

A. Higher Education

Matt Higdon

Mr. Higdon stated that he has piloted four Indian education retreats this year and have two more scheduled this spring. He said the response has been good for the previous meetings and he acknowledged Mr. Tsoitigh and Mr. Pickering for attending those meetings to help with giving context about Indian education issues. He stated that a counselor from Fairview was interested in getting a Title VII program going at that school because of these retreats. The overarching idea is to create a network of Indian educators he stated. He plans on sponsoring six retreats next year for Indian educators. He asked for information from tribes about scholarship amounts being given out by tribes in Oklahoma for their students which attend Oklahoma institutions of higher education. The Board of Regents has offered tracking information for tribes that they could use to track their scholarship recipients.

B. Career Tech

Joe Robinson

No report from Dr. Robinson

C. OCIE Report

Lucyann Harjo

Ms. Harjo stated that she passed out a flyer about an Indian Education Legislative Day at the State Capitol on April 22nd. She stated that it is hoped that our Native people will participate in talking with state representatives in order to advocate on Indian education issues such as the BIE Oklahoma City office possibly moving from Oklahoma City to the Northern Plains. She stated that she will be sending information on the Oklahoma Indian Student Honor Society soon. Approximately 700 students are inducted each year. The banquet will be sometime in April. The deadline for the OISHS is March 13, 2015. She announced the Statewide Johnson-O'Malley Conference on March 3 & 4 in Tulsa, OK. Chair Parrish mentioned that the Council has petitioned for more staff support for Dwight's office in the OACIE Annual Report.

10. Discussion on the Education Bills of the 2015 Legislative Session

Tom Crimmins

Mr. Crimmins mentioned that he was glad that the Council has Rep. Scott present for today's meeting. He stated that this is a typical year in the State Legislature with some bills being introduced that have been reintroduced every year. He stated that he would have printed copies of pending legislation but it was too early because most of those would be eliminated during the process. He said the School Board Association and CCOSA were also involved with meeting at the State Capitol throughout the legislative session. He said that most school administrators meet with their representatives regularly during the legislative session. Curriculum vouchers, teacher retirement, and funding are critical issues being considered this session. He stated that the Governor's State of the State message included mention of the level of appropriations including education, prisons, and health. He said she mentioned 50 million last year for education and that is what they received by the end of the legislative session. He stated that the state is looking at 300 million less for funding but teacher pay is a priority. The budget is getting tighter because of oil prices he stated. He said Sen. Halligan's bill is getting attention and includes \$1,000 raise for teachers and one more day to the school calendar which would cost \$100 million to fund. An Education Rally will be held on March 30th he said. Rep. Scott asked if someone from Indian education was represented at the monthly meetings being held at the Capitol. Mr. Crimmins responded that he is a part of the meetings so he could represent Indian education interest. He also mentioned Impact Aid that is provided school districts to support general education. Ms. John mentioned the historical teaching that would improve the quality of education for all public school students being funded through Indian education. Chair Parrish stated that Oklahoma administrators have led the national initiatives for Impact Aid over the years which oversees federal legislation. Mr. Walkingstick asked Rep. Scott about SB 302 and the funding level of state appropriations and asked about the disparity of funding for the Cherokee Nation's Charter School. He asked if there might be an amendment to the bill that would address the disparity. Rep. Scott recommended getting in touch with the House sponsor, Rep. Dan Kirby.

11. Discussion on planning of the "greet and meet" with the Native American Caucus on April 8, 2015

Jim Parrish

Chair Parrish stated that Rep. Scott would secure a meeting room at the State Capitol. Chair Parrish said that the meeting would begin at 8:00 a.m. and the Caucus would like to meet with the Council at that time. He stated that the Council would send invitations out to the Native American Caucus. He asked Mr. Pickering to secure the names of the Caucus in order to send out the invitations. Chickasaw Nation will provide the refreshments for this event. The regular OACIE meeting will follow the reception at 10:30 a.m.

12. Discussion and vote on the new location for the October 22, 2015 meeting

Jim Parrish

Chair Parrish mentioned that Riverside Indian School has declined to host that meeting and that Mr. Tsotigh would inquire as to other possibilities in the area. Motion to table scheduling by Mr. Walkingstick and seconded Mr. Crimmins. Motioned carries 10-0.

13. Public Comments

No Public Comments

14. New Business

No new business

15. Closing remarks and announcements. 29th & 30th

Mr. Pickering announced that the Indian Education Summit has been rescheduled for June 29th & 30th in Norman, OK due to scheduling conflict at the Grand Lake Casino.

14. Adjournment (action item)

Motion to adjourn Ms. John seconded by Ms. Hamilton. Motion carried 10-0

The next meeting will be on April 8, 2015 at the Oklahoma State Department of Education .

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



OACIE Chairperson