

OKLAHOMA ADVISORY COUNCIL ON INDIAN EDUCATION
AGENDA
Regular Meeting
The College of the Muscogee Nation
2170 Raven Circle Drive, Room 107
Okmulgee, Oklahoma
Tuesday October 14, 2014
10:00 AM

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

James Parrish, Chairman

Meeting call to order at 10:22 a.m. by Chair Parrish. Roll call was called by Jacob Tsoitigh with 12 members present and 6 members absent. Chair Parrish introduced President Robert Bible of the Muscogee Nation College who introduced Dr. James King, Vice-President of MNC to give the welcome to the membership. He mentioned that the college started in 2004 on the campus of the OSU Tech campus and has expanded substantially on to the present campus which was built with grants and tribal resources to benefit tribal citizens. He acknowledged the role the Muscogee ancestors who journeyed to Oklahoma from the southeast U.S. through their perseverance they maintained. The use of the Muscogee language throughout the building is a tribute to them. He stated MNC is in the process of obtaining their accreditation and the leadership is thankful for this journey.

2. Welcome & Opening Comments

James Parrish, Chairman

A. Introduction of new members

Chair Parrish introduced the new member, Wayne Johnson, to OACIE who serves as the Secretary of Education for the Muscogee Nation as an appointee of Chief Tiger. He stated his pride in the leadership of the President and the Vice-President in the MNC reaching the goals of the College. He acknowledged his long standing friendship with Mr. Pickering beginning at Haskell Junior College. He stated that the strength of MNC is its social nature for the students. He explained that his parents migrated to Wichita for an opportunity and that is where he was raised but that he is not an urban Indian. He told of an incident in his past where a counselor marked his student folder with the statement that he was not college material. He is an example of how our students can overcome such characterizations to be successful and make their way in society. He talked about his educational journey through several Indian boarding schools to allow him to reach this role in order to help guide his Indian students.

Chair Parrish expressed his gratitude that Member Johnson is a new member.

B. Acknowledgment and Recognition of Host –

C. Introduction of Guests.

Chair Parrish asked Joe Robinson to introduce his guest. Dr. Robinson introduced Kimberly Vance who is Career Technology Lifelong Learning Coordinator. Chair Parrish introduced Dr. Norma Neely who spoke about the recent Indian Education Summit. Chair Parrish introduced Jacque Hensley, Governor's Native American Liaison, who spoke of the appointment of membership by the Governor to OACIE. Chair Parrish recognized Star Yellowfish who will represent Lucyann Harjo. She mentioned the upcoming OCIE Conference on Dec. 9-10 in Tulsa. She mentioned several keynote speakers who will engage the Conference attendees. Chair Parrish mentioned that a teacher with the OKC school district will be recognized as NIEA Teacher of the Year, Debra Billy, member of the Choctaw Nation, and a teacher with OKC for 32 years.

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

Motion to approve by Dr. Robinson, seconded by Mary McCormick. Motioned carried 12-0

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

Dr. Janet Barresi
Oklahoma State Department
of Education
State Superintendent

5. Updates and reports on Oklahoma Indian Education.

Dwight Pickering

Mr. Pickering mentioned the OSDE Cultural Resource site on the website of Indian Education with over 3,000 hits since July's unveiling. He stated that Vision 20/20 was very successful with several strands highlighting Indian education. He stated that the Oklahoma Indian Education Summit was very successful. He received several inquiries from out of state representatives and that the next Summit might be held in early summer. He mentioned that the Summit might be held in Shawnee at the Citizen Potawatomi Grand Hotel. He mentioned the STEP Grant Pilot Project is in the final year and that the Chickasaw Nation and Cheyenne-Arapaho Tribes have proven successful with the school districts they work with in their jurisdictional areas. He stated that he wanted to look at the Juvenile Justice system in Oklahoma along with Lucyann Harjo who is currently working with Indian students in the Norman School District who are in the Justice system. He mentioned that Rep. Seneca Scott has undertaken an Interim Study in the Oklahoma legislature to consider forming an advisory council among several organizations which have oversight of American Indian students in the system. He stated that Ms. Harjo would present information on this issue at the next Council meeting. He stated that Ms. Harjo is listening in from Alaska and he appreciates her leadership in this regard. He mentioned the information that has been received for the Cultural Resource site and that the Supt. Has referred information to members of the OSDE Curriculum Department to study this information to see if a guide might be developed. Ms. Hensley mentioned that tribes have been asked to participate in providing information on curriculum resources to provide authentic information and will continue to promote the site among tribal leadership.

Chair Parrish mentioned various projects which have been undertaken under OSDE leadership including Native languages, curriculum, etc. He mentioned Indian Education for All as a theme for these projects and that we need to promote the Indian Education Summit as a source of information. He stated that partnerships are important to create more support for Indian education issues including the formation of the OACIE, the creation of the Summit, and the Curriculum Resource site are all a product of the Indian Education Task Force from years ago. Chair Parrish mentioned the potential for a history class being introduced to promote Indian education. Mr. Pickering mentioned that Rep. Billy introduced legislation to support Native languages, over 75 people have participated in the creation of the Curriculum Resource website, and that OSDE staff member Teri Brecheen presented on early childhood issues around literacy to the Inter-Tribal meeting that might lead to a potential meeting of Oklahoma tribes to address this issue. Chair Parrish reminded members that they need to continue to advocate for these types of issues.

Mr. Johnson stated that there needs to be legislation introduced which might include discussion of charter schools which would benefit American Indian students from our tribal perspective. He mentioned that the Muscogee Nation has a literacy program for its tribal members and this information should be shared.

6. Updates on the legislative bills that were passed and how they affect Education. **Tom Crimmins**

Chair Parrish stated that Mr. Crimmins could not be here but wanted to mention that CCSS has been repealed and that we now revert back to NCLB to address student achievement.

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

Higher Education

Matt Higdon

Chair Parrish turned the floor over to Mr. Higdon who provided information about the Board of Regents. He opened with comments about the planting of trees in his hometown of Tecumseh and the recent controversy with someone having cut down the trees he had a role in planting years ago when he was a middle school teacher. He mentioned his role at the

Board of Regents to promote student preparation for higher education. He stated that the program was founded on a social justice initiative. His program works to promote the under served students and how to get around the boundaries that prevent these students from access to higher education. He asked that members of the Council let him know about meetings that occur that his program could benefit from attending. He gave information and data about student access which included test scores for ACT and EXPLORE exam which administered by the Regents. A change in wording on the ACT from "multi-racial" to "Two or more races" has seen the scores go down. He distributed a flyer on Summer Academies with a focus on STEM that are free to 8th through 12th grades. Ms. Roth asked how difficult it would be for students to attend. Mr. Higdon responded that applications are available on websites and that the student needs one letter of recommendation that could be provided by the Indian Education Director of the school district. Mr. Johnson stated that his tribe is always trying to promote STEM programs and that tribes need to develop their own programs for their students to ensure participation. He stated that schools have a culture that might overlook American Indian students. Ms. Roth commended Mr. Higdon for making the effort to inform the Council. Ms. Hamilton stated that these types of programs need to illicit the support of tribal education departments to support participation in these STEM programs. Mr. Higdon responded that the Board is sponsoring a series of retreats for Indian Education Directors around the state of Oklahoma to build a network among tribal education departments to create awareness of these types of programs among our American Indian communities.

Career- Tech

Joe Robinson

Dr. Robinson distributed information on Career Tech American Indian student enrollment by Centers. Adult Basic Education programs which were previously under the OSDE has been moved over to Career Technology Centers which includes GED programs. Ms. McCormick asked for clarification about state law which supercedes tribal sovereignty in the case of GED which is nationally trademarked name for a high school equivalency test. She asked Dr. Robinson if schools could email tribes about the greatest need in the employment market such as plumbing skills.

OCIE Report

Lucyann Harjo

Chair Parrish gave Dr. Yellowfish an opportunity to mention a listening tour by the WHIAIANE and the Office of Civil Rights which will visit on Nov. 18th in OKC from 1:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on issues like school climate, bullying, mascots, and civil rights issues. There will be a youth comment period and a public comment period. There will also be a meeting in Tulsa on Nov. 21st with the same type of format.

Action items:

8. Discussion and vote on or elect the Officers of OACIE for 2015.

Chair Parrish stated that the floor was open for nominations for officers of the Council. Mr. Bible nominated Chair Parrish for re-election and the nomination was seconded by Dr. Robinson. Mr. Pickering stated that Chair Parrish has been involved with education at so many levels and has a depth of knowledge on critical issues both on higher education and K-12. He endorsed. Call for the vote by Ms. McCormick. Motion carried 11-0.

Chair Parrish asked for nominations for Vice-Chair of OACIE. Mr. Bible nominated Ms. Harjo and seconded by Ms. Bell. Motion carried 11-0.

Jacob Tsofigh was nominated by Esther Bell, seconded by Ms. Roth to serve as Recording Secretary. Motion carried 11-0.

9. Discussion and vote on the 2014 Annual Report items to be presented to the State Board of Education.

Chair Parrish stated that a major responsibility of the Council is to offer recommendations to the State Board of Education. He stated that the election of a new Supt. Might defer the submission of the report to the Council until after December in order to work with that person. Dr. Robinson reminded the Council that the State Board of Education would remain the same and that the report might be submitted at the November Board Meeting. One recommendation is for additional staffing for the Indian Education Department. Ms. McCormick reminded the Council that the Council might ask for funding

for the activities. Chair Parrish reminded the Council that it is supported by OSDE to support its responsibility as an Advisory Council. He mentioned that such a request might require legislative action. Mr. Pickering stated that the Council is provided transportation and office supplies. Chair Parrish asked Mr. Pickering to inquire of the OSDE counsel about the issue of funding for the Council.

Mr. David Walkingstick arrived at 12:28 p.m. as a new member of the Council representing

Chair Parrish stated that the Council should request support for staff development for OSDE. Mr. Walkingstick commended Mr. Pickering on Indian education presentations. He asked for mention of increased graduation rates in the new report. He asked if culturally responsive standards were included in the Oklahoma Academic Standards. Chair Parrish stated that the Council could ask for culturally sensitive standards for Oklahoma students. Mr. Walkingstick mentioned the use of the Trail of Tears in the recent OSU game publicity. Ms. McCormick asked if the Council could address the issue of language fluency. Ms. Bell mentioned that the Muscogee Nation Immersion program has been successful because her Aunt's granddaughter had learned to speak the language as part of the "Dawes Commission" play. The following recommendations were made by the Council to be presented to the State Board of Education as part of the Council's Report:

1. Additional staff
2. Culturally sensitive staff development
3. Increased graduation rate of American Indian students
4. Include culturally related standards into the Priority Academic State Standards
5. Encourage the continued partnership between the state and tribes

Ms. McCormick suggested that the report submitted by Dr. Robinson be a part of the Council report. Chair Parrish asked for nomination of these recommendations. Motion made by Dr. Robinson, seconded by Mr. Walkingstick

10. Discussion and vote on the 2015 Quarterly Meeting

Chair Parrish explained the history of the scheduling of dates during the span of the OACIE. Ms. Hamilton mentioned that Tuesdays were not good for Ms. John. Ms. Davis mentioned that Tuesday is a conflict for her. Chair Parrish asked members if Wednesdays would be good for the Council. Chair Parrish mentioned meeting dates as: February 11, 2015 at OSDE at 10:00 a.m.; April 8, 2015 at the State Capitol and OSDE; July 8, 2015 at Hard Rock Hotel in Tulsa; Oct. 14, 2015 at Riverside Indian School. Motion made by Ms. Davis and seconded by Ms. Bell amended to reflect Oct.22nd for the meeting at Riverside Indian School.

11. Public Comment

12. New Business

13. Closing remarks and announcements.

Chair Parrish mentioned a scholarship opportunity at SEOSU for education majors in early childhood education and special education. Contact Chris Wesberry. He also mentioned OSU Psychology Department as the number one university for producing doctoral candidates in the country which is led by Dr. John Chaney. Chair Parrish mentioned Dr. Neely is planning on the next Indian Education Summit. Mr. Walkingstock mentioned that Dr. Star Yellowfish as 40 Under 40 by NCAI Education Committee. Jacque Hensley was recognized by AARP.

Mr. Bible mentioned scholarship information for students attending MNC. They are Title III funded.

14. Adjournment (action item)

Motion to adjourn by Ms. Davis seconded by Ms. Bell

Minutes were provided by Jacob Tsotigh, Recording Secretary, for the Oklahoma Advisory Council on Indian Education on 2-6-15 at 10:00 a.m. and were approved on 2-11-15.



OACIE Chair