

Oklahoma Advisory Council for Indian Education
Quarterly Meeting
Chickasaw Nation – Ada, OK
Wednesday, January 11, 2012

- I. Welcome – Ray Rodgers, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:11 a.m. Welcomed everyone as the newly elected Chair. Lori Hamilton gave a welcome message from the Chickasaw Nation. She mentioned the opportunity to tour the Chickasaw Nation Child Development Center at some point to the day. Mr. Rodgers thanked the Chickasaw Nation for their hospitality.
- II. Roll Call – Esther Bell, Tom Crimmins, Lori Hamilton, Lucyann Harjo, Dr. James King, Mary McCormick, Jim Parrish, Raymond Rodgers, Gena Timberman (Nancy Fields), Dwight Pickering – Present. Greg Anderson, Ann Brower, Dr. Houston Davis, Dr. Henrietta Mann, Dr. Joe Robinson, Lisa John – Absent. Visitors – Debbie Hicks, Sac & Fox Education Director; Chris Cates, Chickasaw Nation Higher Education. Chair Rodgers asked Jacob Tsoitigh to give the invocation.
- III. Minutes - Chair Rodgers asked for changes in the minutes. Hearing none Ms. McCormick motioned to approve the minutes. Seconded by Lori Hamilton. Motion carried unanimously.
- IV. Supt. Barresi report – Mr. Pickering stated that he did not receive any input from Dr. Barresi at this time. Mr. Pickering gave a brief report on the status of Indian Education. He stated that he is monitoring legislation with a deadline of January 18th for new legislation. Mr. Rodgers asked if we know of the number of education bills which might be introduced. Mr. Pickering state that a couple of hundred are anticipated to be introduced. Mr. Rodgers asked if Ms. Russell was the only one keeping track of education bills. Mr. Parrish stated that the OSSBA sent out a review of bills and that COSA would likely do the same thing as well as giving their opinions on the bills. Ms. McCormick mentioned that the legislature might require teachers to submit to a new form of evaluation. She asked that Chairman Rodgers monitor the evaluation process to be considered by the legislature. Supt. Crimmins mentioned an 18 member commission which was charged to review three models of evaluation and recommend one to the state by Dec. 18th of this past year. The commission recommends that local districts be given the option of selecting the one model they prefer for one year. Ms. Bell responded in agreement with Ms. McCormick concerning the issue of evaluation. She mentioned the responsibilities of the teacher which include teaching students how to live. Chair Rodgers asked Mr. Pickering to keep the Council informed about issues related to the state legislature and mentioned HB2172 which abolished the Indian Affairs Commission and the Gov. was to appoint a Tribal Liaison to serve in place of the Commission. Chair Rodgers stated that he had received a response from Rep. McCullough's office in December. His response included reference to legal complications with that bill concerning the Liaison position. The bill was introduced by Sears and Myers. Chair Rodgers stated that another item from the last meeting was the request for a letter of support concerning the longitudinal data grant application from the Council that was included in this

month's meeting. Chair Rodgers mentioned a meeting with T.W. Shannon in Sapulpa. Ms. Hamilton mentioned that Rep. Shannon used to work for the Chickasaw Nation. Chair Rodgers asked about an update on a website. Mr. Pickering stated that the Council could tie a website into the SDE's website. He distributed examples of what such a website might look like to the Council. Mr. Parrish asked at what point could Council members send information on their individual tribes. Mr. Pickering stated that members could do that now and that information would be considered by SDE. Chair Rodgers asked if the Council could do that now and then asked how many members maintain their own websites. He stated that maintaining a website is almost a full time job. Ms. Hamilton asked how long would the process take to approve items being included on the website. Chair Rodgers asked Mr. Pickering to provide an overview of how that process would work for the next meeting. Mr. Parrish stated that there would be different components to configure within the website such as education, resources, etc. Ms. Fields stated that her understanding was the Council would serve as a clearinghouse and that the Cultural Center would serve in that role for the Council. Ms. Harjo asked if all the tribes would have the resources to be included on the SDE website because some of them are so small. Mr. Pickering stated that SDE has information pertaining to Indian education now on its website about the Council meetings, who serves on the Council, etc. He also mentioned the possibility of developing press releases from the SDE for the members' use at the local level.

V. Old Business

- i. Ms. Bell mentioned that the By-Laws included a discrepancy in Article 3, pg. 2, - "two members from a teacher's organization would be appointed by the Governor" but that the legislation mentions that two members would be appointed by the Legislature. Motion made by Jim Parrish and seconded by Esther Bell to match the By-Laws to the legislation. **Motion passed 9 – 0.**

- ii. Ms. McCormick asked the members for their definition of culture. She gave a definition of culture with reference to a document in 1992 by Lauren Isley. She stated that parents and teachers are identifiers of culture. She gave a reference to the Nazis and what they imposed upon the Jewish people. She mentioned what is a "quality school" and how society is dealing with issues related to elements of a quality school. She stated that the Council needed to have members of the State Board of Education present at a future meeting.
 1. Make recommendations to the State Board of Education and Superintendent of Instruction
 2. Promote educational opportunities and improvement of the quality of education provided to American Indian students
 - a. Need to practice culture
 - i. Learn the different dances
 - b. Tribal members sometimes live away from their people
 - c. Supt. Barresi wants culture taught in state classrooms
 3. Identify strategies between educational entities and tribal groups to address issues related to American Indian students.
 4. Identify and disseminate research-based material
 5. Analyze data

- a. Commended Dr. Houston Davis and Dr. Joe Robinson for the information they have given to the Council.

She mentioned statements by Chief Black Hawk about being inclusive of people, different types of foods grown by the Sac & Fox tribes. She displayed a picture of Chief Blackhawk to the Council with reference to his dress. She asked that the Council make efforts to teach the history of Oklahoma. She reflected on her family's experiences within the state and gave personal insight. She displayed a sample of artwork by a family member of which she was most proud. She finished Supt. Barresi's statement on teaching culture should be reinforced by the Council.

1. She asked that the Council support the policy of third grade reading.
2. She asked the Council to send a letter of commendation to Supt. Barresi for her statements on Indian culture being a part of the school curriculum.
3. She asked the Council to support Supt. Barresi's statements on teacher effectiveness.
4. She asked the Council to publicize actions taken by the Council after each meeting to be printed in local media.

Ms. Bell asked to whom the Council makes its recommendation. Chair Rodgers responded that the Council makes its recommendation to the State Department of Education. Ms. Bell wanted to know to whom the Council recommends. Mr. Crimmins responded that this is a law but it doesn't matter if the Council recommends someone or not, it's still the law. He stated that lots of people are not happy with the law and it may change. Chair Rodgers advised that it's up to the Council to come up with how to deal with the recommendations.

Break for lunch

Mr. Parrish asked for clarification on what recommendation the Council was being asked to give with regard to teacher effectiveness. Ms. McCormick responded that the issues of teacher evaluation should be considered. Chair Rodgers suggested that the recommendations could be submitted in the Council's annual report. Ms. McCormick made a motion to adopt the recommendations as listed on the agenda. Mr. Parrish responded that the recommendation of "C" be tabled. Ms. McCormick made a motion to adopt Recommendations A,B,D, E. The motion was seconded by Jim Parrish. Mr. King asked if the motion for recommendation E be changed to include tribal media. The amendment was approved by Ms. McCormick and Mr. Parrish. Ms. Bell asked for clarification on A to not single out any individual on the recommendation. Mr. Parrish asked if the motion might address support of the law. Mr. Crimmins stated that the Council support the goal or concept of reading by 3rd grade in general instead of the policy. Ms. McCormick and Mr. Parrish accepted the amendment.

Discussion on Unfinished Council Tasks

- a. Identify learning challenges for American Indian students; and what are the nature of those challenges

Chair Rodgers asked issues related to research be made from a state perspective. He mentioned that these issues come from the SDE Indian Education Section. He then passed around a document developed under the administration of Supt. Folks related to the Five

Tribes of Oklahoma. He stated that tribes are taking more responsibility of education about culture for their tribes. He urged the Council to review information closely for relevance, importance, and accuracy. Ms. McCormick recommended that the Council table a,b,c. Ms. Harjo expressed concern about relying too heavily on the State Department. She stated concern about tabling of these issues because they have been a part of discussion since the Council was initiated. She stated that the information available to our teachers should focus on these key issues. She mentioned that if we keep tabling these issues the Council is avoiding the nature of these issues. Ms. McCormick asked what was one of the learning challenges. Ms. Bell responded that one issue is the children's environment and referred to statements made by Supt. Crimmins about his students not being ready to learn. She said we cannot enable non-learning because of where the students come from. Ms. Bell reflected that students will carry over these attitudes into the world of work. She stated that she had personal experience because she came from a single parent home. She concluded that no matter what type of environment the student comes from they should be expected to learn. Chair Rodgers asked Council members to provide individual challenges as part of the Council's consideration of this issue.

1. Home environment not conducive to learning
2. Outdated classroom instruction – Cognitive learning vs. experiential learning
3. Lack of culturally responsive classroom teachers
4. Parenting skills need to be strengthened
5. Reinforcing the importance of education for families
6. Transition to higher education through remedial courses which don't count toward any major or degree – study skills, financial aid, etc.
7. Standardized tests
8. Privacy issues for tribal education departments
9. Lack academic vocabulary
10. Student support services such as tutorial
11. Dwindling funding for supportive programs and activities

Mr. Scott recommended an OETA program entitled, "OK Horizons" that he could give access to the Council for future programming that address some of the challenges mentioned before the Council. Mr. Crimmins stated that another issue that is looming is that resources are increasing and now the dilemma of what programs and services will be restored to schools. He suggested that the Council needs to suggest which of these challenges will be addressed with the increased funding in common education. Ms. Bell asked about individual responsibility in regards to these issues. Mr. Pickering mentioned that a home/school advocate would serve as a link between the school and the family.

VI. New Business

Chair Rodgers mentioned that the Council could recommend that local school teachers could be asked to obtain professional development with a focus on cultural elements. He also mentioned a recommendation for proposed funding for increased staffing for the Indian Education Section. He mentioned funding for early learning and college readiness grant opportunities. Ms. McCormick stated that action needed to be taken on the recommendation to get before the legislature. Chair Rodgers responded that this could be a policy change at the State Department of Education without legislation. Ms. McCormick asked for a Point of Order. Ms. McCormick motioned for the Council to act on Item B which

addresses professional development requirements from 4 years to 1 year for Indian education. The motion was seconded by Ms. Bell.

Motion passed 8 – 0

Chair Rodgers asked Mr. Pickering to address Item C with requests increased funding for the Indian Education Section. He mentioned the history of the Section when staff members were from 10-12 individuals. Discussion was held on support of increased funding through the legislature. Lucyann provided information on what other states provide to Indian education. Ms. Bell asked if the Council needed to be specific on the request for more funding. Mr. Parrish made a motion to increase staffing for up to nine positions for Indian education in the State Department of Education for the next fiscal year. Seconded by Ms. McCormick.

Motion passed 8 – 0

Ms. McCormick stated that she agreed with Mr. Crimmins to request more funding from the legislature. Mr. Crimmins stated that the Council needs to jump at the opportunity to request more funding. Mr. Crimmins made a motion that the Council requests that the legislature appropriate increased funding for common education adequately and in timely fashion. Ms. Fields asked how this request would target the American Indian student population. Mr. Crimmins responded that increased funding would benefit American Indian students as well. The motion was seconded by Ms. McCormick.

Motion passed 8 – 0

Mr. Crimmins stated that a hot issue in the legislature is Impact Aid which is due by January 31st and that the State Department of Education must forward specific data to local school districts for inclusion in their applications but have yet to distribute this information to the schools. He urged Mr. Pickering to convey the urgency of this issue to Joel Robinson, Supt. Barresi's Chief of Staff, to facilitate this need. Mr. Pickering responded that he would check with him and relay his response to Mr. Crimmins.

Chair Rodgers referred to items submitted to the Council from NIEA concerning their Legislative Summit, tribal colleges, BIE, stalking awareness program, and information about Columbus.

Ms. McCormick made remarks referring to the nature of the Council which is not supported by operating funds. Ms. McCormick made a motion for increased funding for the Indian Education Section. Motion died from lack of second. Mr. Crimmins requested that the next meeting of the Council be held with invitations to Rep. Shannon. Mr. Parrish asked that the next meeting be scheduled for early March and May in order to address legislative issues. March 7th and May 2nd will be the next meeting dates. Chair Rodgers asked a request of the Native American Caucus be made for their presence. Motion to adjourn made by Ms. McCormick and seconded by Ms. Bell.

Meeting adjourned at 2:54 p.m.

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