

Oklahoma Advisory Council for Indian Education
Quarterly Meeting
Oklahoma State Department of Education – Oklahoma City, OK
Wednesday, March 7, 2012

- I. Welcome – Ray Rodgers, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:10a.m. Welcomed everyone including guests: Jana Roth, Broken Arrow P.S., Valerie Radford, Broken Arrow P.S. Chair Rodgers asked Jacob Tsotigh, Recorder, to give the invocation.
- II. Roll Call – Esther Bell, Tom Crimmins, Lori Hamilton, Lucyann Harjo, Lisa John, Mary McCormick, Jim Parrish, Paul Pinkerton, Dr. Joe Robinson, Ray Rodgers, Dwight Pickering – Present. Greg Anderson, Ann Brower, Dr. Houston Davis, Dr. James King, Dr. Henrietta Mann, Gena Timberman – Absent.
- III. Minutes - Chair Rodgers asked for changes in the minutes. Motion to table minutes by Lisa John and seconded Joe Robinson. **Motion passed 11-0.**
- IV. Chair Rodgers welcomed visitors and acknowledged their presence.
- V. **Old Business**

A. Update on Tribal Liaison Position for Governor Fallin’s Cabinet –

Chair Rodgers asked for an update on the Governor’s Liaison position. Mr. Pickering has spoken with Joel Robinson in the Governor’s Office. Mr. Robinson said the Governor is still working on criteria for open positions. Discussion of HB2563 which changed the criteria to membership of a federally recognized tribe not ¼ quarter degree of Indian blood. Chair Rodgers gave information on the changes being considered by the Legislature. Ms. McCormick stated that the State of Oklahoma doesn’t define who belongs to a tribe but the tribes do. She requested copies of the press statement read by Chair Rodgers.

- a. Mr. Pickering explained that his assistant would be distributing mileage forms and would explain how to complete the form. He introduced Martha Eaves who will be handling mileage requests in the future. She stated that the Department cannot complete the form prior to the meeting. There are sections that needed to be complete and that the original had to have the signature of the applicant. Ms. McCormick asked why members could not complete the form at the meeting. Ms. Eaves explained why the State requires certain statements on the form. Chair Rodgers asked if he gets school mileage for his trip and should he notify Martha if he isn’t claiming mileage.

B. Legislative Update on Education Bills before the House and Senate concerning Indian Education –

Mr. Crimmins spoke about legislation being considered on reading requirements for school districts. He expressed great concern about graduation requirements being considered in

the legislation HB 2755 that would be punitive such as the End of the Year Instruction. He stated that it was a bad bill and that consideration of an alternative bill would occur.

Jim asked for clarification of what options are being considered. Ms. John stated that students who have text anxiety would not be able to pass these tests. Schools have to come up with some solutions or more failure would be experienced. Mr. Crimmins stated that if a kid does not read on a 4th grade level they would have to repeat the 3rd grade. Lisa asked if Mr. Crimmins would notify the Council when this legislation would be considered on the full floor of the House.

Chair Rodgers reported that he had drafted a letter to present to Supt. Barresi which outlined professional development, increase in funding for the Indian Education Section recommendations voted on the OACIE. He included a resolution for the Muscogee Nation asking for consideration of rural schools' need to modify requirements of the Achieving Classroom Excellence. Ms. John asked if we needed to finalize the draft and move it forward. Ms. McCormick responded that this document wasn't ready for submission.

Mr. Crimmins clarified that there is a move among educators about the graduation requirements. He stated that he thought the Supt. supported that position as well as the State Board of Education. He said that this was not something that will be easy to change. School districts had fought over this requirement for years. He stated that it would be a good idea to pass a recommendation to show the Council's position. Ms. John stated that the Council could not take action because it wasn't on the Agenda. Mr. Crimmins stated that it could be considered under new legislation because the Council just became aware of this item. Ms. John stated that when a student becomes 16 years of old they will drop out of school because they know they cannot pass the graduation test. Ms. Harjo stated that Norman had 33 students drop out last year and 44 have dropped out this year. Trying to find out alternative approaches to helping these students graduate. Ms. McCormick asked if the Career Technology Centers could work with these students. Ms. Harjo replied that the district is working with the Talking Leaves Job Corps to help these students.

Dr. Robinson asked why the JOM Directors didn't present the resolution directly to Supt. Barresi. Chair Rodgers responded that this letter emanated from a collection of individuals and not an association. Mr. Crimmins stated that there needs to be some opportunity for these students to graduate through some vehicle. Ms. McCormick stated that she felt the Council should take a stand on this issue. Ms. John responded that the Council could have the Chair write a letter to the Supt. to reflect the concern of the Council on this issue. Mr. Crimmins stated that the Council should consider some alternative or a pressure value solution to this requirement. Ms. Harjo stated that graduation figures are not accurate for her district. The district asked students to sign a form that states the student will be home schooled and thus not considered to be drop outs. Chair Rodgers asked members to submit information about their understanding of this impending requirement for graduation. Mr. Crimmins stated that the State Board of Education will have to consider this at some point. Ms. John asked about HJR1087 which pertains to tax exemptions.

Mr. Crimmins explained that in 1985 the Legislature voted to exempt any manufacturer for five years in order to compete with other states. He stated that there is over 2 billion in tax exemptions out there. Rep. Dank conducted an interim study on reducing the level of tax

exemptions. He stated that members should speak against eliminating the state's requirement to fund these exemptions. Ms. John stated that CCOSA has sent out information on this legislation. Mr. Crimmins stated that the Legislature wants to cut income taxes. Ms. John stated that this would be a grass root effort to inform our local legislators.

Ms. McCormick stated that Chair Rodgers should respond to the JOM resolution to confirm the Council's response. Ms. John stated that the Council's response to the ACE requirements should be made within two weeks. Chair Rodgers asked members if they are aware of the state formula. Mr. Parrish, Mr. Crimmins, and Dr. Robinson responded in the affirmative. Mr. Parrish stated his endorsement of the CCOSA and the goals of the organization.

C. Update on SDE Website link to OACIE –

Mr. Pickering stated that he is being trained on working with the website and would be getting skills to keep the website updated. Ms. John asked if the Council would be responsible for information dissemination when the Council's main responsibility is toward the American Indian students of this state. Mr. Pickering responded that he wanted to have information pertaining to future meetings. He has visited with SDE's Communication Director who has given guidance on what information they need to do press releases. Ms. Bell asked if there was a timeline for getting information out. Mr. Pickering stated that he would do a mock up with previous guidelines. He asked if the Council wanted to include approved minutes on the website. Chair Rodgers asked for consensus that the Council approve giving the Communication Director the draft of previous minutes and the audio recording from today's meeting. Chair Rodgers asked if the Council might consider adding a Secretary position to the Council officers. Ms. John stated that she was comfortable with a rough draft of the minutes to capture the Council's discussion. She felt that Chair Rodgers and Mr. Pickering working together could develop the Council's information. Ms. Harjo asked what Chairman Rodgers' concern with requesting a Secretarial position. Chair Rodgers stated that he was pressed for time on some of the structure and responsibility of the Council.

Mr. Parrish stated that the Council has discussed what items to include that would link to other websites such as tribal websites. He asked if Mr. Pickering was ready to receive links that would be appropriate to include on the Council's website. Mr. Pickering stated that members could begin to send those links to him for consideration. Ms. John asked if he would be sending information to tribes to request their website information. Ms. Harjo asked if the Council might be shirking member's responsibility to the organization that they might represent. She stated that she wouldn't mind people contacting her for information about Indian education in general. Ms. John stated that she wouldn't mind including her tribal information about the Chickasaw Nation but was concerned about commercial access. Ms. McCormick stated that she was spammed last weekend and that the Council should give limited information. Chair Rodgers expressed that the members were all public figures now appointed to a public body. Mr. Pickering stated that he would not include personal information on the website. Ms. Bell suggested that the website include general information about who the Council members represent. Ms. John stated that since the Council has been here for one year, members have a responsibility to the work of the

Council to attend. She asked if the Council should ask members who have not been attending if they wish to continue to serve. Ms. McCormick stated that she thought we should include that information on the Council's next agenda. Mr. Parrish cautioned that since these are gubernatorial appointments, caution should be exercised in this regard. Ms. McCormick stated that we should give those members a call to ask about their willingness to serve. Mr. Parrish stated that we need to ask the Governor's office about these appointments.

LUNCH BREAK

Reconvened at 1:25 p.m.

Chair Rodgers mentioned that efforts were underway to secure funding for the Indian Education Section. Chair Rodgers introduced Quinton RomanNose, President of the National Indian Education Association. Mr. RomanNose mentioned the background of efforts undertaken to form the OACIE including the interim study. He stated that there are so many things happening in Indian education. He mentioned that he had met with Chairman Ron Twohatchet.

Supt. Barresi arrived and thanked the Council for their efforts to support Indian education. She asked for any questions for her at this time. Ms. McCormick mentioned two items that Supt. Barresi would be asked to consider. The first item was that there is a lot of information on Indians in order to teach about them. Supt. Barresi stated that more information would be embedded into the curriculum and that a Standards Committee is looking at adding more into the curriculum. She urged the Council to get more classroom teachers involved in the process. Ms. John mentioned that she had looked at a draft of the standards and thought they were for the most part positive. She asked if textbooks would adequately address the standards for the classroom teachers. She mentioned the formation of a clearinghouse at some point in the future and that the Chickasaw Nation might undertake this type of project in the future. She stated that there should be a partnership developed between the state and local educators. Supt. Barresi replied that they were meeting now to discuss digital learning. She mentioned that we need to think beyond textbooks and that in the next few years they might even go away. She said that classroom teachers might be able to put resources in the "cloud" and it would be free. SASS Curriculum content will soon be available. She stated that we could help the classroom teacher sort through the resources that will be available. Ms. John stated that tribes could lend a hand and become a partner with the school in finding these resources. Supt. Barresi said we can make rules and mandates but unless we have this information available and quickly available then it becomes user friendly. Preparing for a digital summit this summer around the Leadership Conference – *Vision 20/20*. The SDE will be doing regional meetings around the CCSS. Make information available.

Mr. RomanNose mentioned that the NIEA will be meeting in Oklahoma in October and invited Supt. Barresi to give a welcome to the Conference. He mentioned the STEP Program that is being developed in conjunction with ED. He stated that he hoped the state would be willing to help with this project. He also mentioned that individuals have been working to plan for more resources/funding for the Indian Education Section.

D. Update on funding potential positions for Indian Education Section –

Mr. RomanNose continued with his comments on efforts in this regard including a meeting with Rep. Ann Coody to begin the process of planning for asking the legislature for more funding for the Section. He stated the resources the State currently receives from tribes through the gaming compacts. He stated that these efforts would benefit ALL Oklahomans not just American Indians. Ms. John asked if who would be involved in developing the feasibility study. Chair Rodgers asked what that would entail. Ms. John mentioned the efforts that went into the previous interim study which might be utilized for the legislature. Chair Rodgers asked if we could accept tribal funding for this activity. Mr. Pickering stated that he didn't think the Council could accept funding as a body. Ms. John mentioned that she thought an agreement might be drafted in that regard. Ms. Dawson stated that this would have to be researched by the SDE Legal Department. Mr. Tsothigh asked the Chair who might have seen that document and Ms. John replied that she had sent that to the Council previously. Chair Rodgers asked if anyone knew about the gaming process and how tribes entered into the compacts because he had been asked that question at the JOM Conference. Mr. RomanNose mentioned that the Council should invite elected tribal representatives to explain the compact process so that they might be aware of the need for consideration of education. Mr. RomanNose suggested that the Governor's Tribal Liaison should be invited to hear concerns related to this issue. Ms. John mentioned that she would be uncomfortable asking for consideration of the inclusion of education in future compact agreements.

Mr. RomanNose mentioned the STEP Pilot Project that is currently being developed by the U.S. Department of Education. He knows that this will be a controversial subject because of the mention of "takeover" but that this project would only occur with volunteer districts and tribes. Ms. John mentioned that tribes want to be more involved but they don't get involved until a student has dropped out. Mr. Pickering mentioned the teleconference calls that have taken place to discuss this issue. Mr. Pinkerton mentioned that his district always tries to put personnel in the classroom through any grant program. Mr. Crimmins asked where the money would come from. Mr. RomanNose mentioned that there would be no additional money for districts and schools. Ms. John mentioned that many tribes would not want to take on additional responsibilities and that her tribe would only want to have access to data. She also mentioned wrap around services that would be available.

New Business:

A. The SDE has published proposed rules on:

PASS skills – Social Studies

Ms. John mentioned her concerns with the draft PASS Skills and asked what would the teachers think about this draft particularly in regards to the Land Run. Mr. Parrish mentioned the issue of boarding school impact on language loss. Ms. John replied that it needs to be mentioned in the major issues section. Mr. Parrish stated that boarding schools need to be addressed. Content Standard #4 might be an area to include this concept in the draft Ms. John stated. She also stated that the Council could address this issue and that the Chickasaws would also address the issue to have as many responses to concerns as possible. Mr. Parrish mentioned that the Choctaw Codetalkers involvement in WWI were excluded

from a section that included mention of tribal involvement in WWII. Chair Rodgers asked Ms. John for the pages where she found some mention of Native Americans. She stated that pg. 25 – 3rd grade; pages 29 – 3rd grade; page 32 – 4th grade; page 33 – 4th grade; pages 35-36 – 5th grade; page 40 – 6th grade; page 47 – 8th grade; page 48-50 – 8th grade; page 57 – 58, pg. 74, pg. 77 – high school. Ms. Bell mentioned that it's always on the history of tribes and not on present day. Ms. John mentioned that pg. 58 included mention of contemporary Indians. Ms. Bell stated that there were no mention of contemporary Indians at the elementary level. Mr. Crimmins stated that he worked with his elementary teachers and that one issue they had was that there were no examples for teachers to use. Ms. Bell was concerned about the mention of “commemorating the Land Run” might lead to re-enactment of this occasion. Ms. John mentioned that on page 52.....

Chair Rodgers asked the Council to submit comments to him and that he would compile them to submit as well. He stated that he would like to have them by March 13th.

Mr. Parrish stated that he has concerns about native languages and state certification. He addressed 210:20-9-104 Certification for languages with no subject area examination which he distributed to the Council. Mr. Pickering stated that he had spoken with Ms. Dawson and the SDE is not finished addressing this issue. He introduced Ms. Dawson to speak to this issue. She explained that this issue is dear to her heart and that when she first came on board at the SDE the issue of who was certified for native languages was still around. The writing today is still vague. She has shared legislation that has implications for native languages. She asked for input from the Council which would be presented to the Language Committee that is working on the certification issue. She asked for a process in writing that would allow everyone to understand how a person is certified. Mr. Parrish stated that since it won't be addressed until next year, the Council has some time to consider the certification issue. Ms. Dawson mentioned that the Native American Language Act required states to get rid of barriers to certification process. She stated that the SDE wanted the Council to advise them on what the Council wanted to see in these guidelines. Mr. Parrish mentioned that we are facing a critical time because we are losing native speakers and most do not have degrees. Ms. Dawson mentioned that NCLB complicated things because of the requirement of highly qualified teachers. Mr. Parrish stated that tribes are losing opportunity to promote native language acquisition. Ms. Dawson mentioned that she has continued to advocate for native languages with the SDE legal department to convey that sense of urgency. Mr. Parrish mentioned that native languages are currently a core requirement as part of the world language requirement. He reiterated that this is Oklahoma and this should be a critical issue for all of us. Ms. Harjo asked where is the emphasis for preserving native language at the district level. Mr. Parrish mentioned the concept of adjunct teachers as a possible approach to remedy. Chair Rodgers asked if there were any volunteers to serve on a committee to work with the World Language Section. Ms. McCormick and Mr. Parrish volunteered to serve on the sub-committee. Mr. RomanNose stated that even four years of a language would not make fluent speakers and that immersion schools are necessary. He stated that the native language speaker of the Sauk Tribe would be a good representative for this committee. Mr. Parrish stated that Oklahoma is behind in this process and we are confronting a serious situation. Mr. RomanNose mentioned that he had spoken with Dr. Mary Linn about the immersion issue and that he has spoken with Lillian Sparks of the ANA Program and she would come to Oklahoma for a future workshop and that this issue would

be a great topic for that forum. Chair Rodgers stated that this issue would be included in the agenda for the next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 3:10 p.m.

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