

OKLAHOMA ADVISORY COUNCIL ON INDIAN EDUCATION

Regular Meeting
Cox Convention Center
Room 21

1 Myriad Gardens
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73102
Wednesday July 8, 2015
10:00 A.M.

1. Call to order and recording members present and absent.

Jim Parrish

Meeting called to order at 10:22 a.m. in Room 21 1 Myriad Gardens at the Cox Convention Center by Chair Parish.

2. Establish a Quorum

Roll Call of members – 11 members Robert Bible, Judy Davis, Lori Hamilton, Lucyann Harjo, Matt Higdon, Lisa John, Wayne Johnson, Jim Parish, Dwight Pickering, Paul Pinkerton, Joe Robinson, and Jana Roth were present. Chair Parish stated that Mr. Crimmins has retired and resigned from the Council with a replacement to be named later.

3. Welcome

Jim Parrish

A. Introduction of new members

B Acknowledgment and Recognition of Host – Chair Parish thanked OSDE for arranging the meeting place for the Council.

C. Introduction of Guests – Bryan Hendricks, Deputy Assistant for Native American Affairs for Secretary Chris Binge; Carol Kelly, Oklahoma Public School Resource Center; Catherine Fatheree, Bureau of Indian Education; Jeff Taylor and Amanda Tribble, University of Oklahoma; Dr. Norma Neely, American Indian Institute; Stacy Henson, Redlands Community College; Rodney Reel, Oklahoma City Public Schools; Debbie Hogue-Downing, Retired Educator; Allen Hicks, Coalgate Public Schools; Eugene Blackbear, Jr., Cheyenne-Arapaho Tribes; Larry Parrish; Sydna Yellowfish, Edmond Public Schools; and a representative of Grand Canyon University.

4. Discussion and possible action to approve or disapprove the OACIE Minutes for the April 8, 2015 Regular Board Meeting. Action Item)

Motion by Lisa John and seconded by Lori Hamilton amended. Motion carried 10-0-1 abstention.

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

Joy Hofmeister,
State Superintendent

Supt. Hofmeister thanked the Council for meeting today and stated that she looked forward to working more closely with the Council. She mentioned the 130,000 American Indian students attending Oklahoma public schools. She remarked on the American Indian graduation rate being higher than 81% which is higher than the national average. She acknowledged the work of the Council in support of classroom teachers. She gave the Council members her cell phone number – (918) 633-1639 to garner their input.

6. Updates and reports on Oklahoma Indian Education

Dwight Pickering

Mr. Pickering reported that he has several initiatives ongoing starting with the Oklahoma Indian Education Summit in June co-sponsored by the American Indian Institute and the South Central Comprehensive Center. He mentioned initial concern because the date was moved to the summer to give more people an opportunity to attend and would continue to be held in June each year for teachers to gain professional development.

He stated that he was working on Engage Oklahoma and that OSDE Indian Education had a booth to publicize the On-Line Curriculum Resources. He mentioned that he had some good resources to distribute to people who visit his booth. He stated the Indian Education Department would conduct five sessions at Engage Oklahoma with a focus on tribal museums including the Comanche Tribe, the Chickasaw Nation, the Cherokee Tribe, and the Oklahoma History Center. He stated that he would provide a workshop on the cultural resources available at the OSDE website.

He reported that keeping the BIE office in Oklahoma City was a major initiative by Supt. Hofmeister who had sent in a letter of support to maintain that office. He stated he was proud of the support of the Superintendent's Office in this effort. Chair Parrish expressed gratitude on behalf of the Council for her support of this initiative. Chair Parrish stated that the workshop sessions being held on behalf of Indian education was one of the goals of the Council from the beginning.

**7. Report on results from 2014 state testing
as it relates to American Indian students**

Dwight Pickering

Chair Parrish mentioned that a report would be distributed to the members of the Council related to testing. Mr. Pickering reported that the 2014 test scores haven't been officially released. He mentioned he had a new supervisor, Dr. Jenny Barnett, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction, and she was a former student at Sapulpa Public Schools during his time there. He stated that he was working on the test scores and that the report he distributed had some figures related to test scores even though the results have not been released. Chair Parrish asked about ACT scores. Ms. John asked Mr. Pickering if there were any changes, positive or negative, which the Council needed to be made aware of and Mr. Pickering responded that there weren't significant changes either way.

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

Jim Parrish

Chair Parrish mentioned that he had a list of bills related to education passed this year by the Legislature and signed by the Governor. He stated that he would not review each bill but would allow Council members to review the list themselves. He did mention HB 1034 which related to American Indian charter schools and that OSDE had a person who could answer questions about this bill and opportunity for tribes. He stated that any education legislation impacts our American Indian students and Indian education. He asked members to take the list home and ask questions at the Council's next meeting.

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

A. Higher Education

Matt Higdon

Mr. Higdon stated that the Indian Education Retreats would continue to be held and that information was available at his booth. He stated that anyone who is involved with Indian education is invited to participate though registration is limited. He mentioned OKCollegeStart.org as a resource for middle school students. He mentioned state level statistics on student interest in higher education and tribal statistics might be available in the near future. Mr. Higdon mentioned a Summer Institute for High School Counselors at the Quartz Mountain

Lodge each year in July that would hold a panel on Indian education for counselors. Chair Parrish commended Mr. Higdon for placing an emphasis on Indian education as a joint effort as an extension of the Council's goals.

B. OCIE Report

Lucyann Harjo

Ms. Harjo reported that the BIE reorganization meetings have been ongoing and that OCIE has been participating at three tribal consultations so far. She stated that they had learned there would 11 educational resource centers serving BIE students and programs. She mentioned that BIE would keep the Oklahoma City Line Office open but Oklahoma doesn't have many students in BIE schools to justify a Resource Center. She stated that the number of American Indian students in the state of Oklahoma warranted keeping an office here. She stated that OCIE has been working on responding to this proposed change with federal representatives in Washington, D.C.

Ms. John asked if a plan could be developed on a proposal to work with the BIE to assist American Indian students with some type of marching orders. Mr. Pickering responded that the Superintendent has communicated the needs of the significant numbers of American Indian students. Ms. John mentioned that until we tell the BIE what we need to do in working with tribes here in Oklahoma they won't have a plan. Mr. Pickering stated that the BIE's approach does not take into account the trust responsibilities of the BIE to all American Indian students in the state of Oklahoma and that he was working with U.S. legislators to address this oversight. Ms. John responded that she has experience in working with self-governance and that a position paper would reflect the needs of Oklahoma students from the tribes of Oklahoma and communicate with legislators. Ms. Harjo remarked that the BIE doesn't understand fully the needs of Oklahoma American Indian students. Ms. John responded that Oklahoma needs a plan which addresses our students' needs specifically. Mr. Pickering reported that JOM brings in 2.5 million in funding while Title VII brings in 25 million but that a revised student could mean up to 15 million in revenue for JOM programs for Oklahoma.

Ms. Harjo asked if the Council could work on a position paper which projects a tribal voice from Oklahoma. Mr. Johnson mentioned that tribal consultation involved elected tribal leaders but had become deluded over the years. He stated that he was an advocate for tribal education departments and that Oklahoma's 39 tribes need to have that in order to project more influence. Ms. John stated that we need to give them expectations which outline the needs of Oklahoma American Indian students. Mr. Pickering responded that the BIE has agreed to leave an office in Oklahoma so that questions will not continue to be asked and their reorganization plans can continue to be implemented. He stated that a letter could be written for the Council with concerns stated about the reorganization.

Ms. John stated that the Council needed to request specific information about the reorganization plan and a potential resource center in Oklahoma. She stated that information from other organizations could be included so that the same message is given about these concerns. Ms. Harjo asked if Mr. Pickering could host a meeting of interested individuals and organizations about mutual concerns with the BIE reorganization. He responded that he would be able to coordinate that approach. Ms. John asked if Mr. Pickering could draft a letter with concerns expressed. He responded that he didn't want to speak for the whole group and thought a group of people could draft a letter. Ms. John stated that if she could not assist then Mr. Danny Wells of the Chickasaw Nation Education Department could. Ms. Harjo volunteered to assist as well as Ms. Roth.

Ms. Harjo reported that OCIE hosted a legislative summit at the State Capitol in April and that this summit was instrumental in passing HB 1034 which dealt with charter schools and tribal eligibility to sponsor them. She stated this summit was very productive and that participants visited with their legislators to urge passage of this bill in the afternoon. She stated that a juvenile justice bill with a focus on American Indian students was

passed as well because of this summit. She stated that work would continue on Indian Education for All to promote involvement of American Indian people. She reported that OCIE is working on a tribal leaders summit as well. She mentioned the ongoing work of the online resources committee to review potential submissions to be included on the OSDE website. Ms. John asked if this committee had a charter for approval of submissions and Ms. Harjo responded that this committee was working on this process.

C. Career Tech

Joe Robinson

Dr. Robinson stated that no report was available at this time but would be given at the October meeting.

D. NJOMA and TEDNA

Wayne Johnson.

Mr. Johnson reported that work is ongoing for Johnson-O'Malley on the revised student count and that he visited with Dr. Roessel on the reorganization plans for BIE. He mentioned the student count process that was going to be updated. He gave remarks on the BIE working with students who attend public schools as part of their responsibility. He encouraged Council members to work with their tribal education departments which serve as tribal education agencies (TEA) much like the state education agency (SEA) or the local education agency (LEA). He mentioned the TEDNA website as a resource about TEAs and the emphasis on language, juvenile justice, partnerships with states and the new Every Child Achieves Act which is under consideration by Congress. He stated that the mascot issue was also important to TEDNA. He stated that information on the use of eagle feathers at graduation is on the TEDNA website as well. He mentioned the concept of "Blind Indifference" which promotes classroom homogeneity which disrespects culture. He mentioned that he had spoken with Supt. Hofmeister about school superintendents who work with American Indian students without a foundation of knowledge about them.

He mentioned that the National JOM Conference would be held in Washington, D.C. this year and it would be honoring Congress members who have supported Indian education issues. Chair Parrish asked when that would be and Mr. Johnson said he would confirm the date and give that to the Council.

10. (Action Item) Discussion and action on changing the location for the Regular Board meeting for October 22, 2015.

Jim Parrish

Chair Parrish stated that this meeting needed to be confirmed for a site in western Oklahoma. Ms. John asked when NIEA would be held and Chair Parrish responded that the meeting would be moved to not conflict with that. Ms. John motioned to change the location to Anadarko and Ms. Harjo seconded. Motioned carried 12-0.

11. Public Comments

Mr. Pickering announced Jana Roth was selected as the new Sapulpa Indian Education Director and that she would continue to do good work at that school. Ms. Roth responded that she was very excited about this new role. Chair Parrish offered his congratulations to Ms. Roth.

12. New Business

Ms. John asked about Mr. Crimmins replacement through the Superintendents organization and the Speaker of the House. Mr. Pickering announced that Supt. Hofmeister was promoting the new online curriculum resource during tomorrow's conference as well as Native dancers from Oklahoma City Public Schools would be performing.

13. Closing remarks and announcements.

Chair Parrish announced that he had spoken with three organizations that were interested in partnering with the Council to develop Indian education across the state. He encouraged use of the term "Indian Education for All" to promote and advance this concept. He remarked that there was a lot of work to do with districts and schools about exemplary Indian education programs in the state. Ms. Harjo commented that at the last meeting a request was made to find exemplary programs and she had not had a chance to focus on this area because of the ongoing work. Chair Parrish stated that several organizations have responsibility for Indian education. Ms. Harjo asked for clarification about what exemplary programs might look like and asked if anyone was interested in leading that request she would defer. Chair Parrish remarked that he had received request from districts about what good programs would look like and he referred them to Ms. Harjo and her program which do a good job of promoting Indian education for all. Chair Parrish stated that we needed to promote good programs throughout the state. He remarked that the idea was a thought process for good conversation among districts. A question was asked about what funding supports tribal education programs. Chair Parrish responded that this issue was different with each tribe but most tribes have websites with resources and tools to support districts and schools. Mr. Pickering mentioned he had some information at this booth. Chair Parrish mentioned that Title VII funding could now support language programs in districts and that anyone needing information about that could contact Desa Dawson, Director of World Languages at OSDE.

14. (Action Item) Adjournment

Motion made by Ms. John and was seconded by Ms. Roth to adjourn. Motion carried 12-0.

Minutes were provided by Jacob Tsotigh, Recording Secretary, for the Oklahoma Advisory Council on Indian Education on November 18, 2015 and were approved on November 18, 2015.

 11-18-15
OACIE Chairperson