

OKLAHOMA ADVISORY COUNCIL ON INDIAN EDUCATION
Oklahoma State Department of Education
Room 315 training area
2500 North Lincoln Boulevard
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73150
Wednesday March 6, 2013
10:00 AM

1. **Call to order** - Jim Parrish, Chair called the meeting to order at 10:14 a.m. Welcomed all the members and guests including Caryn Record, Moore Public Schools Indian Education Coordinator, Jana Roth of the Eastern Delaware Tribe, and Jacque Hensley, Governor's Native American Liaison

2. **Welcome**
 - A. **Invocation** – Chair Parrish asked Jacob Tsothigh to give the invocation.

 - B. **Introduction of new members** - Chair Parrish welcomed everyone to the meeting and especially the new members who were recently appointed by Governor Fallin. He asked for members to introduce themselves to the Council for the benefit of the new members. Judy Davis of the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma, Gay Munsell of the Kaw Nation of Oklahoma, Jack Chadwick of the Ottawa Tribe of Oklahoma, Jana Roth of the Delaware Nation of Eastern Oklahoma were appointed to OACIE by Gov. Fallin.

 - C. **Acknowledgment and Recognition of Host** – Chair Parrish introduced Jackie Hensley, Governor's Native American Liaison, who explained the role that she serves for the state of Oklahoma. She explained that the Indian Affairs Commission was abolished by the legislature in 2011 and her position was created to help fulfill the role of that body. She stated that the Indian Affairs Commission was a legislative body and that she serves as an advisor for the Governor to address issues related to Indian tribes. She explained her role as a Special Agent for the Bureau of Indian Affairs and her work with Indian child welfare and helped in implementing an MOU between the BIA and the Department of Human Services. She expressed hope to have a new MOU in place to address issues related to potential collaboration between those governmental agencies. She expressed appreciation to be a part of this body and hoped to be involved in the work of the Council in the future. Chair Parrish asked Mr. Tsothigh to send background information to Ms. Hensley to give her information on the work of the Council and Indian Education in Oklahoma.

3. **Discussion and possible action on OACIE Minutes of November 8, 2012** - Mr. Crimmins motioned to approve the minutes seconded by Ms. Harjo. Ms. Bell asked if the use of acronyms could be spelled out in the minutes in the future. Ms. McCormick mentioned that the pages needed to be numbered and she asked if her comments could reflect that not every student needs higher education. She demonstrated an article that highlighted career ready areas for American Indian students to pursue that reflected her views on the importance of career readiness. She stated that the ideal was to make tax paying citizens of American Indian students and being productive citizens. She echoed Ms. Bell's concerns about the use of acronyms. Ms. Bell mentioned the page 2 had a sentence that needed to be completed by use "allow appropriate funding for the interim study". Also, item C, page 2, a sentence, "Mr. Anderson asked" should be amended. She continued that on page 3, third line needed to add "that he reviewed" in order to complete the sentence. She continued with page 5 second sentence needed to say, "while it's in session" to be complete. Ms. Munsell said that the minutes needed to included the date the minutes were completed along with Chair's signature of acceptance. Ms. McCormick moved to accept the minutes with corrections and was seconded by Ms. Harjo. The motion carried with 10 yeas and 1 abstention.

4. **Discussion on current issues, goals, and updates for SDE** - Supt. Barresi was at the legislature today and had made comments at the last meeting in February.
5. **Updates on Oklahoma Indian Education** - Mr. Pickering updated the Council on the Data Sharing Tool that is being piloted under John Kramen. The Native Language Modifications are in the Public Comment Period and that Stephanie Goin would explain that process. The State Tribal Education Partnership program continues to meet to continue to implement the program. Ms. Harjo mentioned that the STEP Program presented a PowerPoint to the JOM Conference this week and she would send that to Chair Parrish. Mr. Pickering mentioned the Native American Summit that is being planned with the University of Oklahoma that might occur this summer or later this year. He mentioned several partners which are involved with planning the summit. He will be meeting with Dr. Norma Neely on Friday to continue planning for this potential gathering. He mentioned the emergence of charter school issues with tribes which are somewhat restricted by legislation. He mentioned the Curriculum Resources Committee that is working on resources to be available for classroom teachers. He asked Ms. Harjo to explain what this committee has done recently. She stated that the Committee has held two workshops at the statewide JOM conference and they are being careful to include tribes as part of that process to get accurate information included in the curriculum resources. She asked the Council for work that other tribes have done that could assist in their efforts. She stated that she distributed a handout of the types of resources that her district makes available to classroom teachers. She mentioned that the Committee is helping Mr. Pickering's office with these types of resources. A meeting is planned for next Wednesday or Thursday in Oklahoma City to continue the project which has a goal of the beginning of next school year. Mr. Tsoitigh explained that the work of the Committee is trying to align their work with the implementation of Common Core State Standards. Chair Parrish mentioned that there was a website available through a meeting he attended which made additional resources available. He stated that tribes needed to update their websites to give more accurate information to constituents. He stated that this project will be ongoing and will never be completed. He stated that the State Department needed to get this information out to districts and schools so that it could reach the classroom teacher. Mr. Pickering stated that he would update the council at the next meeting about State Department of Education's efforts to update the technology to adapt these resources. He mentioned the statewide Vision 20/20 which will include American Indian presentations during the summer. He stated that the Office of Indian Education, JOM, and Impact Aid would be potential sessions at the July 8-10, 2013 Conference. Chair Parrish asked if there would be a way to include the websites on the State Department of Education's website to give access as broadly as possible. Chair Parrish stated that the Oklahoma Division of Libraries' was the site that included the tribal websites.
6. **Review and discussion of the actions and duties of the OACIE** - Chair Parrish stated that he had distributed copies of the original bill, HB 2929, which authorized the OACIE to the new members to give them background on the duties of the Council as stated in the legislation. He stated that the Council had responsibility to prepare recommendations to the State Board of Education to promote the work of Indian education. He stated that the Council was authorized through July, 2014, and could end at that time. He stated that renewal of this legislation would have to be made to continue the work of the Council. Ms. Hensley responded that the Native American Caucus would be the place to start work on renewing the Council.
7. **Report of the yearly update as reported to the State Board of Education** - Chair Parrish stated that Mr. Pickering had given information on the previous State Board of Education meeting on the OACIE Annual Report. He stated that former Chair Ray Rodgers gave this report to the SBE and its work. There were questions of charter schools and if there was an interest by tribes on this topic but that there exists a barrier to this interest. Mr. Pickering stated that Mr. Rodgers did a good job of

reporting to the State Board of Education. Mr. Parrish stated that he would send an electronic copy of the Annual Report to Council members.

8. Discussion and possible action on the following items related to Indian Education:

- A. Native American Language Certification** – Chair Parrish introduced Stephanie Goins, State Department of Education Legal Counsel, to explain the process of Native Language Certification and the role of tribal governments in certifying native language speakers. She explained that we are in the midst of a Public Comment period until March 25th and at that time there would be a Public Hearing on that date which would be a part of other changes being proposed by SDE. Members of the public are invited to give comment throughout this process and during the Public Hearing. Rules@sde.ok.gov would be the address to make comments on Administrative Rules that are being considered for modification. Any changes moving forward would be adopted at the State Board of Education meeting on March 28th to promulgate the new rule changes. The intent of the proposed rule change is to provide a framework for involving tribes in the process of certification. She is interested in hearing how these changes would affect any tribes and their need to preserve their languages. One section addresses the administrative requirements (Sec. 98) and the subject matter of certification is addressed in Sec. 104. A copy of the proposed rule changes are on the SDE website. She stated her job was just to listen during this Public Comment period and asked if there were any questions. Ms. Bell asked if there were very many comments. Ms. Goins responded that she had received a comment from an individual who expressed a concern about language that did not include non-federally recognized tribal languages. She stated that SDE is relying on tribal governments to provide information about which tribes have authority for any particular language. Chair Parrish clarified that there is not an OSAT certification for tribal languages other than the Cherokee that would provide for certification. He perceived two issues on certification. One was a potential teacher not having a teaching certificate and having a role for tribal certification. He mentioned that his tribe's process includes requiring 18 hours of college language classes to be certified. He stated that tribe's need to endorse language teachers to be involved in this process. He explained that this language was parallel to the process for an adjunct classroom teacher. Ms. Goins responded that the modification was directed at the critical needs of language preservation where there are few native speakers in some of these languages. These changes create tracks for native language speakers to become classroom teachers which builds in requirements which the applicant would need 60 additional hours of professional development. She stated that the law would be open to meet the requirements for core credit for graduation. Chair Parrish stated that there needs to be a pathway for language to meet core requirements for graduation. Ms. Bell asked how tribes had been notified about these proposed changes. Mr. Pickering responded that he had contacted all 39 tribal leaders about these proposed changes and got favorable comment from 27 or so which were positive. Ms. Roth responded that she had spoken with her Chief about the modified changes being proposed and their only concern was who would subsidize the course requirements and tuition. Chair Parrish responded that his tribe's language program is currently paying the salaries for the Choctaw Nation language teachers who would be interested in obtaining this certification. Mr. Crimmins responded that his district teaches Kiowa and Comanche with certified and non-certified teachers. The district had to go through the tribe to certify one of their teachers which are paid through Title VII funds. Chair Parrish brought up another issue with the grade level which gave an approved teacher the ability to teach K-12 or any grade level which should be included in proposed changes. Ms. Goins responded that this should be addressed in Sec. 104c which would mention grade level. She asked for continued input from the field for those who have an interest in this particular issue. She mentioned the Administrative Procedures Act process which provides for the approval of these changes through the legislature if nothing happens to oppose these changes. Chair Parrish stated that this policy modification was very historical to Oklahoma tribal languages in its impact and significance. Ms. McCormick asked if a notification could be resent to tribes about this public hearing process. Mr.

Pickering stated that an announcement could be sent to tribes in the next few days. Chair Parrish called for a recess for lunch. Mr. Crimmins moved to recess for lunch until 12:35 which was seconded by Esther Bell. Motion passed 11-0.

B. Recess for lunch – Provided by the Choctaw Nation

C. Meeting reconvened at 12:35 with a vote of 11-0.

D. OCIE Annual Meeting - Ms. Harjo reported on the Annual OCIE Conference held in December, 2012, at Tulsa, OK. She mentioned the upcoming Oklahoma Indian Student Honor Society and the Oklahoma Indian Challenge Bowl as events sponsored by OCIE annually. She mentioned that the OCIE Board of Directors has asked that the OACIE post minutes of each meeting held by the Council. Ms. Hensley asked what the membership was for the OCIE Board and Ms. Harjo responded that there are 20 Board of Director's Meeting.

E. Office of the BIE remaining in Oklahoma – Chair Parrish asked Mr. Anderson for a report on the potential move of the Bureau of Indian Education Oklahoma City office. Mr. Anderson mentioned that Monte Russell was being appointed temporarily to serve as Acting Director of the BIE and that he was willing to reconsider this potential move in light of the impact of sequestration. He mentioned that he had spoken with Supt. Barresi and she was supportive of that office remaining in Oklahoma due to the number of tribes that reside in Oklahoma. Sequestration will have a huge impact on Indian education during the next few months. He mentioned the need for contact with Oklahoma legislature to get their support for keeping the Oklahoma City office in the state. He stated that he would send some background information to the Council for them to review and send. Ms. McCormick mentioned that her tribe has always included information in its treaties. Mr. Anderson said that Indian affairs should be equivalent to the Veteran's Affairs office since we are connected through treaties and that should be the basis of our relationship with the U.S. government. He stated that sheer numbers of tribal members in Oklahoma should dictate that the office should stay here. He stated that as information comes out he would forward it on to the Council. Ms. Harjo remarked to the new OACIE members that the BIE oversees the JOM program in Oklahoma and there are thousands of students that will be affected by the proposed move. Ms. McCormick asked how many people would be in the Oklahoma City office and Mr. Anderson responded that there are three or four personnel who would be impacted.

F. NACIE Annual Report - Mr. Anderson stated that a small group of members of the National Advisory Council for Indian Education meets each year to prioritize the primary issues for Indian education that will be submitted to Congress and the President . The report was written in May, 2012. He mentioned that Priority #7 dealt with native languages that would impact tribes nationally. He stated that NACIE is working on the 2013 Report at this time and that he would forward that report once it is finalized. He stated that he would be happy to include information from OACIE as an example of success stories that are happening here in Oklahoma. He mentioned that Secretary Duncan attends the NACIE meetings as well as Mr. Bill Mendoza who serves as the Executive Director of the White House Initiative on American Indian and Alaska Native Education. He asked members of OACIE to contact him with any information connected to Indian education that they wanted to be considered at the national level.

G. Results of the performance of Native American students on last year's state testing –

Chair Parrish asked Mr. Pickering to share any information on the performance of American Indian students in the state of Oklahoma. Mr. Pickering responded that he brought some copies of a report of the Oklahoma Educational Indicators Program from the Office of Accountability which was issued in April 2012. This report covers information about the level of performance of American Indian students for the past year. Chair Parrish remarked that once information is completed for the current year then comparisons should be made about American Indian students' academic performance. He commented that once these scores come in, the Council might ask for a report for the OSDE Reading Director about the performance of American Indian students to see what strategies might be implemented to address areas of need. Mr. Pickering stated that he has visited with staff members of the Office of Accountability to keep this information before the Council so that recommendations could be made based on these types of statistics.

H. Education Bills of the 2013 legislative session - Chair Parrish opened discussion on current legislation and the process that is occurring this year in the state of Oklahoma. He distributed information about what education legislation that districts are keeping track of this year. He stated that the Cooperative Council of School Administrators helps to monitor legislation for them. He mentioned that dollars are connected with the legislation that is important to districts. He stated that sequestration will cause a 5% cut to district funding and that will mostly come in Impact Aid. Mr. Crimmins mentioned that those cuts will occur this year and that most of the pending cuts will not occur until after July 1. He said that districts have received prior year funding so that cuts will not be a part of those funds. He stated that the Ad Valorem tax rollback will have the greatest impact this coming year. County Tax Assessors cannot increase property taxes more than 3% because of this law which was passed in November, 2012. Three sources of funding for public schools have impacted districts this year: local ad valorem taxes, State Question 766 which exempted intangible taxes that cost schools \$55 million a year, and sequestration which could impact districts with cuts from 5% to 8% in the coming year. He mentioned that Supt. Barresi asked the legislature for an additional \$100 million in state appropriations in July but that would be offset by the reduced revenue on the horizon. Chair Parrish said that Supt. Barresi should be commended for working with the legislature to ensure that the gap is not bigger. Mr. Crimmins stated that legislators should hear about these concerns. He stated that the hot topics for CCOSA and the State School Board Association are legislation pertaining to tribal charter schools (SB 573) which would allow anyone to establish a charter school commission to oversee that process; school election legislation which would set local school elections to coincide with the national election date every other year; the A-F Grade system for districts which was reviewed by state researchers funded by CCOSA which changes the lowest quartile scores; and school safety which puts guns in schools through Council on Law Enforcement and Education Training (CLEET) processes. Chair Parrish responded that CCOSA and the State School Board Association monitors these legislative bills from an administrative perspective. Mr. Crimmins mentioned that he is President-elect of the National Council of Federally Impacted Schools and is President of Oklahoma State Impact Aid Association. There are 288 districts out of 522 school districts in Oklahoma which receive Impact Aid funding.

I. A-F Research Report - Chair Parrish distributed information on the research information which was presented for proposed changes that are now being considered by the Oklahoma State Department of Education. He stated that the research was funded by CCOSA. He mentioned that there is legislation currently being considered this session that will provide changes for that process. He asked the membership to study the information before them and come up with their own conclusions about this process. He mentioned that CCOSA will meet this fall to consider how the new legislation would affect Indian education.

J. Sequestration and its effect on Indian Education - Chair Parrish stated that this subject has been discussed previously in the Council meeting.

K. Native Class Act - Chair Parrish stated that comments were being taken on this legislation until March 1st which would have been presented to the Council for the last meeting which was postponed. He stated that one of the main elements tribes needed to be considered was the issue of the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) which tribal education departments needed to have access to tribal students' information such as for attendance or poor performance in academics. Tribes have had to make adjustments based on FERPA that would be addressed through this Native CLASS Act. Chair Parrish mentioned the Data Sharing Tool which was being modeled by the Choctaw Nation with the Oklahoma State Department of Education.

L. Discussion on April 10 Meeting - Chair Parrish asked Mr. Pickering if a room had been secured at the Capitol and he responded that he had secured a room next to the Blue Room on the 2nd Floor. He will double check on this room before the next meeting. Chair Parrish asked if the Council would like to have the next meeting at the Capitol. Mr. Crimmins responded that he would suggest that Chair Parrish make that decision based on discussion he had with the Native American Caucus of the legislature. Mr. Pickering stated that he had the room reserved from 7:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. Chair Parrish stated that he would like a list of members of the Native American Caucus so that he could extend an invitation to them for the next meeting. He reminded the Council that it needed someone to take leadership of the reauthorization for continuing OACIE. Ms. Hensley stated that she is meeting with Rep. Pittman and could ask if she would be willing to sponsor that legislation for next year. Ms. Harjo stated that she would request OCIE to assist with refreshments for the next meeting.

10. Adjournment - Chair Parrish thanked the Council for their attendance. Mr. Crimmins made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Ms. Harjo. The motion passed 10-0.

Next meeting: April 10, 2013

Minutes were provided by Jacob Tsotigh, Recording Secretary for the Oklahoma Advisory Council for Indian Education, on April 8, 2013 and approved on _____