

**Oklahoma Advisory Council for Indian Education  
Quarterly Meeting  
Comanche Nation Tribal Complex – Lawton, OK  
Thursday, November 8, 2012**

- I. Welcome – Ray Rodgers, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:14 a.m.
- II. Roll Call – Greg Anderson, Esther Bell, Tom Crimmins, Lucyann Harjo (arrived at 10:51 a.m.), Mary McCormick, Jim Parrish, Dr. Joe Robinson (Twila Green), Ray Rodgers, Dwight Pickering – Present. Lori Hamilton, Dr. Houston Davis, Lisa John, Paul Pinkerton, Dr. James King, Dr. Henrietta Mann, Gena Timberman – Absent. Guests present were Sen. Don Barrington of Lawton, Quinton RomanNose,
- III. Invocation and welcome remarks were given by Chairman Wallace Coffey, Comanche Nation Tribal Chair. Remarks were made by Sen. Don Barrington. He said that education was important for parents to be involved with. He spoke of his parents influence on his life.
- IV. Review and Action on Minutes September 18, 2012 - Chair Rodgers asked to table the motion until a quorum was obtained. Motion to approve the minutes by Mr. Crimmins which was seconded by Ms. Bell. Motion passed 8-0.
- V. Chair Rodgers welcomed visitors and acknowledged their presence.
- VI. **Old Business**

**A. Report on NIEA –**

Chairman Rodgers spoke about the recent Conference and that he assisted the Local Planning Committee and served as a Welcome representative at the Will Rogers World Airport. He remarked that he attended mostly higher education workshops while at the conference. He gave statistics on the number of high school students who go on to higher education and the huge percentage that don't make it to graduation. Ms. McCormick gave an overview of her attendance and asked that the Conference Program be given to Council members and State Department employees as a resource. Mr. Anderson remarked that he was thankful for Mr. RomanNose's leadership during the conference. He expressed gratitude for Oklahoma's image among national Indian education leaders and that it went well. Mr. Crimmins was impressed by the opening session and was pleased by the speakers at the Conference. He was thankful for the State Department picking up the registration costs. Mr. Parrish said that he learned a lot at the conference mostly on native languages. He was pleased to visit with people from other states. He was impressed with the Oklahoma History Center and thankful for the facilities. Chair Rodgers urged the Council to share the good work of Oklahoma programs that are now taking place. Mrs. McCormick said that she was pleased with the BIE leadership and wanted the Council to hear from them at some point. Oklahoma is a hub and the center of Indian Country that should be highlighted among national Indian education programs. Mr. Tsotigh announced that the

University of Oklahoma has been awarded a grant for the South Central Regional Comprehensive Center which will have Indian education as one of its priorities for the next five years. Chair Rodgers suggested that we might meet at the University of Oklahoma hosted by South Central Comprehensive Center. Mr. Anderson commented on upcoming realignment of the BIE that might close the office in Oklahoma City and Muskogee. Chair Rodgers asked Mr. Anderson to draft a resolution which puts the Council on record as being against such realignment. Mr. Anderson stated that he will forward a letter that might be submitted individually by Council members that the BIE continue to operate an office in Oklahoma. Chair Rodgers announced that the National JOM Conference would be here in Oklahoma and that the OCIE Conference would be in Tulsa on Dec. 5-6, 2012.

**B. Update on Native Language Competencies –**

Mr. Pickering gave a report on the progress of the Native Language Committee which will make recommendations on the certification process for native language instructors. The Committee includes superintendents, public school teachers, tribal language program directors, university instructors, and Indian education directors. The Committee has met twice and will meet one final time on Friday, Nov 9<sup>th</sup>, at the Embassy Suites in Norman. The Committee will complete its work and forward recommendations to the State Board of Education. Mr. Parrish explained that the recommendations would be forwarded to the Governor's office for review and change of policy. He was pleased with the composition of the Committee and the work that was derived as a result of the Indian Education Task Force.

**C. Update on OACIE Open Positions –**

Mr. Pickering has met with Ms. Hensley, the Governor's Tribal Liaison, and heard what the process will be for replacement of members who have resigned. The deadline for applications will be on Monday, Nov. 12<sup>th</sup>, and the Governor will make her recommendations on three positions that have been open. Ms. McCormick suggested that Jana Roth would make a good candidate. Chair Rodgers mentioned that he has met with Ms. Hensley and that she understood what the process was and that the Governor was making due diligence to move this process forward. Mr. Anderson what the language of the letter of recommendation consisted of and how that would take place. Mr. Parrish gave an overview of who made recommendations from which agency. Mr. Pickering stated that the Governor's office was looking at the attendance information for the Council meetings and that could be a factor in soliciting candidates for the Council.

**D. Report on Interim Study – Funding for SDE Indian Education Office**

Mr. Tsotigh gave an overview of the efforts being made through the Legislature that would appropriate funding for additional components of the

**E. Distribute 2012 Legislative and Budget Process Overview**

Chair Rodgers gave information on the Legislative Review Process for the potential of Indian education legislation. He distributed copies of a handout developed by the Oklahoma Policy Institute

## **F. New Business**

### **A. School Grade Card, Report on Schools with High Indian Student Populations**

Chair Rodgers submitted comments from Member Lisa John who stated that the grading system did not seem to follow the traditional grading scale. Chair Rodgers remarked that his district did really well on the Report Card grade. Mr. Crimmins reported that over 300 school districts were opposed to this new system. He stated that how the system arrived at the grade was questionable. He remarked that his district was confused about how the scores were arrived. He suggested that another system needs to be developed which addresses common concerns but he was glad that it was released. He stated that test scores were 33% of the report card grade, 17% is based on improvement of the lower ¼ of student performance, and that students need to take these tests more seriously. He suggested that 100% of test scores should be factored but his colleagues warned him against such a formula. He suggested that the grading system should be made more simple so that people could understand. He said he was glad it was released to get the pain over with. Chair Rodgers asked the Council had considered what to do with the OMAT. Mr. Parrish remarked that the Legislature is continuing to conduct studies on the process of school report card grades. Mr. Crimmins lamented that there has not been involvement from local school districts and input was not made from practitioners. He stated that the Report Cards were primarily developed by the State Department of Education.

### **LUNCH BREAK**

### **A. School Grade Card, Report on Schools with High Indian Student Populations (cont'd)**

Mr. Crimmins stated that the State Board of Education would make any changes that needed to be made to the School Report Card system currently in place. Mr. Pickering stated that he reviewed the demographics of districts and that he didn't find any significant concern for particular tribal jurisdictions. He stated that there will be a breakdown of demographics coming out soon. He said that the State Department's website had all the School Report Card grades. Chair Rodgers asked where the largest Indian education programs were. Mr. Pickering responded that Oklahoma City and Tulsa had the largest Indian student populations. Mr. Rodgers asked Mr. Pickering to send a list of school districts with the number Indian students enrolled. Ms. Harjo remarked that the Oklahoma City metro area has over 14,000 Indian students in school districts. She stated her concern for moving the BIE out of Oklahoma because the Oklahoma City office gave important oversight to these school districts. Mr. Anderson said that the BIE might be moving to Rapid City or Minneapolis which both have less Indian population than Oklahoma. He stated that the move was mostly political with reservation tribes being more vocal and get more attention. He stated that from a numbers standpoint Oklahoma deserved consideration.

### **B. Recommend the OACIE Needs to Adopt Recommendations**

Chair Rodgers asked Ms. McCormick for her input on adoption of recommendations. Ms. McCormick encouraged the Council to submit recommendations at every meeting to Supt. Barresi and the State Board of Education. She asked for the Council's help in formulating recommendations especially as they relate to culture. She made remarks about Daylight Savings Time. She stated that students must be able to read and write. She remarked on the need for students taking remedial courses out of high school which is a duplication of what they should have had before getting to higher education. Ms. McCormick remarked that students needed more discipline. She stated that not all students needed a college education. Some are prepared for a career rather than higher education. She made comments on the need for special education programs for our students. She encouraged students to become involved in extracurricular activities for their health and well-being. She remarked that students need to learn to be respectful. She stated that teachers need to receive the bulk of local resources. She asked if the Council had passed 5 resolutions that needed to be forwarded on to the State Board of Education. She remarked that the Council should invite members of the Board of Education to attend future Council meetings. She stated that she wanted more interaction with the State Supt. and the State Board of Education. She commented that the Council members should submit their stories for others to learn from. She stated that Jana Roth of Broken Arrow would like to serve on the Council and that it should consider her nomination. She urged the Council to act in a timely manner to meet deadlines. She asked for national speakers to be invited to come to Oklahoma.

### **C. Approval of Annual Report for OACIE**

Chair Rodgers apologized for not having an Annual Report and encouraged members to submit their comments to him to be included in that report. He asked Mr. Pickering for the date of the next meeting of the Oklahoma State Board of Education. Mr. Pickering thought it was in December 19<sup>th</sup> and he would need items to be submitted at least 10 days prior to that meeting for consideration of the Board agenda. Chair Rodgers asked the Council if it wishes to submit information to the State Board at that time. Mr. Anderson asked if the members might review the following items:

- a. Hosting NIEA
- b. School Report Cards
  - i. State that the Council has heard from Michael Flory at SDE
  - ii. Need outside representation/practitioners - educators
- c. Membership of OACIE
  - i. Need clarification of qualification
- d. Website link that includes updates and information on Council
- e. Resolution supporting the Interim Study
  - i. Appropriation requests
- f. Resolution supporting the Native Language Certification
- g. Support native language instruction in public schools
- h. Reviewed state standards for social studies
- i. Resolution to support more cultural curriculum in classrooms

Chair Rodgers remarked that more input could be submitted to him for consideration.

#### **D. Election of Officers for 2013**

Ms. McCormick nominated Mr. Parrish for Chair for 2013. Mr. Crimmins seconded the nomination. The Council voted unanimously for Mr. Parrish to serve next year as Chair.

Mr. Rodgers asked for nominations for Vice-Chair. Ms. Bell nominated Ms. Harjo to serve. Seconded by Mr. Pickering. The Council voted unanimously for Ms. Harjo to serve as Vice-Chair.

Mr. Rodgers asked if Mr. Tsoitigh would like to remain as Recording Secretary. Motion made by Mr. Crimmins and seconded by Mr. Parrish. The Council voted unanimously for Mr. Tsoitigh to serve as Recording Secretary.

#### **E. Selection of Quarterly Meeting Dates for 2013**

Mr. Parrish stated that the January meeting might be too soon. He stated that the Legislative Session should provide more information on pertinent legislation while its in session. Mr. Rodgers reminded that the Council heard previously that meeting in the morning was best for the Legislature. Mr. Crimmins agreed that meeting early in the morning would be a good way to communicate with the legislators. Mr. Parrish reminded the Council that it needed to be cognizant of the legislative process for it to be proactive. Mr. Crimmins gave a brief overview of the process. He suggested that late in February would be the best time to meet with legislators. He stated that the Council needs to get behind Supt. Barresi's budget. Mr. Parrish asked if the Council was bound by quarterly meetings. Mr. Pickering stated that the Council could call a special meeting and that he would check with counsel. Mr. Pickering stated that the Council had to set its meetings by Dec. 15<sup>th</sup> to be official. Mr. Parrish asked if the Council could set its meeting dates any date during the next quarter – January to March. Ms. Bell suggested that the Council might meet three weeks after the opening or the legislative session. Chair Rodgers asked if the Council might want to hear more information on where money is spent that is taken in for the compact agreements. Mr. Parrish suggested that the Council avoid Feb. 14<sup>th</sup> because he has a special Valentine. He suggested the first meeting of the new year be held on Wednesday, Feb. 13<sup>th</sup>, at the State Department of Education at 10:00 a.m. Chair Rodgers suggested that the Council ask a tribe to host a breakfast meeting for legislators.

1. February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2013 - OSDE
2. April 10, 2013 - State Capitol
3. July 10, 2013 – Muscogee Nation College
4. October 9, 2013 – University of Oklahoma

Announcements:

- VII. Oklahoma Council for Indian Education Annual Conference – Dec. 5-6, 2012 in Tulsa, OK
- VIII. Sapulpa Public Schools Annual Pow-Wow, Saturday, Nov. 10th

Meeting adjourned at 1:40 p.m.