

Iowa Dyslexia Board - Meeting Minutes

April 23, 2024 - 10:00 am-2:30 pm

Meeting minutes taken by Barb Anderson

CALL TO ORDER–

Present: Kristen Craig, Kay Stork, Tammy Wilegenbusch, Wanda Steuri, Barb Anderson, Shane Williams, Nina Lorimor-Easley, Katie Greving, Bambi Bogg and James Northwick,

Virtually: Ben Walizer

Absent: Kara Wishman, Matt Crestinger, Stephanie Edgren

Guests: Kimberly Buryanek, Niki Hodous –new staff IRRC Program Manager for Operations

Welcome

1. Introductions: Introduced Niki Hodous, new staff at Iowa Reading Research Center
2. Public Comment: No public comment
3. Approve Agenda: Nina motioned to approve the Tammy second, motion carried.
4. Approval of Meeting Minutes: Katie moved to approve minutes. Nina seconded. Motion carried.
5. Board Member Announcements/updates:
 - a. Nina provided an update on the Grandview program. Teaching and leadership turnover. Ben Iowa Code requires that the IRRC oversee approval of programs. The IRRC needs to determine their protocol/policy if there are any concerns regarding a program's quality given the limited level of authority of the IRRC to sanction programs that do not meet standards. Ben states that they will approach it in a positive manner with the program, providing the opportunity for the college to fill the position with qualified staff. Members voiced support of the action.
 - b. Katie Greving–Decoding Dyslexia Conference will October 28 and 29, 2024 in Iowa. Registration will open within the next 30 days.
 - c. Shane Williams–2 of the largest districts within his AEA region have purchased HQ materials that support the science of reading. Teachers need both the HQ materials, paired with the professional development. One district has field tested it with positive results and is implementing it district wide. Nina reminded everyone that implementation takes several years and hard work to show the results.

Report from the Department of Education

Wanda Steuri provided an update on the Department of Education's work progress.

- A. LETRS training - Training is going well. Nearly 50% of the licenses are filled.
- B. Lexia received feedback from the LETRS virtual, synchronous trainings. 728 participants responded who engaged in the training between Feb 12- April 10. 96% stated that the

session content will enhance their ability to use evidence-based instruction. 98% will use the skills in their content area in their school.

- C. The Bridge to Practice component was one of the positive components of LETRS training.
- D. Literacy Standards. The second team is working on the Standards now. They reviewing the public comment. The State Board will review on May 9. Wanda provided an overview of the improvements to the Literacy Standards. Nina noted that she observed a stronger understanding of the Science of Reading reflected in the standards.
- E. Wanda provided support to Sterling with the Dyslexia Handbook.
- F. The Department of Education / AEA professional learning action plan is still being developed. The goal is to have the same high quality professional learning regardless of where you live in Iowa.
- G. The State Literacy Team asked Wanda to present on dyslexia. She welcomed the opportunity to share her knowledge. She shared some of the characteristics of students who may be struggling with dyslexia as well as the best instructional approaches.
- H. Wanda has been connecting with the Department's Communication team to push out important information on dyslexia and the science of reading.
- I. Wanda will be presenting to the State Board on May 9 on the Dyslexia Board's work.
- J. Dr. Buryanek reported that the Department had RFP for high quality materials. This will provide recommendations for high quality instructional materials. This gives districts a place to start and not have to do all of the work alone. It will also provide a negotiated priceline that districts will use with the publishers for purchase.
- K. A Board Member asked what supports Lexia provides for teachers in follow up to implementation. Dr. Buryanek said that she will take this question back to meetings with Lexia.

IRRC Update

Ben Walizer provided an update on the Iowa Reading Research Center (IRRC).

- a. Update on the IRRC Director Search
- b. Current Projects:
 - i. LIFTR - *Letter Identification and Formation for Transcription and Early Reading*
 - ii. Small Group Instruction Tools
 - iii. Academy for District Decision-Makers
 - iv. University of Iowa Baker Teacher Leader Center Teacher Education Workshop Series - 80 to 90 attendees
 - v. Instructional material review beginning this summer - working with the Department focused on the elements of structured literacy. Plan to release a summary report later in the summer. Hope to have evaluations for the curriculums.
- c. Dyslexia Specialist Endorsement Program Updates
 - i. 6 new endorsees awarded in January 2024 from the University of Iowa program. This program now has 27 total endorsees across the state.
 - ii. June 1 is the deadline for the next University of Iowa program applications. A related Dyslexia bill for scholarships did not move forward in the past session.
- d. Dyslexia Overview Module
 - i. Over 27,000 completions as of April 1.
- e. District Consults

- i. 29 Different Districts this school year- This new focus supporting direct support to districts has grown this year. Acknowledged IRRRC staff's hard work to make it possible.
 - ii. Almost 100 trainings/PDs. An area of focus has been on implementation of MTSS.
 - f. New Content:
 - i. Blog Posts:
 - 1. Intensification of Instruction to Maximize Instructional Time and Practice Opportunities
 - 2. Rethinking How We Teach Literacy in Tier 1: Targeted, Small-Group Instruction
 - ii. Research Article of the Month
 - 1. Relations Between Reading and Writing: A Longitudinal Examination From Grades 3 to 6
 - 2. A Meta-Analysis on the Optimal Cumulative Dosage of Early Phonemic Awareness Instruction
 - iii. New Podcast
 - 1. Speaking of Literacy: The Role of Speech-Language Pathology in Reading and Writing Development
 - 2. A Novel Idea listening guides
 - g. Iowa Science of Reading Summit July 18-19, 2024 in Cedar Rapids
 - i. 700 Attendees
 - ii. Keynotes and Featured Speakers:
 - 1. Kareem Weaver
 - 2. Steve Dykstra
 - 3. Elsa Cárdenas-Hagan
 - Workshop presenters are being announced. Licensure Renewal Credits are available. 15 sponsors and exhibitors, Instructional materials, Graduate programs, Consulting services
 - h. Nicole Hodous demonstrated the LIFTR tool and an overview of the resources that teachers will have access to. The tool is still in development and will be launched by next school year. They will have a session dedicated to the tool at their Summit. Nina explained the connection between reading, writing, hearing, say it. The research on writing led to the commitment and development of the tool.

Iowa Dyslexia Board Meeting Dates:

Proposed Dates:

- Thursday, September 19, 2024
- Tuesday, October 22, 2024
- Tuesday, December 3, 2024
- Tuesday, February 25, 2024
- Thursday, April 24, 2024
- All meetings will be at the Department of Education from 10:00am-2:30pm.

Sterling Literacy Dyslexia Handbook:

Angi Wiegel, Sterling Literacy, joined virtually to facilitate activity to gather feedback on the Dyslexia Handbook. Angi shared a video welcome from Dr. Hall.

Members reviewed handbook layout options. Members reviewed the format and content and provided feedback on the draft handbook.

Member Discussion: Angi Wiegel took notes [Note Catcher for Dyslexia Handbook Feedback to Sterling](#)

Nina moved that there be a sub committee to work with Wanda on drafting Iowa specific content for the Dyslexia handbook. Katie G seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

The following Board members volunteered to serve on the Board Committee—Nina, Krisen Craig, Tammy and James volunteered to work with Wanda. Angi will join the first meeting.

Dyslexia Legislative News (if needed):

- Katie Greving provided an update on related legislative update. The scholarship program did not pass. The Dyslexia Board is approved through 2027, and described a bill that any child who is not performing at grade level must have a reading plan.
- Shane provided an update that the AEAs are focusing on how to continue to best serve students and families during this transition. A concern is the loss of staff.

Measuring Impact of Iowa Dyslexia Board

Wanda reviewed the planned activity/process to gather input on measuring impact of the board. Board completed SWAT activity.

Member Discussion:

Outcomes (goals) for the Board are below:

1. Handbook—Committee to help with the Dyslexia Handbook
2. Higher Ed/Teacher Prep- This Board has a unique position in influencing teacher prep that IRRC does not have. We will work to provide input regarding how to promote the results of teacher prep. assessment.
3. Develop Communication Plan across the broad areas - How do we share the great work happening across Iowa related to dyslexia so that the information is shared beyond the Board.
4. Our participation as a Board in facilitating feedback from stakeholders and communicating findings.

Future work will include identifying the inputs and outputs for each outcome.

Updates from Director Snow

- Summer Reading Program. The Department has issued an RFP that will evaluate summer reading programs.
- HF 2612 - AEA bill
- HF 2618 - Department will issue technical assistance for the foundations of reading assessment for teacher candidates, each school district will allow

retention upon parent request for students below grade level in reading, and the development of personal reading plans for all students below grade level in reading. We will lean on the expertise of this board as we develop this technical assistance.

- HF 2618 - Student expanded standards for teacher preparation programs. Teacher prep. must administer Foundations of Reading test to teacher candidates. It eliminated 3-cueing and practices that are not evidence based. With this legislation, the Department will lean on the expertise of the Dyslexia Board for feedback and recommendations.
- HF 2545 - Core Content Standards and curriculum bill.
- Question for the Board to consider—What other professional learning, not as intensive as the Literacy Endorsement, would the Board recommend be provided for all teachers?

Next Steps to Consider for Next Meeting

1. Kara has submitted resignation to the Board. Next steps for Board membership are being approved through Department Leadership. Asked that any other members who are considering ending their terms, please let Wanda know so she may be helpful moving forward.

Adjourn

1. Nina moved to adjourn; James seconded. Meeting adjourned at 2:23 pm