

Iowa Dyslexia Board - Meeting Minutes

September 19, 2024 - 10:00 am-2:30 pm

Meeting minutes taken by Wanda Steuri

Present: Bambi Boggs, Matt Crestinger, Shawn Datchuk, Michelle Geistkemper, Megan Hunemuller, Nina Lorimor-Easley, Katy Severe, Tina Wahlert (As appointed by McKenzie Snow), Wanda Steuri, Kay Stork, Shane Williams

Virtually: Katie Greving, James Northwick, Tammy Wilgenbusch, Tom Wood

Absent: Kim Buryanek, Kristen Craig,

Guests: Lindsay Harrison

Welcome

1. Meeting called to order at 10:02am and Introduction of Board Members
2. Public Comment Lindsey Grow introduced herself as a member of the Iowa Dept of Ed and As a member of the public. Shared information related to the Department of Higher Education. No others signed up for public comment.

Approve Meeting Minutes and Agenda

1. Approve agenda - Moved by Matt seconded by Nina to approve the agenda. Motion approved by Board.
2. Review of April Minutes - Time for board review of minutes. Nina moved to approve the minutes. Bambi seconded. Motion approved by Board.
3. Board Meeting Procedures review by Board members. Asked for clarifications or items we need to elaborate. It was asked when items could be added to the agenda. Wanda responded that items are added to the last slide during the meeting. The agenda posted one week ahead of time. Changes typically are not made after that time.
4. Election of Officers - Wanda nominated Shane as chair of the Board. Bambi seconded. Nina motion to close nominations. James seconded. Roll call vote = Matt-Yes, Bambi - yes, Megan-yes, Wanda-yes, Nina-yes, Katy-yes, Kay-yes, Katie yes, Tina-yes, Michelle-yes, James-yes, Tammy-yes. Shawn-yes. Motion carried.
5. Nominations for vice chair Matt nominated Wanda. Bambi Seconded. Katie nominated Nina. Bambi seconded. Wanda declined the nomination and Nina accepted the nomination. Roll call vote - Shane-yes, Matt yes Bambi yes megan yes wanda yes Katy yes kay yes tina yes michelle yes shawn yes katie g yes tammy yes James yes. Motion carried.
6. Board member announcements and updates –

- a. Thank the Department for supporting LETRS training positive experience,
- b. Bambi's school district will celebrate Dyslexia Awareness Month with a bulletin board in schools. In addition, every school will have all of books they own connected to dyslexia on top of library shelves for the month.
- c. Shawn shared that IDA just announced it has formed a task force to revise the definition of dyslexia. In the current edition of Annals of Dyslexia, different researchers on the task force included information on how they would like for the definition to shift.
- d. Shawn asked about Iowa Code 1a Dyslexia consultant position to be held by the Department of Education. Wanda stated it is her. He also asked about the July 1, 2024 deadline for AEA specialists for every AEA. It was shared that this has not been in the appropriations, so it is not required. Wanda shared that as of last fall, we had one dyslexia specialist in each AEA. She is not sure of the current situation. In the past funding was provided by the Department of Education to pay for AEA employees to be certified. Several AEAs had a second person certified as well. Shane stated he would find out the current dyslexia endorsees for each AEA and will update the Board in the future. Nina asked if the dyslexia specialist fall under special education funding for the AEAs. Shane stated future discussion will be needed on this. Tina also wondered if it was a position listed in code in 2612. This is additional information that will need to be found out. Shane shared that he department has been great partners with the AEA to move this work forward. This board has a major role to play for dyslexia specialists across Iowa. Tina will add this topic on the agenda for the weekly chief meeting and can bring information back to the Board as well.
- d. Katie shared that DDIA is planning for their October conference. She asked the Board to outreach to ask people to come. There are many events coming up for parents this year. During September of 2024, Sheraton is holding a general dyslexia information and simulation for families. The plan from DDIA is that they will do the same thing in other parts of the State in the future. There has also been communication with legislators asking about the board and endorsees. Biggest concern is that the endorsement is accessible for educators across the state. Also funding for scholarships is being brought up. There are legislators who are very tuned in to the work we are doing.
- e. Update from Grandview university graduated first cohort of dyslexia endorsees. There are 19 individuals in the second cohort. Katy thanked Lindsay for work done to get this initially set up at Grandview.
- f. Shawn inquired as to if the Dyslexia Specialist Endorsement falls under the guidance of the Dyslexia Board. Wanda shared that the legislation is under the guidance of the IRRC and the board provided extra oversight for the endorsement program. IRRC has authorization authority. Katie discussed the task force and updates for dyslexia in Iowa and provided information on Dyslexia Endorsement Program approvals from IRRC and BOEE. Deborah Reed worked with the administrative rules, open for public comment,

and then adopted. Shawn shared content standards for endorsement were developed in collaboration with the IRRC. Wanda suggested the Board ask Thomas Mayes in October to discuss legislative roles.

g. Iowa branch IDA – Tammy stated it is a mostly active board. They are in need of a treasurer and in need of a president elect. They have a bookclub going right now. The education chair put it together with the book Uncovering the Logic of English by Denise Eide. Tammy is going to the National IDA conference and will be getting official copies of the latest edition of the Perspectives Magazine which will include information about structured literacy. Reach out to Tammy if you would like a copy as they would love these distributed throughout Iowa.

H. Shane shared that LETRS capacity has increased dramatically throughout the last year. More districts are starting to use structured literacy programs, such as CKLA. The AEA is working with stakeholders to use their literacy program in conjunction with their PD knowledge to provide best instruction for children.

Department of Education Updates

1. The Iowa Dyslexia Handbook View - A suggestion was made to check with the Department regarding language and heading, "Social Emotional Impact". See if we can use Iowa kids in photos. (Check with Heather Doe.) Shawn stated that Iowa is a non-categorical state. Will the dyslexia handbook represent this correctly? What have we done with the term dyslexia being used across state? Shane spoke on behalf of Board that we do not have an official position. Wanda stated that we use the language 'Characteristics of Dyslexia'. There was then a Board discussion about the designation of dyslexia, and where we fit, as a Board, within this discussion. We discussed our role on Board what it means for students with dyslexia and for families.
2. The Board decided to devote time to this conversation in the future as a possible agenda item. We want to maintain alignment with the Department of Education and want to know how to support dyslexia across the state in order to provide our feedback or thoughts to various groups when asked.
3. Additional Department of education updates included the newly revised Iowa Academic Standards for English Language Arts, the [2024 Iowa Academic Standards for English Language Arts Implementation Resources Guidebook](#) which contains the professional learning related to the Iowa Academic Standards that was given over the summer, the LETRS professional learning and that for the moment registration is paused, representation from multiple Bureaus within the Department of Education in taking LETRS, the model Personalized Reading Plan in response to HF 2618 and the fact that there is a retention component in the legislation, and an update of the Professional Learning Plan being created by the AEA Dyslexia Endorsees under the leadership of Wendy Robinson and the Department of Education with representation by Wanda Steuri.

Working lunch and 2023-2024 Dyslexia Board Meeting Review

1. Board members used a document to capture the information from the five Dyslexia Board meetings from last year that they want to include in this year's Legislative Report. Past and newly appointed members were paired up for this work, but most individuals chose to work independently.

Review of November 2023 Legislative Report

1. Throughout this time, additional conversations occurred related to the right items to report out on in the report. Wanda shared that when she started, she was given these categories to report on. Shawn thought it wasn't our responsibility to report on these items as we do not have legislative authority to do so. Conversation followed related to what it means to guide, facilitate, and oversee implementation of dyslexia instruction in Iowa and make recommendations for continued improvement of such instruction. The Board will continue these discussions in the future. For this year, it was decided that we would report on the sections as they stand.

Begin drafting November 2024 Legislative Report

1. Using the information from the working lunch, teams gathered around poster charts for each section of the Legislative Report and added information that should be included in this section of the report.
2. Nina offered to transfer the information to the draft of the Legislative Report.
3. The Board will be sent the draft prior to the next meeting to make recommendations for improvements.
4. The Board will finalize and approve the Legislative Report during the October meeting.

Next Steps / Agenda Items

1. Agenda items for the next meeting were added to the last slide.
2. Wanda reminded Board members that we try to be in person if at all possible. We need a quorum to conduct official Board business.

Meeting adjourned

1. Motion to adjourn meeting at 1:46 by Matt. Bambi second. Motion carried.