

Iowa Dyslexia Board - Meeting Minutes

October 22, 2024 - 10:00 am-2:30 pm

Meeting minutes taken by Megan Hunemuller

Present: Bambi Boggs, Matt Crestinger, Shawn Datchuk, Michelle Geistkemper, Megan Hunemuller, Katy Severe, McKenzie Snow, Wanda Steuri, Kay Stork, Shane Williams, James Northwick, Tammy Wilgenbusch, Kim Buryanek, Kristen Craig, Lindsay Harrison

Virtually: Katie Greving

Absent: Nina Lorimor-Easley, Tom Wood

Guests: NA

Welcome

1. Meeting called to order at 10am by Shane Williams.
2. Public Comment
 - a. Chad Wolfensperger shared concerns regarding middle and high school students who have fallen in the cracks and are getting lost in the shuffle. He mentioned how ISAPS does not test reading as most students are able to have it read to them, so in a sense those assessments are one-sided and the state is not getting an accurate representation of reading proficiency in the higher education levels.

Approve Meeting Minutes and Agenda

1. Approve agenda
 - a. Moved by Matt, seconded by James. Unanimously approved by the Board.
2. Board members who missed our September meeting were introduced.
3. An announcement was made that Lindsay Harrison was assigned to join the Board.
4. Approve September Minutes
 - a. Time was given to review the minutes with no questions brought forward. Tammy moved to approve the September minutes, seconded by Michelle. Unanimously approved by the board.
5. Board member announcements and updates:
 - a. Bambi - Shared a Dyslexia Awareness Month update about Ottumwa Community Schools and their displays located in each school.
 - b. Shawn - Shared and encouraged us to visit edresearchforaction.org.
 - c. Katie - Gave a shout out to Bambi as well as other endorsee holders that are positively moving the needle forward.
 - d. Megan - Shared about some DDIA presentations she participated in over the past month.

Department of Education Updates (Wanda & Director Snow)

1. They have been celebrating dyslexia awareness month in many different ways, social media updates, Bambi's story, etc.
2. Wanda has been working with Wendy Robinson from the AEA on Iowa's Dyslexia Professional Learning Plan.
3. LETRS: Round 5 is open with a start date of Jan. 2025. All other rounds are well into their studies. LETRS consists of 8 units. Each unit takes about 2 months to complete. 4300 educators are enrolled as of now across 200 Iowa districts. This also includes at least one instructor from most teacher prep schools.
4. Wanda has been added to the Early Literacy Implementation website and is working closely with others in this area.
5. Wanda attended the Chief Council of State School Officers (CCSSO) meeting for the Department's literacy team and she sat as a panelist for the Cedar Rapids Gazette regarding literacy discussion. Bambi and Shawn also joined as panelists.
6. Wanda also continued working on the Iowa Dyslexia Handbook.

After Wanda's update, individual Board members shared thoughts related to the Personalized Reading Plan and the universal screening / MTSS process.

Iowa Reading Research Center Updates (Shawn)

1. Shawn started out with some background knowledge of the IRRC. They are hosted at the University of Iowa and all staff are employees of the University of Iowa. Their focus is on development and dissemination of current research on literacy practices to PreK-12 teachers. They have authority over authorization of the Dyslexia Specialist Endorsement.
2. He then went into their legislative code, specifically Section 256.9 and 256.7 subsection
3. He explained how they are using transitional science to move forward and lessen the gap. They are using many different types of evidence.
4. He shared information about some of the 11 current projects they are working on. He talked specifically about LIFTER (already released) and CLIFTER (to come) as well as the caregiver data literacy project they are working on which has to do with the personalized reading plans.

Additional questions were taken from Board members.

Legislative Report November 2024

1. The Legislative Report was sent prior to the meeting for feedback and improvement. At the meeting, no one had any outstanding concerns, so we took a bit of time to look it over one final time.
2. After our final review, Matt moved to approve our report subject to any additional revisions needed by Director Snow and Wanda, Kim seconded. Roll call vote: James - yes, Kristen - yes, Wanda - yes, Director Snow - yes, Shane - yes, Matt - yes, Kay - yes, Tammy - yes, Shawn - yes, Katy - yes, Michelle - yes, Kimberly - yes, Bambi - yes, Megan - yes, Katie - yes. Motion carried. Approved unanimously.

Dyslexia Handbook & Working Lunch

1. Andi from Sterling Literacy joined us via zoom to provide an update on the Dyslexia Handbook. We have a magazine version and a more formal version to look through. After review of both versions, the Board provided written feedback for improvements to the handbook.

Comprehensive State Literacy Plan

1. The Board was asked to read through the first 43 pages of the Iowa State Literacy Plan and provide feedback by November 1st. We took some time to look this over and shared our thoughts based on the little bit we had time to read. Individual board members shared important feedback that was taken to the Iowa Department of Education's literacy team. In addition, questions were recorded related to the Departments AI Reading Assistant and Personalized Reading Plan.
2. It was shared that the CLSD is slated as a five year process. We are only at month six(ish) so we have time to continue to develop the plan. Wanda encouraged us all to have our feedback submitted to the Iowa Dept of Ed's literacy team by Nov 1st via the google document provided.

Guest Speaker - Thomas Mayes

1. Thomas was asked to come in and talk to us more about our specific role as the State of Iowa Dyslexia Board and answer any questions we might have. He went through a few bullet points about the role of Board members during Legislative sessions and then answered some previously submitted questions.
 - a. Lobbying is a regulated space in the state of Iowa. If you lobby, you would need to register with the state. If you are speaking on behalf of a nonprofit or a governmental agency, etc., you would need to register. Contacting representatives who are not part of your district would be considered lobbying if you're representing the Board or other group. If you are just sharing your personal concerns as a private citizen, that is not considered lobbying.
 - b. Things not considered lobbying include communicating with your own representative, giving testimony you have been asked to provide, commenting on open rules (without commenting that you are speaking on behalf of a particular group), monitoring, and advocating for/against an appointment.
 - c. If in doubt on if it is lobbying, mention that you are speaking for yourself.
2. He explained that he and/or Eric St. Clair would be happy to talk more with us as we get closer to the legislative season.
3. He reviewed 256.32a. He explained that the State of Iowa Dyslexia Board is meant to guide, facilitate and oversee anything to do with dyslexia. We can give recommendations to groups (other boards for example) on what we would like to see, but ultimately it is up to the group/board to make the final call.

Next Steps / Agenda Items

1. Agenda items for the next meeting were added to the last slide of our slide deck.
2. The next meeting date is December 3, 2024 in room B100 from 10:00am-2:30pm.

Meeting adjourned

1. Shane called to adjourn the meeting at 2:07. Moved by Tammy and seconded by James.
Approved unanimously.