

# Iowa Dyslexia Board - Meeting Minutes

December 3, 2024 - 10:00 am-2:30 pm

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Megan Hunemuller took meeting minutes

**Present:** Katie Greving, Tammy Wilgenbusch, Wanda Steuri, Shane Williams, Bambi Boggs, Kay Stork, Matt Cretsinger, Shawn Datchuk, Lindsay Harrison. Kristen Craig, Kimberly Buryanek, Katy Severe, Nina Lorimor-Easley, Megan Hunemuller, James Northwick, Michelle Geistkemper

**Virtually:** None

**Absent:** Tom Wood, Dir. McKenzie Snow

**Guests:** None

## Welcome

1. The meeting was called to order
  - a. 10:01 am by Shane Williams
2. Public Comment
  - a. None

## Approve Meeting Minutes and Agenda

1. Approve agenda
  - a. Katy moved to approve the agenda. There was a second by Bambi. The agenda was unanimously approved.
2. Approve October Minutes
  - a. Kimberly moved to approve the October minutes. There was a second by James. The October Minutes were unanimously approved.
3. Board member announcements and updates:
  - a. Tammy gave an update regarding IDA. She attended the conference, and they are considering updating the definition of dyslexia.
  - b. Lindsay was thankful for the Higher Education Literacy Workbook review some board members provided.

## Department of Education Updates (Wanda & Director Snow)

1. The distribution of decodable books for 1st graders across Iowa was released yesterday. Wanda is excited about the impact this will have on our students. She is also enthusiastic about the work done with the Dyslexia Handbook. She has been working with a team on it, which is in the final stages. She has been assigned to the early literacy implementation webpage. She works across departments to consult on dyslexia and the

Science of Reading. Wanda attended the IDA conference and enjoyed it. There is a folder with the IDA handouts for board members to view. She mentioned that LETRS round 5 is closed. This LETRS cohort will be ready to start their coursework in January.

### **Iowa Reading Research Center Updates (Shawn)**

1. Shawn gave an overview of their current projects. He reminded everyone that the IRRRC's goal is to have research at the center of everything they do. Clifter is slated to be released in the spring of '25. He also mentioned that they are looking into how to monitor fidelity (FIRST—Fidelity of Implementation and Reading Skills of Teaching). Shawn also shared that they are in the planning stages for the summer Iowa Science of Reading Summit, which will be held on July 29 and 30, 2025.

### **Dyslexia Handbook & Working Lunch**

1. We are reviewing the handbook with the goal of having it ready to send to the IA DoE leaders as soon as possible. Wanda is very interested in our feedback and provided a variety of options for how to provide it to her. She just asks that we provide feedback. After an independent review, we offered collaborative input on page 28. If possible, Wanda would like us all to work on this on our own time and return for our February meeting ready to approve the Dyslexia Handbook.

### **Updates Iowa Dyslexia Specialist Programs**

1. Grandview - Katy Severe
  - a. They are seeing tremendous growth, and potential applicants are very interested in their program. In total, 48 educators have enrolled in the program. They have had 21 graduates, and there are currently 17 enrolled in cohort 2.
2. University of Iowa - Shawn Datchuk
  - a. They have had 35 educators total enrollment in their program. They have had 25 graduates. 9 will complete their endorsement in a few weeks. They have one other who is currently enrolled.

### **Comprehensive State Literacy Plan**

1. Wanda described why we are working through the IA Literacy Plan. The Iowa State Literacy Plan is not just for the grant we received but also for House File 2545. We broke into groups of four. Each group reviewed one portion of the plan and chatted about it together. At the end of this study session, we were given time to submit our own written feedback on a form.

### **Closing Remarks**

1. Kimberly would like a dyslexia screener added to the universal assessments when FAST is reviewed. We all agreed that we would need to know more about specific screeners to feel confident submitting a recommendation from our group to the IA DoE. Wanda suggested it would be helpful to ask Greg or Conner to come to our next meeting to share information on screeners and their current selection process so we can better

understand both. We will then be prepared to make a recommendation when the time comes.

2. Matt suggested that we invite some districts in Iowa who are instructing students with dyslexia well so that we can learn about their process and instruction. Then, we could help guide other schools better. Some suggestions were ADM or Ottumwa. He also mentioned having someone with the dyslexia endorsement come in and talk to us about what's going well, how they are using their endorsement, and how we could support them further. We all agreed that a dyslexia endorsement panel would be an excellent opportunity to learn more so that we can make better decisions and suggestions.

### **Meeting adjourned**

1. Matt motioned to adjourn the meeting at 2:19 pm. Nina seconded it. It was unanimously approved.