

Iowa Dyslexia Board - Meeting Minutes

October 14, 2025 - 10:00 am-2:30 pm

Meeting minutes taken by Megan Hunemuller

Present: Katie Greving, Katryn Dougherty, Tammy Wilgenbusch, Jill White, Michelle Geistkemper, Nina Lorimor-Easley, Megan Hunemuller, Katy Severe, Shane Williams, Wanda Steuri, Lindsay Harrison, Tina Wahlert

Virtually: Tom Wood

Absent: Kristen Craig, Bambi Boggs, James Northwick, Shawn Datchuk

Guests: Leah Zimmerman (Assistance Director of IRRC, in place of Shawn)

Welcome / Public Comment

1. Meeting called to order
 - a. Shane Williams at 10am
2. Public Comment
 - a. None

Meeting Procedures

1. Approve Agenda
 - a. Motion moved by Nina, seconded by Michelle to approve today's agenda.
2. Approve September 2025 Minutes
 - a. Motion moved by Tammy, seconded by Jill. Unanimously approved.
3. Board member announcements and updates
 - a. Katie gave an update on the DDIA Educator Conference and their legislative ideas for the upcoming season.
 - b. Tammy shared the National IDA Conference happening in Atlanta later this month.
 - c. Katy gave Nina a shoutout for helping with the dyslexia endorsee program in a few different ways.

Department of Education Updates - Wanda Steuri

1. Wanda read an update from Darcy letting us know what the CLSD team has been up to. They recently held a meeting with the recipients, and they have had their first webinar. The Department is establishing a HQIM Leadership Academy to further support districts who are participating in the grant program.

2. Wanda shared an update on our current Iowa Endorsee Specialists. The Board received a link to a document to identify current dyslexia specialists and the last known place of employment according to the BOEE website.
3. Wanda was excited to share that registration for LETRS round 7 is open. It will close January 2. The Department is planning for a start date in February.
4. Wanda gave an update on the reading assistant, AMIRA. It was originally meant for T2 and T3, but now it is open to all K-5 (or 6 if included in the elementary building) through December 2026.
5. Wanda gave thanks to the Department for posting in honor of Dyslexia Awareness Month on their social media. Each post was focused on the Iowa Dyslexia handbook.

Division of Teacher Quality and Innovation Updates - Lindsay Harrison

1. Upon request from the Dyslexia board, Lindsay Harrison, from the Iowa Division of Teacher Quality and Innovation, will be sharing updates at each meeting. She shared that she just returned from the Reading League conference in Chicago
2. Lindsay gave an update on the Higher Education assessment results. This is still a work in progress and not available to the public yet.
3. The IHE review process happens every 7 years. The Division is working on making some changes.
4. Lindsay is working on a grant application that could help offer high impact tutoring provided by pre-service teachers to students in need. She is not sure if we will get it, but it is just something she is excited for.

Iowa Reading Research Center Updates - Leah Zimmerman

1. Leah gave an update on the IRRC's current workflow. The IRRC acknowledged Dyslexia Awareness Month by including testimony from an Iowa educator who recently took the dyslexia overview. Due to the learning, the individual decided to be tested and found out they are dyslexic. She is thankful for the community across Iowa who advocates for research-based dyslexia education.
2. She talked about the new handwriting assessments they have released. These are free for anyone to use. These can supplement universal screening and/or progress monitoring.
3. Leah shared the IRRC's upcoming webinars. These include making sense of literacy data for parents/caregivers and Tier 1.5 of MTSS.
4. She shared that the IRRC recently received a \$1.2 million federal grant for 14 individuals seeking advanced training in behavior and academic interventions.
5. Save the date for the IRRC Science of Reading Summit - June 16-17 of 2026 in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. They are accepting proposals for breakouts.
6. The IRRC Stakeholder survey available for feedback for priority areas for the 2027 Fiscal Year. The IRRC would really appreciate it if members from the Board complete this survey by November 1st.

Final Review and Approval Legislative Report November 2025

1. Wanda made some changes to the Legislative report since we last reviewed it. Therefore, we looked through it again with a specific focus on certain areas. We worked in groups to provide feedback on this report and then had a full board discussion.
2. Nina made a motion to approve the report subject to Wanda updating the wording of certain areas. Tammy seconded it. Roll Call Vote - Katie Greving (aye), Katryn Dougherty (aye), Tammy Willgenbusch (aye), Michelle Geistkemper (aye), Jill White (aye), Katy Severe (aye), Tina Wahlert (aye), Nina Lorimor-Easley (aye), Megan Hunemuller (aye), Shane Williams (aye), Wanda Steuri (aye). Motion passed.
 - a. Tom Wood & Lindsay Harrison - non voting members, Leah Zimmermann - unable to vote as Shawn's designee per our by-laws.

Iowa Dyslexia Board Bylaws Review and Update

1. Our bylaws were established in 2022 by past leadership, so Wanda asked us all to review it and give feedback. We did this prior to our meeting. During our working lunch, we discussed our feedback in groups. We then came back together and discussed it as a full board. Recommendations for minor changes were made. Wanda will take it back to the Department's leadership for a final review. We will vote on it at an upcoming meeting.

Thomas Mayes

1. Thomas came in and discussed our role and how we are able to specifically communicate in our communities while being members of the Board. We can identify ourselves as members of the Board, because it's a matter of public record. We need to be sure we state that we are not speaking on behalf of the Iowa Dyslexia Board.

Dyslexia Webpage Review and Update

1. One of our Board roles is reviewing our websites (Dyslexia Board and Dyslexia) and recommending changes. Time was provided to work on this. Input was given on a note catcher. Wanda will look through the items and share with the communications team for updates to the pages.

Closing Remarks / Meeting Adjourned

1. Upcoming Agenda Item Ideas:
 - a. Nina mentioned an upcoming agenda item is some time to discuss our upcoming goals and our wants/needs.
 - b. Wanda would like to see us recognize the districts that are doing well throughout our state when it comes to dyslexia.
2. Jill motioned to adjourn the meeting at 2:09pm, Nina seconded. Motion carried unanimously.