

Iowa Dyslexia Board - Meeting Minutes

April 23, 2026, - 10:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Meeting minutes taken by Megan Hunemuller

Present: Wanda Steuri, Tammy Wilgenbusch, Megan Hunemuller, Bambi Boggs, Kristen Craig, Katy Severe, Shane Williams, Katryn Dougherty, Nina Lorimor-Easley, Jill White, Michelle Geistkemper, Tina Wahlert, Brad Niebling

Virtually: None

Absent: Lindsey Harrison, Tom Wood, Kody Asmus, Katie Greving, John Speer, James Northwick

Guests: None

Welcome / Public Comment

1. Meeting called to order
 - a. Shane Williams at 10:02
2. Public Comment
 - a. None

Meeting Procedures - Shane Williams

1. Approve Agenda
 - a. Motion moved by Nina, seconded by Michelle to approve today's agenda. Unanimously approved.
2. Approve February 2026 Minutes
 - a. Motion moved by Bambi, seconded by Jill to approve February minutes. Unanimously approved.
3. Board member announcements and updates
 - a. Katy offered an update that Grandview is about to start their 4th cohort, which currently has 22 students enrolled.
 - b. Nina, Katy and Katie have been working on a dyslexia specialist directory and are hoping to make it public in the near future.

Department of Education Updates - Literacy Team

1. Comprehensive Literacy State Development grant (CLSD) - The Department and Iowa Reading Research Center (IRRC) are partnering to gain a broad understanding of the literacy instruction across the state.
2. The Department's literacy team presented as a keynote at the POP YS Con Conference.
3. There are 175 public schools using AMIRA and 200+ wanting to join.
4. There was a release of PLC guides for LETRS for Elementary Educators. Over 200 educators have signed up out of the 400 registrations available.
5. Three from the Department's literacy team attended the Plain Talk Conference. Wanda stated it was a great conference. This year, the conference focused highly on adolescent literacy.
6. Dyslexia Specialist Endorsement Stipend is on track to open up within Iowa Grants on May 1.

Department of Education Updates - Division of Teacher Quality and Innovation

1. Maryam Rod Szabo provided an update on the FORT assessments, specifically on how they are using the data received to support institutes of higher education with literacy practices.
2. Nina shared that she is collaborating with the IA DOE to create six different modules to help streamline instruction across higher ed. universities.
3. Maryam shared about a grant the Department received that is looking into the role of AI in high impact tutoring vs high quality in person tutoring. They will be partnering with different higher education institutions to gain input.

Iowa Reading Research Center (IRRC) Updates and Scope of Work - Brad Niebling

1. The IRRC is hoping to set space aside on their website for a dyslexia hub. They are planning to update the dyslexia module and will include some toolkits for professional development.
2. The IRRC is re-establishing primary responsibility and leadership over the dyslexia specialist endorsement process.
3. The IRRC is working to not just focus on research but also helping districts with professional development opportunities.
4. The annual Science of Reading Summit is on June 16 & 17 in Cedar Rapids.

Action Teams

1. We broke into our 3 teams to discuss our specific goals.

Iowa Dyslexia Professional Learning Plan - Reading Acquisition - Wanda Steuri

1. Wanda walked through the slide deck with the Board. She explained each module and asked for feedback. The Board divided into groups to discuss the modules and provide feedback.

Iowa Dyslexia Board Meeting Dates 2026-2027 Academic Year

1. Wanda shared the upcoming schedule pending approval from the state.

Closing Remarks / Meeting Adjourned

1. Nina thanked everyone, Wanda specifically, for making this year so impactful.
2. Shane shared some updates on what we accomplished this year - our legislative report, the FORT getting started, the Dyslexia Handbook published, the LETRS training has been extremely successful, our partnership with the IRRC and the upcoming dyslexia learning plan.
3. Nina motioned to adjourn the meeting at 2:30. Jill seconded. Motion carried unanimously.