

Iowa Dyslexia Board - Meeting Minutes

September 9, 2026 - 10:00 am-2:30 pm

Meeting minutes taken by Megan Hunemuller

Present: James Northwick, Kody Asmus, Shane Williams, Wandia Steuri, Tammy Wilgennusch, Kristen Craig, Tom Wood, Leah Zimmerman, Brad Niebling, Katy Severe, Michelle Geistkemper, Katryn Dougherty, Lindsay Harrison, Bambi Boggs, Nina Lorimor-Easley, Megan Hunemuller, Tina Hadden

Virtually: NA

Absent: Jill White

Guests: 1

Welcome / Public Comment

1. Meeting called to order
 - a. Shane Williams at 10:00 am
2. Public Comment
 - a. None

Meeting Procedures

1. Approve Agenda
 - a. Motion moved by Tina H. Seconded by James to approve today's agenda. Unanimously carried.
 - b. Shane requested to update our agenda to approve board member announcements. Tammy seconded. Unanimously approved.
2. Chair Nominations
 - a. Megan nominated Shane Williams for Board President. Nina seconded. Unanimously approved by a roll call vote.
 - b. Megan nominated Nina for Vice Chair. Michelle seconded. Unanimously approved by a roll call vote.
3. Approve April 2026 Minutes
 - a. Motion moved by Nina to approve the April 2026 minutes. Seconded by Tammy. Unanimously approved.
4. Board member announcements and updates
 - a. Katy shared that Grand View University has 20 students in their current dyslexia specialist cohort. She also shared a document that will allow the public to know who has the dyslexia specialist endorsement. Endorsees opted in for their name to appear on the document.

- b. Megan shared the upcoming DDIA Educator Conference information with the Board.
- c. Tina H. shared that DDIA is working on a strategic plan.
- d. Katryn shared that EdWebs will host dyslexia luncheons October 6-8 for Dyslexia Awareness month.
- e. Nina shared that DDIA is supporting three legislative goals.

Department of Education Updates

- 1. Information was shared for an awareness of the following resources - the Iowa Dyslexia Board webpage, the Iowa Dyslexia webpage, Iowa Code 256.32a which establishes the Board, our Board Bylaws and our Board goals.
- 2. Information was shared related to the Iowa Dyslexia Specialist Stipend. Nearly all Dyslexia specialists in Iowa applied for the stipend
- 3. An update was provided on the current status of the CLSD grant.
- 4. An update was provided on Reading Assistant featuring Amira and statistics from the first year.
- 5. Discussed the early literacy assessments.
- 6. Shared that the IA DOE literacy team provided professional learning earlier this month.
- 7. Provided an update on Round 8 of LETRS training. Nearly 6300 educators/registrants through the 8 rounds. Round 9 registration has opened and is slated to start in January 2027.
- 8. Encouraged everyone to sign up for the 'Literacy News You Can Use' newsletter as it shares very robust updates regarding literacy efforts in Iowa.
- 9. Shared a new project Bureau of Academic and Learner Supports has posted on the Department's website entitled, "The Iowa Academics Standards Family Guides".
- 10. Gave an update regarding the Iowa FORT results and next steps.
- 11. Shared information related to the 2nd annual Iowa Higher Education Literacy Summit. It was a great success with those who attended. It is planned again for the summer of 2027.
- 12. Shared about 'Literacy Changes Lives'.

Iowa Reading Research Center Updates

- 1. Shared that the IRRRC launched a new handwriting hub, a Morpheme Lab and a Spark Early Literacy Hub.
- 2. Shared an update on resource use numbers they saw throughout the FY26.
 - a. 5,800 completions of the Dyslexia Overview module this past year but more than 45,000 in total since its inception.
- 3. Touched on the Iowa Reading Research Center's Science of Reading Summit. Almost 600 people were in attendance. Previewed next year's summit.
- 4. Shared that an upcoming focus is dyslexia. They plan to update the Dyslexia Overview module as well as start a learning disability hub for families.

Review Legislative Report November 2025

1. A process was shared for writing this year's legislative report. It is due November 15th. Time was provided to review the 2025 report.

2025-2026 Iowa Dyslexia Board Review of Minutes and Folder Artifacts

1. Board members were individually assigned to specific months. Board members reviewed the artifacts in each month's folder and added notes to a graphic organizer to use to write this year's report

Small Group Work for Drafting November 2026 Legislative Report

1. Groups worked together to use the notes on the graphic organizer and add items to this year's report. After the meeting the Department will finalize the writing of the report. If anyone has additional items to add please let Wanda know by October 9th.

Professional Learning Plan - Dyslexia: A Foundational Understanding

1. The Dyslexia Professional Learning Plan was enhanced with two new learning series - Dyslexia: A Foundational Understanding and Structured Literacy. Board members reviewed created materials and provided input for improvements. The goal is to have the two new learning series approved by the Board by December's meeting.

Closing Remarks / Meeting Adjourned

1. Tina H. moved to adjourn the meeting. Nina seconded. The meeting adjourned at 2:15 pm.