

# Iowa Dyslexia Board - Meeting Minutes

September 11, 2023 - 10:00 am-2:30 pm

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Meeting minutes taken by Barb Anderson

**CALL TO ORDER**—Nina Lorimor-Easley called the meeting to order at 10 a.m.

**Present:** Wanda Steuri, Nina Lorimor-Easley, Barb Anderson, Kristin Craig, Kara Wishman, Tammy Wilegenbusch, Stephanie Edgren, James Northwick, Katie Greving, Kay Stork, Shane Williams. \*Shane notified Dept. staff that he would be delayed in his arrival due to traffic.

Joining Virtual: Ben IRRC; Lindsay Seydel

Guests: Lindsay Seydel (IRRC), Dr. Kim Buryanek, Dr. Qian Wang (IRRC)

**Absent:** Matt Crestinger, Mark Hennigar

## Welcome

1. Introductions of Board members and guests
  - a. Public Comment: No public comment
  - b. Approve Agenda: Tammy moved to approve agenda; Stephanie seconded. Minutes approved.
  - c. Approve Meeting Minutes from March: Kristen Craig moved to approve the minutes. Seconded by James. March minutes approved.
  - d. Election of Board Officers.
    - i. Nina opened nominations for Chair.
    - ii. Katie nominated Shane. Nina seconded the nomination. Shane accepted the nomination. James moved to close the nominations. Motion was seconded by Barb. Roll call vote. Vote was unanimous in favor. Shane Williams is the 2023-2024 Chair of the Dyslexia Board.
    - iii. Vice Chair-Katie nominated Wanda Steuri. Seconded by Kristen Craig. Motion to close nominations made by Nina. Seconded by James. Roll call vote—unanimous yes. Wanda is the 2023-2024 Vice Chair of the Dyslexia Board.
  - e. Board Member Announcements/updates
    - i. Katie—DeCoding Dyslexia Iowa will be hosting an event in October.
    - ii. Katie announced that the Governor’s committee review of state boards met last week and there was no change recommended for the Dyslexia Board. Reminded board members that at the beginning of the board there was a period of inactivity and that the Dyslexia Board is scheduled to conclude in 2025.
    - iii. Stephanie Edgren—Iowa Chapter of Reading League -developing 501(c)3 to establish chapter. Goal is to be in operation by March 2024. There are currently close to 200 individuals who have signed up to be involved.
    - iv. Stephanie announced that a group of higher education faculty from across the US will be hosting a half-day Summit on The Science of

Reading for Higher Education in Syracuse, NY, and a full-day Summit on The Science of Reading for Higher Education in Columbus, Ohio, both in October.

- v. Tammy Wilgenbusch–We are actively seeking new Board members who are interested in serving on the Iowa Branch of the International Dyslexia Association.
- vi. James–Reported he had staff attend the Science of Reading Summit this summer and the staff expressed high praise for the event.

## **2. Report from the Department of Education**

- a. Wanda provided the update from the Department of Education.
- b. There have been multiple presentations related to dyslexia and the Science of Reading to various stakeholder groups across the State of Iowa.
- c. A Science of Reading task team developed a position statement for the State of Iowa. It is currently in the vetting process.
- d. Wanda presented a virtual workshop series related to the new legislation for dyslexia for Institutes of Higher Education with resources with Stefanie TeKippe,
- e. There is a Literacy Team at the Department of Education now. Three staff who focus on reading and literacy: Leigh Bellville, April Gosselink-Lemke and Wanda Steuri.

## **Report from the Iowa Reading Research Center**

- a. Ben, interim Director of the IRRC, provided an update on IRRC.
- b. The Iowa Science of Reading Summit had over 350 educators in attendance representing 34 school districts, 6 AEAs, 5 Institutes of Higher Education, and 3 additional states. The organizers received great feedback. The 2024 dates and location will be announced soon.
- c. The IRRC just launched “Teacher Tools” on structured literacy.
- d. In August, the IRRC launched a tool based on the FAST data.
- e. There is a new e-Learning course in structured literacy across the TIERS based on FAST Bridge.
- f. Caregiver Hub was launched this summer.
- g. There will be a 15 and 30 hour licensure renewal courses in structured literacy offered soon.
- h. New Services rolled out–Partnerships for consulting services with districts, AEAs and the IRRC for curriculum review, selection and alignment, PD and teachers training, implementation monitoring, and student monitoring. Currently have over 30 districts partnering or receiving PD.

### Ongoing

- Over 17,000 educators have completed the Dyslexia Overview Module.
- Blog Posts and podcasts (over 20,000 downloads of ‘A Novel Idea’ podcast)
- Assistive technology consultations
- Dyslexia Specialist Endorsement program
- PD and training

- Research Services -Active research projects in writing and co-teaching modules with UI Faculty
- Hired Qian Wang, Ph.D, as Associate Director for Research and Evaluation.

Next Round of Work

- Updating Dyslexia Overview, Understanding and Observing the Literacy Skills Associated with Dyslexia, and Effective Literacy Instruction Modules
  - Dyslexia Playbook
- ii. Kara–Thanked the IRRC for the amount and quality of the work. Shane also acknowledged the work of the IRRC and stated it has transformed the progress in the state.
  - iii. Nina stated that she is working closely with Grandview to ensure alignment with the programs.
  - iv. Katie requested language to respond to misinformation about what the endorsement requires. Nina will share sample language.

3. **Dyslexia Organizational Flowchart**

- a. Wanda provided context for discussion of the Dyslexia organization and role of board. The board broke into shoulder partners to review the flowchart and provide feedback.

Next Steps:

Wanda will take the feedback from the board members and bring a revised flow chart back to the next meeting for review.

4. **Task Force Recommendations / Actions Taken Chart**

- a. Wanda provided an overview and invited feedback from Board members.
- b. Katie stated that she was on the initial Task Force and disagrees with some of the accomplishments listed, specifically #9 and #10. Most of the work was not completed a year ago. While she likes the webpage, she does not believe it fulfills the requirement; the webpage is not official guidance. The website is viewed as a resource and not authoritative.
- c. Number 10–There is need for a tool.
- d. This is also missing in number 9. *“By July 2021, the Iowa Department of Education should, in collaboration with the Dyslexia Board, provide a recommended process for informal diagnostic assessment following universal screening for further identifying student needs. (Approved unanimously by the Task Force.)”*

5. **Drafting Legislative Report**

- a. Small groups reviewed and provided feedback into a note catcher document. Wanda will incorporate edits/feedback and provide a draft prior to the next meeting. Members will review the draft prior to the next meeting and come prepared to approve the final version at the October meeting. Report is due to the General Assembly on November 15.

**6. Iowa Reading Research Center Dyslexia / Science of Reading Survey**

- a. Qian presented on two surveys administered by the IRRC
  - i. The first survey focuses on teacher methods; the second focuses on the science of reading survey/ Early Literacy Survey—administered to Elementary school Principals.
  - ii. For discussion—with additional work that has been completed since 2019, what should be considered in the 2024 Educator Survey? What have they done, and what they plan to do.

**7. Dyslexia Awareness Month**

- a. Wanda invited Board members to share ideas of what Board members would like to see included as part of Dyslexia Awareness month. Even if the ideas are not included this October, it may be able to be included next year.

**8. Steps to Consider for Next Meeting**

- a. Members included considerations for the next board meeting on the slide.

**9. Adjourn**

- a. Barb moved to adjourn. Katie seconded;, Motion carried. Meeting adjourned.