

# Iowa Dyslexia Board - Meeting Minutes

October 9, 2023 - 10:00 am-2:30 pm

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Meeting minutes taken by Barb Anderson

**CALL TO ORDER**—Shane Williams called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

**Present:** Barb Anderson, Wanda Steuri, Tammy Wilgenbusch, Katie Greving, Stephanie Edgren, Nina Lorimor-Easley, Shane Williams

Joining Virtual: Ben Walizer, Kara Wishman, James Northwick (11:45 am),

Guests: None

**Absent:** Matt Cretsinger, Kristin Craig, Mark Henniger, Kay Stork

## Welcome

1. Introductions
2. Public Comment: No public comment.
3. Approve Agenda: The meeting would move forward with a working agenda. Follow up at 11:45.
4. Approve Meeting Minutes from September- Minutes formally approved at 11:45. There were no preliminary corrections noted.
5. Board Member Announcements/updates-
  - Decoding Dyslexia Iowa (DDIA) will be hosting an Educator Conference on October 26 and 27. They expect 250 participants.
  - The Iowa Reading Research Center (IRRC) will host a dinner to honor individuals who will be receiving their Dyslexia certification.
  - DDIA will be hosting an informational zoom meeting for new legislators.
  - IRRC employees attended the Reading League conference. The new Reading Compass website has quality resources.
  - Stephanie Edgren shared that she will be presenting at the IDEA conference.
  - Shane Williams acknowledged Katie Greving's tireless work, dedication and leadership with DDIA to bring work forward.
  - A Dyslexia Support Group for educators is meeting monthly with specific topics to support teachers on guidance and resources.
  - Governor Reynolds signed the proclamation for Dyslexia Awareness Month.
  - The Reading League of Iowa is looking forward to partnering on this work and they are on track to be formal in Feb 2024.

## 6. Report from the Department of Education

Wanda Steuri shared the following Department updates:

- Wanda presented, along with other members of the Department's literacy team, to the State Board of Education on the Science of Reading.
- AEA dyslexia endorsees are meeting to develop a professional development plan.
- The Department has been communicating about October's Dyslexia Awareness

Month.

- Anyone may sign up for “Literacy News you can use” on the Department's website literacy page.

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

Ben Walizer shared updates on the IRRC. He noted:

- The IRRC has started an undergraduate Dyslexia 101 class.
- Additional training modules that will be available soon are:
  - FastBridger training module for parents
  - Structured Literacy training module for parents
  - Endorsement graduate courses
  - Curriculum evaluation rubrics.
  - Instructional fidelity monitoring system.
  - Expanded consulting services
    - Curricular alignment–scope & sequence
    - Fidelity monitoring tool
    - Change management
    - How the brain learns to read
    - Integration of science of reading across curriculum content
    - Implementation of Science of Reading with high quality materials.
  - Administrator training is in development.
  - University of Iowa and Grandview University are offering endorsements as part of their graduate programs.
  - The timeline of hiring a new IRRC Director is Spring/Early Summer.
  - Iowa House Democrats have expressed interest in learning more about the Science of Reading
  - The IRRC is already planning for the October 2024 Iowa Science of Reading Summit.

### **A quorum of board members is present at 11:47 am.**

- Nina Lorimer-Easily moved to approve the October Meeting Agenda. Katie Greving seconded the motion. The motion carried.
- September Meeting Minutes Approved Tammy Wilgenbusch moved to approve the September meeting minutes. Kara Wishman seconded the motion. The motion carried.

### **7. Legislative Report Finalization**

Final review of language and corrections for report.

### **8. Legislative Report Approval**

Stephanie Edgren moved to approve the legislative report subject to final formatting. Tammy Wilgenbusch seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### **9. Measuring Impact of Board Discussion**

The board discussed how to best measure the impact of the board.

#### 10. **Iowa Reading Research Center Dyslexia / Science of Reading Survey**

Ben Walizer provided an overview of the IRRC's two survey drafts for the board to review.

- Early Literacy Survey
  - Purpose is to gain an understanding of current practices.
  - This will be completed by district building administrators.
  - The board was provided a link to review and offer feedback.
  - Approval from the DE will be sought
- Knowledge level–teacher survey.
  - Purpose is to measure teacher knowledge and gather data on professional development they have had and the length of the training.
  - The survey also includes questions on screening, interventions, and assistive technology.

Ben Walizer identified the next steps with the surveys for additional review and feedback.

#### 11. **Dyslexia Organizational Flowchart**

Wanda reviewed the updated flowchart and requested feedback. Suggestions included:

- Under section School Districts–”Supporting students with dyslexia or characteristics...” It was suggested to add “in partnership with the AEA’s.”
- Show partnership between all stakeholders graphically

#### 12. **Task Force Recommendations / Actions Taken Chart**

Wanda updated the board on revisions to the task force recommendations action chart.

Board feedback given:

- Updated #9 and #10 to say “In Progress”
- Discussion
  - The ELI legislation has the right components for screening
  - How to use the diagnostic assessments as next step
  - The IRRC FAST tool is a valuable tool to identify next steps and the correct intervention.
  - Communication and understanding the importance of the FAST data and what to do with the data.
  - Increasing visibility of the IRRC and the resources and expertise available.
  - Communicate with Special Ed Directors
- Next Steps:
  - Shane Williams stated he will connect with IRRC and will provide the Department of Education with specific recommendations for next steps.

#### 13. **Steps to Consider for Next Meeting**

Recommendations for future meetings included:

- Curriculum Evaluation Rubric.
- IRRC visibility & communication of resources.
- A Department of Education colleague in Higher Education will present the workshop series and resource sheet that has been developed.
- Formulate questions for future higher education conversation.

#### 14. **Adjourn**

1:46 pm meeting adjourned.(No quorum to move/second the meeting adjourned.)