

Iowa Dyslexia Board - Meeting Minutes

February 29, 2024 - 10:00 am-2:30 pm

Meeting minutes taken by Barb Anderson

CALL TO ORDER– Board Chair Shane Williams called the meeting to order at 10 am.

Present: Matt Crestinger, Kristen Craig, Kay Stork, Tammy Wilegenbusch, Wanda Steuri, Barb Anderson, Shane Williams, Nina Lorimor-Easley, Ben Walizer, Kristen Craig, Katie Greving, Bambi Bogg and James Northwick

Virtually: Stephanie Edgren

Welcome

1. Introductions - Welcomed new board member Bambi Bogg.
2. Public Comment: Noone signed up for public comment.
3. Approve Agenda: Matt Crettsinger moved to approve the agenda, Nina Lorimor-Easley seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
4. Approval of Meeting Minutes: Wanda Steuri requested the minutes be amended to add the name of Dr. Eric Pruitt as the guest serving on the IRRRC Advisory Board. Katie Greving moved to approve the minutes with amendment, Tammy Wilgenbusch seconded. Motion carried.
5. Board Member Announcements/updates-
 - a. Katie Greving–provided an update on the work of Decoding Dyslexia Iowa and related current legislation. There is current legislation re: scholarship funds being reviewed today and a second legislative bill proposed by Rep Rozenboom. A bill proposed on teacher licensing testing has not moved forward. Stephanie added that Utah has a similar preservice exam and it has been implemented as an opportunity to master the content.
 - b. Matt Crettsinger added that he supports Standards of Practice. Important to support young people entering the field. Acknowledged the Department for support of the LETRS training.
 - c. Shane Williams shared a success story of a teacher using structured literacy with high quality, aligned instructional materials with profound growth. Competency and efficacy.
 - d. Members discussed the positive impact and support for the Science of Reading and alignment with training. School staff are excited about the training and are eager to learn more.
 - e. Stephanie Edgren provided an update on the IACTE Spring Conference, which will be held on March 25, 2024. Board member Matt Crettsinger will be part of a panel presentation of school administrators. The panel will discuss what they look for in hiring teachers and what colleges may do to support the development of the skills and knowledge. There will also be breakout groups focused on the Science of Reading.

Report from the Department of Education

Wanda Steuri provided an update on the Department of Education's work progress.

- a. LETRS update:
 - a. Information and interest forms to register for the courses are available at <https://www.lexialearning.com/iowa-letrs>. The letters' training spots are filling. Current registration numbers LETRS for Educators 40%; LETRS for Administrators = 31%
- b. AEA / DE Professional Learning Plan
- c. State Literacy Team - Science of Reading with Kareem Weaver
 - a. Supporting system change
 - b. Next steps in Iowa to increase reading achievement
 - c. Complex change - What is the most challenging audience?
 - d. Actions to partner with parents
 - e. Training Higher Ed. Literacy Faculty
- d. The Department has contracted with the [Sterling Literacy Consulting](#) firm to support the Department's literacy work, including Dyslexia and the Science of Reading. Dr. Hall will be joining the meeting virtually at 11:30 am to introduce himself.
- e. Finished higher education dyslexia series
- f. Wanda attended virtually the [ORTI 2023 Virtual Reading Symposium](#).

Member Discussion:

Nina asked if there were opportunities for collaborating more with higher education.

Shane acknowledged the LETRS training and the partnership with DE and AEAs in making the training available is a positive beginning. There is a need for an even larger systemic approach to meet the training need for educators. Matt and James agreed that supporting this training is important and there remains financial and logistical challenges. Nina agreed that the implementation of all partners and structures is essential. Supporting teachers in operationalizing the training would be helpful.

Members acknowledged the progress and increased connections since the Board was established.

IRRC Update

Ben Walizer provided an update on the Iowa Reading Research Center (IRRC). The IRRC has had positive discussions with legislators on the work of the IRRC. Governor Reynolds visited the IRRC last month.

1. Two models: 1. Time - when will intervention occur 2. Ninja Model -who is the teacher who has that skill? It will be like a two day, structured literacy "boot camp."
2. Hiring and Search Updates
 - a. Nicole Hodous was hired as Associate Director for Operations and Project Management
 - b. Director search updates. There are 3 final candidates who are all strong

researchers and practitioners. Anticipated start date will be June or July.

3. Consulting and Partnership Updates
 - a. Nina Lorimor-Easley presented at the Statewide Curriculum Directors meeting, focusing on the secondary level. Discussions have focused on what curriculum materials have been available at the elementary level and what data is available on their secondary school readers.
 - b. New district partnerships are being developed with districts who have not previously connected to the IRRC.
4. Current Projects
 - a. Administrator training/Principals Academy with focus on change management.
 - b. Grouping tool
 - c. Diagnostics review
 - d. Instructional material evaluation rubrics
 - e. Curriculum review handbooks
 - f. Summer school structures and recommendations
 - g. LIFTER Writing Tools
5. New Content
 - a. Instructional Workshops
 - b. Speaking of Literacy Podcast
 - i. Blog posts:
 1. Meeting Students' Needs With Iowa's Continuous Improvement Framework and Process
 2. Intensification of instruction
 3. Grouping students for literacy skills and practice
 4. SLP podcast recommendations
 5. Accommodations for note-taking
 - c. Research Article of the Month
 - i. Active View of Reading
 - ii. Predictive validity of MAP and STEP universal screeners
 - iii. Optimal dosage of phonemic awareness instruction

Nina attended a conference focused on Change Management. Leading June 20-on campus at no or low cost a day for decision makers on implementing change to structured leader and the role they play in successfully leading implementation change. The IRRC has a tool they will provide to the administrators to support them in moving to a structured literacy model. More information on how to attend/register will be available next week.

Discussion—Shane shared that MBAEA has a similar group, Leading for Impact, focused on transformational change and can connect the IRRC with members of this group who may be helpful in their Change Management efforts.

The IRRC is launching a new podcast. Two students SLP majors who are interviewing folks in the field. Also interviewing teachers on Novel Ideas podcast. Significant blog post—working to provide good written content. Most recently MTSS and intensification of grouping. Predictive validity of MAP and STEP -blog post. Research article of the month—IRRC is committed to bringing research forward. Iowa Science of Reading Summit -July 18 and 19, 2024 in Cedar Rapids. Openings available for session presenters.

Wanda added DE has endorsed Scarborough's reading rope.

Science of Reading Survey Update - Ben provided brief update that in have paused the survey now

Dr. Hall with Sterling Literacy- Joined the meeting virtually to introduce himself and his role in supporting literacy and dyslexia work. Wanda provided the initial context of the Department's contract with Dr. Hall, one of which is to assist with the development of a guidance/resource/handbook identified in from the Task Force Report and requested by Dyslexia Board members.

Board members reviewed and provided feedback on the draft guidance handbook Task:

Review what handbook folder and initial guidance draft, provide feedback on the document, make recommendations on edits.

Goal: Identify the "big chunks" and overarching content so that Dr. Hall and his team will understand what the Board wants the handbook to provide.

Discussion:

Who is the audience for the handbook? Suggestion—Consider having different versions one for families and one for educators but one source. Some board members suggested the group use caution in having two separate versions as it may result in confusion. Important to have an easily understood language for all audiences. Important to keep in mind the grain size so that it is helpful. Question—Does this handbook meet the request for guidance of what is legislatively required? Is Department guidance, in addition to the handbook. still needed? Will the handbook have the "teeth"?

Feedback Discussion following Review:

- Agree upon a consistent source on stats reference.
- Add Social Emotional Cognitive Resilience
 - Diagnosis content—suggestion to focus on dyslexia and not on a specific diagnosis as it could quickly move out of scope. May consider a section on SEBH and glossary of terms. Not address each possible diagnosis individually but important to highlight SEBH concerns and best practice in recognizing and responding. Consider a section as there are several conditions that may co-occur and here are some considerations.
- FAQ would be helpful. Include "think abouts" for families on incidents of co-occurrence.
- ELL should have a section. Many ELL students are missed.
- **Parent Section** "Where to Begin"
- **Higher Education and Pre-Service Prep** Important to include recommendations for training. State clearly that the best practice for students is structured literacy instruction.

- Link to IRRC Dyslexia Modules

4. Signs of Dyslexia

Wanda thanked everyone for feedback and identified next steps with Sterling Consulting.

Dyslexia Board Meeting Dates 2024-2025

- Board discussed preference for the number of scheduled meetings for 2024-2025. Four meetings are required. Board agreed to schedule 5 to allow for the work completion and ensure the required number of meetings are met.
- Tuesdays and Thursdays work best
- October is a busy month. Late October. Late April rather than May.

Dyslexia Board Bylaws/Meeting Attendance

Thomas Mayes was invited to attend and was present to answer questions regarding the Board's responsibilities and role.

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1. **Statutorily mandated meeting.** The Dyslexia Board is a legislated body charged with providing advice to the state. As such, the default rule is for the board to meet in-person, unless it is impossible or impractical to do so. Virtual meetings can only happen if it is impossible and impractical for everyone to attend in-person. Thomas clarified that in-person meetings are defined when quorum is present in-person. A virtual meeting is when a majority of members are participating online/virtually.

Board members who attend virtually are allowed to vote. This is not a board who goes into closed session, so virtual voting is allowable. If virtual voting occurs, it is important to document the necessity of doing so; that it was impossible or impractical to meet in-person.

In-person meetings require that there is a physical location for the community to participate.

Role the Dyslexia Board in advocating/lobbying. This is a statutory board with the responsibility to give recommendations to the state. If potential legislation is good public policy, it is the role of the board to make that statement on the board's behalf.

Thomas recommended the board consult with Eric St. Clair on how best to proceed in doing so. The Department is not authorized to make recommendations, however the board is not limited to this. Should the board choose to do so, it may make a legislative recommendation that it continue. The Board should follow their by-laws in taking action.

In their roles as private citizens, board members are free to openly speak to their own state representatives. It is not okay, however, it is not permitted to lobby a representative if you are not their constituent. Organizations registered as lobbyists are not limited to this.

Thomas offered to review any draft communications –not to influence pro or con, but to provide help and clarity in language recommendations.

- Should the Board wish to establish a subcommittee on drafting legislative language to continue the board, it is allowable as the topic is part of today's agenda and that step would be a logical extension of the issue.

Board Discussion after Thomas left

Reviewed the legislation that established the Board and the defined tasks.

Question–what tasks remain for the Board from the original legislation? Three charges–Katie said she believes the first charge is not yet completed.

Shane asked for a motion to draft support for the continuation of the Board. Kara moved. James seconded. Conducted roll call vote. Motion carried anonymously. Kristen Craig and Matt Crettsinger had left the meeting early and were not present for the vote.

Next Steps:

1. Shane and Katie will coordinate with Wanda & Barb to consult with Eric St. Clair for guidance on next steps to move the recommendation forward to continue the Board and remove the sunset date.
2. Individual board members will contact their own legislators. Registered lobbyists may consult legislators on behalf of their organizations.

Measuring Impact of Iowa Dyslexia Board

Wanda reviewed the planned activity/process to gather input on measuring impact of the board. Given time constraints, the Board decided to move the activity to the next Board meeting. Wanda reviewed the task as a homework assignment.

Next time: Board members will come prepared for the next meeting with SWAT analysis.

Next Steps to Consider for Next Meeting

1. Members will come prepared with individual responses for SWAT analysis and as a group will complete the SWAT analysis and identify goals.

Adjourn

1. Shane asked for a motion to adjourn. Kara motioned. Nina seconded. Motion

carried. Meeting was adjourned at 2:27 pm