



IOWA

Department of Education

Ryan M. Wise, Director

Kim Reynolds, Governor
Adam Gregg, Lt. Governor

Iowa Dyslexia Task Force Meeting Notes

Friday, July 19, 2019, 10:30 am to 3:00 pm

ICN, Grimes State Office Building, 400 E 14th St., Des Moines, IA

Notes Submitted by DeeAnn Grove, West Wind Education Policy Inc.

ATTENDEES

Task Force Members: Dave Tilly (Chair), Lonna Anderson, Susan Etscheidt, Katie Greving, Elizabeth Hoksbergen, Nina Lorimor-Easley, Kristin Orton (via Zoom), Deborah Reed, Kim Schmidt (via Zoom)

Facilitator: Circe Stumbo
DE Staff: Kathy Bertsch
Note-Taker: DeeAnn Grove

Pre-Meeting Agenda Item: Discussion among Pre-Service and Professional Learning Small-Groups to merge efforts

Susan Etscheidt suggested work for the day is:

1. Merging of those dispositions that float over all the levels
2. Blending of knowledge levels from the two groups (preservice and practical professional development).

The group agreed that these two groups would become one in the report and they would be creating one cohesive document.

The groups discussed the role of portfolio and differences between preservice and in-service teacher portfolio.

The group discussed the idea of an endorsement for a Dyslexia Interventionist.

Agenda Item: Full Task Force Meeting Convenes

As chair, Dave Tilly convened the meeting at 10:05 am.

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Agenda Item: Review and Approve Notes from Previous Meeting

Task Force members reviewed the notes from the June 4, 2019, meeting. Etscheidt moved to approve the minutes. Tilly seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item: Review Task Force Legislative Mandate, Task Force membership, and Task Force Timeline

Tilly introduced Shan Seivert, the Department's Legislative Liaison, and invited her to share what makes a task force most effective. After her remarks, Task Force members discussed ideas for rolling out their recommendations.

The Task Force then reviewed the legislative mandate and discussed strategies for recommendations that meet the mandate. The group generally agreed that limiting the number of recommendations would be strong. The group noted that addressing timelines for implementation is part of the legislative mandate, as is the mandate to offer recommendations for different stakeholder groups.

The Task Force noted that Task Force member Lonna Anderson has taken a new position, which means she will no longer serve as an AEA representative for the Task Force. The Task Force only needs to have one AEA representative and Kristin Orton fulfills that role. Since the Task Force is in compliance, the Task Force did not feel the need to replace Anderson and that she should continue to serve on the Task Force. Dave Tilly suggested that Anderson be identified as both AEA and school district representation in the report.

Agenda Item: Survey Results (Working Lunch)

Kathy Bertsch distributed survey data. The Task Force reviewed the assignment of "role" for respondents and made some changes. The group then discussed how to prioritize data to analyze, how to report public comments, and how to analyze open ended responses from survey. The group agreed that reports on information gathered can be in an appendix. Etscheidt and Elizabeth Hoksbergen volunteered to do a thematic analysis of the open-ended survey responses and the public comments; they will try to have the report ready for the August meeting.

Agenda Item: Review Compiled Recommendations and Straw Man Report

The Task Force facilitator and writer had pulled together all of the recommendations from small-groups into one set of potential recommendations, reducing the number overall by combining common themes. Upon review, members offered several suggestions:

- The recommendations need to be very specific and bold enough that they actually require a change, but are careful not to alienate stakeholders.
- The recommendations should incentivize change.
- One way to incentivize changes to the content of preservice education and ensure rigor is to have the Board of Educational Examiners adopt an endorsement for a Structured Literacy specialist. Tilly distributed an outline for "Beginning Ideas Structured Literacy Endorsement" for discussion.

- The Task Force should consider adding a special education recommendation
- Task Force members realized they needed to craft recommendations for specific stakeholders and they started the process during the meeting.
- The Task Force boiled down recommendations to the State Legislature to three recommendations, one of which would be to create a Standing Board. The Task Force could then put other recommendations for different stakeholders under state legislature recommendation to create Standing Board.

Lonna Anderson volunteered to revise the recommendations for the August meeting.

The Task Force then reviewed two versions of a draft report, which compiled all of the small-group materials into reports and a series of appendices. Members present preferred the format that lists recommendations first. Task Force members considered where and how to lay out best practices for supporting students with dyslexia, coming up with options such as a section on the rationale, one on best practice, or one on the research base for recommendations (rather than rationale). The group felt that what is in the draft appendices is the right way to handle that information, though there would be some overlap between the appendices and what ends up in the report's discussion of best practices. The group preferred to organize the recommendations by stakeholders and the supporting information by small-group topic.

Agenda Item: Next Steps

- Anderson will revise recommendations under assigned stakeholders for the August meeting.
- Tilly will continue to flesh out the Beginning Ideas Structured Literacy Endorsement document.
- Estcheidt and Hoksbergen will do a thematic analysis for public comments for the August meeting.
- Bertsch will have prioritized data available by August meeting and will look at the Dyslexia Quiz.
- At a later time, the Task Force should develop bill language and fiscal notes.

Items for August agenda include:

- Review recommendations that have fiscal implications
- Discuss prioritizing requiring AEA to have at least one level 5 specialist (need more experts). There is interest in making this a 4th priority recommendation to the legislature.

- Note that Teacher Leadership and Compensation (TLC) funds could be used to fund structured literacy experts (this could be a responsibility of the proposed Standing Board). Consider aligning the TLC application process with endorsement
- Build a timeline. This may be the topic that the Task Force spends the most time on in August.

Agenda Item: Public Comment

No members of the public in attendance to comment. The Task Force members agreed it would be good to keep the public comment button live on the website.

Agenda Item: Agenda Setting Document

Everything discussed today was already in the agenda setting document from previous meeting. September 19 is when the Task Force will need to vote on recommendations. Future meetings are scheduled for September 19, October 9, October 18, November 5, and November 14.

Agenda Item: Other Business

There was no other business.

The meeting adjourned at 3:28 pm.