



# IOWA

## Department of Education

Ryan M. Wise, Director

Kim Reynolds, Governor  
Adam Gregg, Lt. Governor

### Iowa Dyslexia Task Force Meeting Notes

Wednesday, August 28, 2019, 9:00 am to 3:30 pm

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

*Notes Submitted by Mandi Bozarth, West Wind Education Policy Inc.*

#### **ATTENDEES**

Task Force Members: Dave Tilly (Chair), Lonna Anderson, Amy Conrad, Susan Etscheidt, Elizabeth Hoksbergen (partial via Zoom and partial in-person), Erin Klopstad, Nina Lorimore-Easley, Kristin Orton, Deborah Reed (via Zoom), Kim Schmidt

Facilitator: Circe Stumbo

DE Staff: Kathy Bertsch, Tana Mullen

Note-Taker: Mandi Bozarth

Members of the public also were in attendance.

#### **Agenda Item: Meeting convenes**

Dave Tilly convened the meeting at 9:05 am. Members reviewed their core values, ground rules, and norms.

#### **Agenda Item: Review and approve agenda**

There were no suggested changes to the agenda. Kim Schmidt moved to approve the agenda; Amy Conrad seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **Agenda Item: Review and approve notes from previous meeting**

Task Force members reviewed the notes from the 07/19/19 meeting. Susan Etscheidt moved to accept the minutes; Schmidt seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The notes will be posted to the Iowa Department of Education Dyslexia Task Force webpage.

#### **Agenda Item: Shoring up the report outline**

The Professional Learning and Pre-Service small groups will work to merge some of their documents before the September meeting.

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The Task Force is currently working to determine the final recommendations and finalize a timeline. The Task Force is in agreement that the focus should be on incentivizing change, not mandating changes.

Circe Stumbo shared a draft report that included work from several Task Force members. Stumbo shared graphic organizers to support the members in reviewing the draft document. She asked members to take notes and turn in the graphic organizers to be reviewed during lunch for next steps. Stumbo also reminded members that the report needs a timeline as outlined in the legislative charge.

Task Force members discussed the report format and areas for additions or edits, including more information from a parent perspective, inclusion of survey results where appropriate, sections on assistive technology and interventions, inclusion of the legislative charge in the report body, more information on interventions and supports for older students. They shared that they would like to see a statement that simply says that the best treatment for dyslexia is good reading instruction. They want to see footnotes and links; they do not want to see research in the text. They identified some language changes and shared those.

The Task Force members discussed the idea of doing a pilot for the endorsement and ways to best include IHEs in the development of the endorsement.

Task Force members suggested that they are considering three recommendations to the legislature: 1) Amend the code (including disseminating how to use the term dyslexia and best practices), 2) Incentivize the professional learning standards, and 3) Create a standing board.

The members agreed that the recommendations for stakeholder groups need work. They also shared that the recommendations are missing the diagnostic piece for instructional purposes.

The Task Force members discussed how they might think about the timeline. They discussed including check-ins, having milestones, and/or including an annual report to the legislature.

The Task Force members discussed the financial implications of their recommendations and noted that setting up a board and changing the definition are no cost recommendations. They discussed focusing on only one financial ask in their recommendations.

### **Agenda Item: Lunch**

The Information Gathering Small-Group met over lunch to discuss what information to share and how best to share it. Lonna Anderson volunteered to work over lunch on a way to fold the recommendations and the timeline together.

### **Agenda Item: Using information gathered to date**

Task Force members discussed including a section with the survey data about the participation and the sample to set out how the survey was developed, administered, and the limitations of it.

The small group agreed that they would go through the current practices in Iowa to see what data might be supportive of the report and draft this before September 19. They discussed including the numbers of respondents to the survey. They agreed to be selective in which data they use. They will craft a summary of what questions were asked of which stakeholders for an appendix.

Etscheidt and Elizabeth Hoksbergen shared their work from reviewing the Public Comments and qualitative survey responses. They shared a document titled, "Narrative Analysis." They came up with four major themes, including Personal and Private Advocacy and Expenses; School Resistance and Reluctance; Mandatory Dyslexia Screening; and Education Preparation. Hoksbergen is continuing to look through parent responses and hopes to also look at children's responses.

They would like the Narrative Analysis to be included as an appendix. They think some of the quotes might also be useful in the body of the report. They also shared a shorter version with only themes.

The Public Comments are still open on the website. A note will be added stating that "As of 8/28/19 new comments will be seen by the Dyslexia Task Force members, but will not be included in the report or other materials."

The Task Force discussed the appendices. These may include the Narrative Analysis, the professional learning and pre-service knowledge skills triangle.

They discussed that they could include an across respondent conclusion, such as "everyone said that..." to try to get at the big, significant information to be garnered from the survey results.

#### **Agenda Item: Timeline of the Report**

Kathy Bertsch shared a timeline from the communications office about report production. Task Force members agreed that votes need to be taken on recommendations on October 9, 2019.

#### **Agenda Item: Public Comment**

One member of the public was present and spoke (Smantha Zehms). She said that she is impressed by the Dyslexia Task Force members' dedication and hard work. She said that she is personally looking forward to seeing the survey information. She said she often feels like she is the only parent at the school who has a certain problem. She is interested to see if the survey provides something to point to showing that it is not just her. She said she will look forward to seeing links in the document. She thanked everyone for their hard work.

#### **Agenda Item: Public Comment and Qualitative Survey Responses**

Hoksbergen and Nina Lorimor-Easley shared some options on ways to align the Pre-Service and Professional Learning skills triangles. They will continue working on the triangle to share on September 19.

The group discussed that the report needs to explain how the incentives will work and clearly lay out why they are incentivizing. They talked about how they could tie this to incentives through TLC, MTSS, and/or ESSA. Orton suggested that they add to the timeline that the AEAs will need support; she suggested maybe that one person from each AEA would be in the pilot.

**Agenda Item: Next Steps:**

Task Force members agreed to next steps, including crafting the recommendations and timelines to flesh them out and including them by stakeholder group. They will also use the current straw man draft report to draft an approximately 10-page report. As part of this draft they will ensure that parent voice and concerns are represented, craft an executive summary, and start working on an elevator speech. They will also continue working on appendices. They will also make preparations to discuss the strategy for the budgetary ask.

Several Task Force members have conflicts on October 18.

**Agenda Item: Other business and meeting evaluation**

Task Force members agreed that groups taking on next steps would huddle to schedule meetings. They will reach out to Stumbo if they need support.

Stumbo shared an online meeting evaluation survey for Task Force members to complete.

**Agenda Item: Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 3:36 pm.