



Student Reading Success Through Research and Collaboration

**Iowa Reading Research Center (IRRC)
Advisory Council Meeting Minutes
May 16, 2019
10:00 AM – 2:00 PM
Department of Education – Des Moines**

Members present: Kate Connealy, Kara Dietrich, Katie Greving, Emily Hayden, Becky Miles-Polka, David Tilly, Sarah Vander Zanden, Ryan Wise, Lindsay Woodward.

Additional attendees: Deborah K. Reed, IRRC Director; Trish Sodahl, IRRC Administrative Services Coordinator

Guests: Shanlyn Seivert, Policy Liaison, Iowa Department of Education; Green Hills Area Education Agency (GHAEA) Literacy Professional Development Project team members Lesley Ehlers, Karen Wessel Hesse, Jennifer Johnson, Sally Johnston.

1. Call to order

The meeting was called to order by IRRC Advisory Council (AC) Chair Kara Dietrich at 10:05 a.m.

2. Approval of agenda

On a motion by Kate Connealy and seconded by Ryan Wise, the agenda for the meeting was approved, with zero “no” votes.

3. Approval of December 2018 meeting minutes

On a motion by Becky Miles-Polka and seconded by David Tilly, the December 2018 meeting minutes were approved, with zero “no” votes.

4. Public comment

Chair Kara Dietrich allowed time for public comment. No members of the public were in attendance.

5. Review of homework

Kara Dietrich introduced the homework assignment. Council members were asked to read and respond to an IRRC blog post or share it via social media or directly with



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coworkers/peers/parents/students. Council members reported sharing information on a number of social platforms (Twitter, Facebook, etc.); presenting specific topics at meetings; and sharing relevant links directly with in-service teachers, families, student groups, colleagues, and organizations. Members appreciated the resources and information the blog posts provided as well as the frequency of the posts.

6. Director's report (IRRC)

Deborah Reed updated council members on the Early Literacy Initiative Blueprint sessions delivered, teacher attendance, modules presented, analysis of trainer and classroom implementation fidelity, and the future plans to convert the modules to an online format. Reed also reviewed progress of the successful April launch of the online Dyslexia Overview module. Teacher preparation students, teachers, literacy specialists, principals, Area Education Agency staff, and families have utilized the new training. Teacher preparation students represented nearly half the users. Further action is planned to promote the modules through the IRRC website, social media, and direct contact with teachers. New modules will be launching this summer and fall. Reed also addressed other projects underway, including a meta-evaluation of the summer reading programs in Cedar Rapids Community School District (CSD), Council Bluffs CSD, Davenport CSD, Marshalltown CSD and Sioux City CSD.

7. Professional Development: Evaluating the impact of literacy professional development on teachers' practice and student achievement.

The GHAEA Literacy Professional Development Project team members Lesley Ehlers, Karen Wessel Hesse, Jennifer Johnson, and Sally Johnston joined the meeting via videoconference. They described their collaboration with the IRRC to evaluate their professional development services in four school districts. The GHAEA team reviewed the history of the project, their observation and feedback procedures, data collection, and the plans for continuing next year. The IRRC will complete the data analysis for year one in late summer 2019.

8. Iowa Department of Education update

David Tilly provided updates on the Every Student Succeeds Act implementation and discussed feedback on the rollout of the new Iowa Assessments system. Ryan Wise reviewed the Iowa School Performance Profiles and noted the improved updates to data tools and printing options. Director Wise and Policy Liaison Shan Seivert highlighted several bills on the way to or signed by the Governor, and they announced the approved FY20 funding for the IRRC.

9. Recognition of Advisory Council members

Deborah Reed thanked David Tilly with an award for his meritorious contributions to literacy as he transitions to a new role in the Department. Director Tilly and Director Reed presented certificates



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of appreciation for outgoing board members Kara Dietrich, Becky Miles-Polka, Lindsay Woodward, and Jaci Jarmes (not present at the meeting).

10. Officer elections

Chair Kara Dietrich called for nominations for the Chair position. There was a written self-nomination from Corey Vorthmann (in absentia) and no other nominations were presented. On a motion by Kara Dietrich and seconded by Sarah Vander Zanden, the nomination was approved, with zero “no” votes.

Chair Kara Dietrich called for nominations for the Vice Chair position. Ryan Wise nominated Kate Connealy, and no other nominations were presented. On a motion by Ryan Wise and seconded by Lindsay Woodward, the nomination was approved, with zero “no” votes.

11. Adjourn

Advisory Council members will receive email notification when the meetings for FY20 are scheduled.

On a motion by Lindsay Woodward and seconded by Kate Connealy, the meeting was adjourned, with zero “no” votes at 1:15 pm.