



A New Vision for Literacy Research in Iowa

Date: December 1, 2015

Time: 9:00am-2:30pm

Heartland Area Education Agency, Johnston

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mike Beranek, Angelica Cardenas, Kara Dietrich, Mark Draper, Jason Ellingson, Salli Forbes, Clark Goltz, Shelly Hanson, Jaci Jarmes, Shari Larsen, Becky Miles-Polka, Sarah Ramsey, Claudia Reyes-Fry, Renita Schmidt, Dave Tilly

Ad Hoc Members Present: Jobi Lawrence, Thomas Mayes, Nicole Proesch, Phil Wise

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES: Deborah Reed, Sara McInerney, Melissa Potter, Elizabeth Decker, Sandy Schmitz

AGENDA ITEM: Call to Order / Approve Agenda

Approval of Meeting
Agenda

Lead
Deborah Reed
Shari Larsen

Follow Up
None

Notes: Deborah Reed called the meeting to order. Shari Larsen read the agenda to the members and called for approval. Clark Goltz made a motion to approve the agenda and Mark Draper seconded the motion. There was no discussion, all members present voted in for approval, none opposed. The meeting's agenda was approved as written.

AGENDA ITEM: Approval of September Minutes

Approval of September
Meeting Minutes

Lead
Shari Larsen

Follow Up
Minutes of September meeting to be corrected for typographical errors and posted on Website—remove DRAFT watermark.

Notes: The September minutes had been previously sent to members for review. Larsen asked if there were additions or corrections to the minutes. Salli Forbes found typographical errors and brought them to the group's attention. A motion was made by Draper to approve the minutes with the errors corrected, and a second was made by Kara Dietrich. All members present voted in approval, none opposed. The minutes were approved, with errors fixed.



A New Vision for Literacy Research in Iowa

AGENDA ITEM: Public Comment

Time allotted for public comment

Lead
Sara McInerny

Follow Up
None

Notes: No members of the general public were in attendance.

AGENDA ITEM: Introductions and Meeting Outcomes

Self Introductions
Discuss Expected
Outcomes for the Day

Lead
Shari Larsen

Follow Up
None

Notes: Attendees introduced themselves and told their professional affiliations. Larsen listed the expected outcomes of the meeting:

- Review the work of the IRRC over the past year
- Provide input on the IRRC's current and pending initiatives
- Connect state legislation with the work of the Center
- Develop common understandings about literacy issues within the state
- Update members on the work of partner agencies related to the mission of the IRRC

AGENDA ITEM: Annual Report

Presentation of Report
Member Feedback
Approval

Lead
Sara McInerny

Follow Up
Annual Report can be submitted to the Department for Review

Notes: Sara McInerny explained the Annual Report process to the Council members. The report had been emailed to members for review prior to the meeting. McInerny facilitated an activity where the members broke off into groups to identify key points of the report and develop a short summary. The groups then came back together to share their summaries. A motion was made by Becky Miles-Polka to approve the Annual Report, Dietrich seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor, none opposed. The Annual Report will be submitted to the Department of Education for approval.

AGENDA ITEM: Director's Report

www.iowareadingresearch.org





A New Vision for Literacy Research in Iowa

New Direction
Study Update
New Work

Lead
Deborah Reed

Follow Up

Notes: Reed began by introducing two new staff members:

- Elizabeth Decker, Administrative Services Coordinator and
- Sandy Schmitz who will replace Sara McInerney as the Center's Assistant Directory in January.

Reed went on to explain the new direction of the Center to provide a more comprehensive relationship between research, policy, and practice. The Center will continue to host webinars presented to our IHE partners. Beginning in January 2016, they will begin to be presented by members from our other IHE partner schools. All Colleges and Universities are welcome to attend or present.

Reed spoke about the upcoming summer study. Topics discussed were funding, the choosing of the curricula, and costs of the curricula. There are many schools that have expressed interest in participating in the summer study, and a list was displayed showing the count of schools by AEA region. Reed spoke about the venues at which she has mentioned the study and where schools may have heard about it. Formal recruitment will not begin until January. A call to action was made for ideas to get the word out to all districts in the state for participation.

Reed explained that one of the new directions of the Center will be to evaluate for school districts the effectiveness of their existing literacy programs. She has begun collecting extant data from several school districts for different projects. Some of the questions to be answered are: "To what extent are program characteristics associated with the effectiveness of reading interventions?" and "What are the effects of an intensive summer reading intervention on the improvement in reading ability and academic performance of eligible students who did and did not participate in the program?" Reed asked if others in the group had ideas for future research and received several responses such as studying the effects of chronic absenteeism on literacy growth; longitudinal effects of student demographics, the summer programming, and interventions; and examining teacher instruction and understanding.

AGENDA ITEM: Update on IRRIC Initiatives

ELL/Family Resources
Project Update
Web and Social Media
Updates

Lead
Priscilla Polehna
Melissa Potter

Follow Up
Data mine to find where the
Facebook followers come
from

www.iowareadingresearch.org





A New Vision for Literacy Research in Iowa

Notes: Priscilla Polehna discussed the background of our ELL Resources project, including the formation of the task team and the process of gathering resources to be reviewed for the IRRC website. She spoke about the process the task team had followed in finalizing the rubric and taking it to the vetting group. The vetting group meeting consisted of representatives from different stakeholder groups across the state. By the end of the meeting, it was determined that a new direction needed to be taken. The ELL resources will be reviewed by a small focus group, facilitation guides will be developed, and then the resources will be added to the IRRC website.

Melissa Potter gave a brief overview of fiscal year to date website statistics. Potter then showed the Council a mock up of the new look of the IRRC homepage for the website. She asked to have the Council engage via email with any questions regarding the website or any suggestions for improvement. Potter next listed the top 4 Blog articles and top 4 Facebook posts. Dietrich asked if we could tell which stakeholder groups the Facebook page likes came from and Potter explained that is a metric she would try to find. The IRRC will have an exhibit in the University of Iowa's Mobile Museum beginning in April of 2016. Potter gave a brief description of the exhibit and the operations of the museum.

AGENDA ITEM: ISRP Rules Update

Rules Update

Lead

Dave Tilly

Follow Up

None

Notes: Dave Tilly addressed the Council regarding the Intensive Summer Literacy Rules. He explained the process of developing the rules and the current stage of the process. Tilly described the large number of public comments made about the rules and the suggestions given by the Administrative Rules Review Committee. Tilly explained the updates that were made to each of the rules and the addition of a sub-rule i.

Tilly next explained the potential changes that may be made to the ESEA law. The new name will be Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). Reauthorization is for four years. States may choose challenging academic standard without interference from the federal government. Tilly went on to explain the specific items included in the Act and the items that were not included as well. Reauthorization in Iowa will go into effect for the 2017-2018 school year if the changes are passed into law.



A New Vision for Literacy Research in Iowa

AGENDA ITEM: Learning and Development Session

Screening Assessments	Lead Deborah Reed	Follow Up None
-----------------------	-----------------------------	--------------------------

Notes: Reed presented a Learning and Development session about Screening Assessments for the Council. She reviewed the purposes and research basis for universal screening, highlighted the strengths and weaknesses of different measures, and showed the group samples of the measures. Reed explained why screening measures tend to be fluency based and corrected some misconceptions of the FAST assessment.

AGENDA ITEM: Legislative Update

Update	Lead Phil Wise	Follow Up None
--------	--------------------------	--------------------------

Notes: Phil Wise, Legislative Policy Advisor, spoke about the upcoming legislative session. Wise expects education funding discussion to focus primarily on supplemental state aid. The funding proposed for the IRRRC is two million dollars for the next fiscal year. The Administrative Rules for summer reading programs will need to be approved during this legislative session. If they are put on legislative delay, they will not be in effect in time for the 2017 school year.

AGENDA ITEM: Partner Share Out

Becky Miles-Polka Salli Forbes Claudia Reyes-Fry	Lead Becky Miles-Polka Salli Forbes Claudia Reyes-Fry	Follow Up None
--	---	--------------------------

Notes: Becky Miles-Polka spoke of her work with the Campaign for Grade Level Reading and attendance. She asked how we could make the resources on the website easier to access and use for parents. Also, she asked of the group how we can engage parents, schools, districts, and community partners.

Salli Forbes from UNI spoke about her work with the i3 Scale-Up Grant and Reading Recovery program. She provided a handout that showed the statistics from the 2011-2012 school year. Forbes reported that the outcomes of the program were positive and



A New Vision for Literacy Research in Iowa

the students were showing positive growth on their ITBS scores, which were the measurement in the study.

Claudia Reyes-Fry, with the Iowa Chapter of the International Dyslexia Association, told about a webinar she attended with speaker Dr. Marcia Henry. The webinar was about the structure of language for all children and developing a framework for decoding and spelling.

AGENDA ITEM: Closing

Lead
Deborah Reed

Follow Up
None

Notes: Reed reminded everyone of the date for the Quarter 3 meeting and that it would be a Zoom meeting rather than face to face. In May we will set dates for fiscal year 2017 meetings. A reminder was given to return all forms for reimbursement or evaluation to Elizabeth Decker on the way out.

There was a round of applause for Sara McInerney as this was her last Advisory Council meeting as Assistant Director for the Center. She received many good wishes for her retirement and thanks for her good work.

A motion to adjourn as made by Goltz, second by Draper. All members in attendance voted in favor, none opposed. The meeting was adjourned.