



## Student Reading Success Through Research and Collaboration

**Iowa Reading Research Center (IRRC)  
Advisory Council Meeting Minutes  
December 19, 2019  
10:00 AM – 2:00 PM  
Department of Education – Des Moines**

**Members present:** Emily Hayden, Erin Sale, Michael Scott, Deanna Stoube, David Tilly, Corey Vorthmann, Shane Williams, Ryan Wise, Katie Greving (remote connection for professional learning time).

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

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### **1. Call to order**

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

### **2. Review of meeting outcomes**

Chair Corey Vorthmann highlighted meeting agenda items including Iowa Dyslexia Task Force updates, Deborah Reed's report on IRRC eLearning modules, and Iowa Department of Education updates. Official approval of agenda items and minutes was postponed until a meeting quorum was met.

### **3. Public comment**

Chair Corey Vorthmann allowed time for public comment. No members of the public were in attendance.

### **4. Director's report (IRRC)**

Deborah Reed reported four eLearning modules are now live. Available modules are Varied Practice Reading, Interactive Reading, Effective Literacy Instruction and Dyslexia Overview. The Dyslexia Overview supports a teacher licensure requirement and is free to all. Other modules are free for Iowa AEA and in-service teachers only, but they are available at low cost to anyone else. Reed reviewed enrollment and completion numbers. Additional resources offered include the facilitator guides, which are free to professional development providers who request them, and



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Varied Practice Reading passage set booklets that are accessible electronically upon completion of the module. Alternatively, printed booklets may be purchased.

Council members questioned the policy to charge pre-service teachers for access to the modules. Reed explained the determination was made after a pilot with a teacher prep program last year and with feedback from the Early Literacy Blueprint Initiative advisory committee on how to focus the module development for a specific audience. The training goal to move the instructional practices into classrooms requires a level of background knowledge and follow-up support that would be difficult to replicate in the pre-service classroom structure. Reed offered to work with council member Deanna Stoube on providing communication to the Iowa Association of Colleges for Teacher Education regarding the intended audience.

Reed presented numbers on the Dyslexia Overview module completions by teacher preparation program students which indicate approximately half of active pre-service students are utilizing the training. The council discussed how the numbers may be low due to instructors of secondary candidates not being familiar with the module or programs using other options to meet the licensure requirement.

Reed said participant feedback has provided the opportunity to continually improve the modules, facilitator guides, and other resources as well as address technological issues. When utilizing the modules for large-scale professional development on a given day, school districts and AEA consultants are encouraged to provide advance notice to the IRRC to assist in planning for technology or other support.

*(At this point, an additional council member arrived and a quorum was reached.)*

### **5. Approval of agenda**

On a motion by David Tilly and seconded by Deanna Stoube, the agenda for the meeting was approved, with zero “no” votes.

### **6. Approval of September 2019 meeting minutes**

On a motion by Deanna Stoube and seconded by Emily Hayden, the September 5, 2019, meeting minutes were approved, with zero “no” votes.

### **7. Director’s report (IRRC) continued**

Reed continued with the results of the Evaluation of the Council Bluffs Community School District (CBCSD) 2019 Summer Program. Chair Corey Vorthmann, who is also the chief academic officer for CBCSD summarized the program progression over the last 11 years. Initially, CBCSD was focused on determining how much impact the summer program had on student outcomes.



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Currently, CBCSD is focused on how the program can support reading instruction that takes place during the regular school year. IRRC has been evaluating the program for the past 5 years. Reed reviewed relevant information about students, instructors, and program features. She then presented the results of the summer program on students' MAP and RAPID assessment scores. It was noted teacher fidelity was up from previous years, and CBCSD has identified components to provide more time and support for teachers. The full report is posted on the IRRC website.

### **8. Professional development: Iowa Dyslexia Task Force report**

The legislature outlined in law the stakeholder groups to be represented on the Iowa Dyslexia Task Force. This diverse group met over the last year researching, discussing, debating, soliciting public comment and feedback to further understand dyslexia issues, outlining a vision for the public education system, identifying challenges, and providing recommendations to address concerns. Iowa Dyslexia Task Force and AC members David Tilly, Deborah Reed, and Katie Greving presented key issues, priorities, and recommendations presented in the November 15 task force report. They then discussed the IRRC's role outlined in the recommendations. If approved by the legislature, the IRRC would expand eLearning offerings on dyslexia, add more publicly accessible dyslexia resources to its website, and develop an advanced dyslexia endorsement for educators. Council members inquired on the feedback on the report being received. The members said there has been a positive response to the report, but the task force recognizes that there is a need to follow-up with stakeholders and communicate that the recommendations will help a broad range of students. The council discussed the roles and responsibilities of the stakeholder groups. The full report is posted on the Department of Education website and paper copies were provided to council members.

### **9. Iowa Department of Education update**

Iowa Department of Education Data Systems Developer Janell Brandhorst presented an overview of the multi-tiered system of supports data system Panorama, which opened in September 2019 to AEAs and school districts. She described the purpose of the system to display progress, monitor data to help identify struggling students who need literacy support, track evidence-based interventions, and analyze system-level healthy indicators. Updated demographic and roster data are posted nightly. She briefly demonstrated use of the platform and discussed plans for it. Council members shared that colleagues have found the system user-friendly and a great improvement over sorting through multiple spreadsheets. Members saw much potential for analyzing student data.

Iowa Department of Education Director Ryan Wise continued the department updates. He announced he is leaving the Iowa Department of Education to become dean at Drake University School of Education. The transition will most likely take place prior to April 30, 2020. Director Wise commented on the upcoming legislative agenda. It will be a modest session addressing



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community college issues, concurrent course enrollments, and code clean-up bills. The budget for the IRRC is status quo for now.

David Tilly presented an overview on the process for developing and deploying the Iowa Statewide Assessment of Student Progress (ISASP), which operated on an accelerated timeline for test development. He described educators' involvement in item writing and review as well as standard setting. In September, the Iowa State Board of Education approved the performance standards. In November, districts received reports of the results. Council discussion included questions on resources available to prepare students for the writing test and concern with how the proficiency levels were determined and would be used in the Every Student Succeeds Act accountability system.

### **10. Legislative reception**

Reed announced the legislative reception will be moved from January to March to avoid the busy time preceding the funnel of bills. The IRRC AC chair is invited to attend. Council members will be asked to communicate with their legislative representatives prior to the session.

### **11. Adjourn**

Next meeting is May 5, 2020.

On a motion by Deanna Stoube and seconded by Michael Scott, the meeting was adjourned, with zero "no" votes at 1:56 p.m.

