



Student Reading Success Through Research and Collaboration

**Iowa Reading Research Center (IRRC)
Advisory Council Meeting Minutes
September 15, 2020
10:00 AM – 11:30 AM
Meeting via Videoconference**

Members present: Beth Ades-Hanson, Kate Connealy, Katie Greving, Nandita Gurjar, Erin Sale, Michael Scott, Jon Sheldahl, Deanna Stoube, Jen Stover, David Tilly, Corey Vorthmann, Shane Williams

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

1. Call to order

The meeting was called to order by IRRC Advisory Council (AC) Chair Corey Vorthmann at 10:03 a.m.

2. Introductions

Council members and staff introduced themselves and explained their affiliations and roles on the council.

3. Approval of agenda

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

4. Approval of May 2020 meeting minutes

On a motion by Kate Connealy and seconded by Shane Williams, the May 2020 meeting minutes were approved, with zero “no” votes.

5. Review of meeting outcomes

Corey Vorthmann highlighted meeting agenda items including reviewing roles of Advisory Council members, discussion of ongoing work of the IRRC and Department of Education updates.



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6. Public comment

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

7. Advisory Council member roles

Corey Vorthmann asked members to review and discuss IRRC AC bylaws Article III: Duties of the Council. Members highlighted their actions and responsibilities as parents, teachers, and professionals with respect to the listed duties.

8. Director's report (IRRC)

Deborah Reed reported on the work of the IRRC since spring 2020. This included the ongoing support to families and schools during the pandemic, and members were encouraged to suggest additional topics or materials that would be beneficial.

Reed continued with a summary eLearning development and usage as well as a reminder that facilitator guides are available for professional development provider who request them. Reed provided time for comments and suggestions.

Reed continued with updates on projects the IRRC has with Iowa school districts.

Finally, Reed noted work on the Dyslexia Endorsement has just started and updates will be provided at the December 2020 meeting.

9. Iowa Department of Education update

David Tilly provided Department of Education updates. Tilly commented that the Dyslexia Endorsement is a collaborative effort between the Department of Education, Iowa Reading Research Center, Iowa Board of Educational Examiners, and legislators. Part of the legislation was the creation of a Dyslexia Board, which is currently being constituted by the Governor's office. Further information on proposed recommendations the Dyslexia Task Force report is posted on the Department of Education website.

Tilly described the Department's role in developing COVID-19 guidance, information, and resources on a number of topics. Of note, Tilly announced a state project received \$17M grant from the federal government for a 3-year online learning initiative. There will be more to come on this initiative. The department will be working with AEA and LEA and collaborators to provide high quality instructional tools.

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10. Adjourn

Next meeting is Wednesday, December 16, 2020. Dependent on the ability to have an in-person meeting, location and time will be communicated at a later time.

On a motion by Deanna Stoube and seconded by David Tilly, the meeting was adjourned, with zero “no” votes at 11:31 am.