



Student Reading Success Through Research and Collaboration

**Iowa Reading Research Center (IRRC)
Advisory Council Meeting Minutes
September 8, 2017
10 AM – 2:30 PM
Iowa Center for Higher Education**

Members present: Lonna Anderson, Kimberly Buryanek, Angelica Cardenas-Chaisson, Kate Connealy, Joe Crozier, Kara Dietrich, Emily Hayden, Becky Miles-Polka, Renita Schmidt, David Tilly, Sarah Vander Zanden, Ryan Wise, Lindsay Woodward.

Additional attendees: Janelle Brandhorst, Department of Education; Deborah K. Reed, IRRC Director; Sandy A. Schmitz, Assistant Director, IRRC; Ryan Lynch, IRRC Administrative Services Coordinator

1. Call to order

The meeting was called to order by IRRC Advisory Council Chair Kimberly Buryanek. All AC members introduced themselves and provided updates related to literacy education.

2. Approval of agenda

On a motion by Lindsay Woodward and seconded by Joe Crozier, the agenda for the meeting was approved, with zero “no” votes.

3. Approval of December 2016 meeting minutes

On a motion by Nita Schmidt and seconded by David Tilly, the May 2017 meeting minutes were approved, with zero “no” votes.

4. Public comment

Chairperson Buryanek allowed time for public comment. No comments were made by members of the public.

5. Review of IRRC bylaws

Deborah Reed, IRRC Director, introduced the IRRC bylaws. She noted one particular bylaw “*Article IV: Meetings Section 1*. The Council shall meet at the call of the chair, and there shall be at least four meetings each year. The Chairperson still withholds the right to call a meeting at any time necessary. “

Due to difficulty scheduling four meetings in a typical school year and the lack of agenda items for four meetings, Dr. Reed proposed a change from four meetings to three meetings each year.



On a motion by Joe Crozier and seconded by Kara Dietrich, the Council unanimously voted that public notice should be given concerning the bylaw change. The Council will vote on the change in bylaws at their December meeting.

6. Director's report (IRRC)

Dr. Reed reviewed the IRRC's planned projects during fiscal year 2018. This includes the IRRC Statewide Training of Trainers scheduled for September 20 and 21st. Based on parameters of the grant funding supporting the training, it is open to AEA and Urban Education Network (UEN) literacy trainers. The components to this professional development are:

- * Grapheme-phoneme graphing
- * Morphology
- * Vocabulary
- * Text Structure

Other planned partner activities shared by Dr. Reed included evaluating:

- * The implementation of *Foundations*, a K-2 word study program in Ames elementary schools and in coordination with Heartland AEA.
- * The redesigned 2017 summer reading program in Council Bluffs, and
- * Sioux City's implementation of small group, skills-based instruction.

Dr. Buryanek, Associate Superintendent of the Sioux City Community Schools, shared that she will be presenting data at the December Council meeting concerning the district's partnership with the IRRC.

7. IRRC Professional Development (IRRC)

Dr. Schmitz, IRRC Assistant Director, presented information regarding *What is the root cause of poor literacy outcomes?* Schmitz emphasized discovering the root cause is dependent upon finding something one can influence and control. She described a technique the IRRC uses to assist district and building level teams to identify their root cause of poor student literacy performance.

Dr. Schmitz facilitated a group activity where the council members were asked to identify the root cause for the literacy gap in Iowa between elementary students who are African American and students of all other races/ethnicities.

8. Iowa Department of Education update (DE)

At this point, the IRRC portion of the meeting was temporarily ceded, and the council was asked to serve in an advisory role to the DE.

Ryan Wise, DE Director provided an update on the DE's Every Student Succeeds Act.



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DE Deputy Director David Tilly provided an update on the transition to Fastbridge. He also provided an update on continued efforts to prepare teachers to provide high-quality literacy instruction.

David Tilly then introduced Janelle Brandhorst of the Department's assessment team. Janelle updated the Council on the change to the universal screening and progress monitoring system in place for the 2017-18 school year.

The IRRC Advisory Council meeting then resumed.

9. Announcements from Council Members

***There was one announcement from Becky Miles-Polka regarding work of the Campaign for Grade Level Reading and awards received by their partner schools.

10. Adjourn

On a motion by Becky Miles-Polka and seconded by Sara Vander Zanden, the meeting was adjourned, with zero "no" votes.