

## **Reading Instruction Advisory Group Meeting Minutes**

December 15, 2014

10 am-1pm

Center for the Advancement and Support of Education Initiatives

Illinois State University

705 East Lincoln

Normal, Illinois 61761

Members Present: Donna Schertz (acting as Chairperson for Elizabeth Hanselman), Juana Burchell, Julie West, Sally Sover, Ann Denoyer, Joan Panopoulos, Tom Parton, John Pettit, Angela Baronello, Kim Spiker, Sue O'Brien, Phyllis Blivens, Lindsay Lipsky, Yvonne Williams (late arrival)

The meeting was called to order with introductions being made. The adoption of the agenda was discussed with John Pettit asking for an item to be added. The added discussion item was developing a evaluation document in which all community stakeholders could access and provide input upon. The discussion item was added to the agenda. Adoption of the agenda motion made by Sally Sover, and seconded by Sue O'Brien. No further discussion. Motion carried.

Testimony/Public Participation was not present as we had no visitors.

### Discussion Topic(s):

- John Pettit agreed to develop a Google spreadsheet to utilize as a Resource Materials Evaluation Tool. Other suggested criteria to be added to the Evaluation Tool included: explicit/implicit instruction, specified grade bands for use, Common Core alignment, instrument strengths/weaknesses, comment section, etc. All members agreed to obtain and send John google email addresses to review Evaluation Tool. Further discussion centered upon the role of the Resource Materials Evaluation Tool for community stakeholders being used as guide rather than prescriptive. A separate screening tool was also discussed.

Presentations were conducted by Phyllis Blivens, ISBE Principal Consultant, on the Early Childhood observational screening tool Kindergarten Individual Developmental Survey (KIDS) and its usage in assessing reading readiness components, e.g. phonological awareness, letter and word knowledge, print concepts, receptive/expressive language development, etc. A discussion was held surrounding this instrument and its usage in regards to recognizing the early signs of dyslexia in kindergarten to first grade to prevent reading difficulties versus intervention in higher grades.

A second presentation was provided by Lindsay Lipsky from Learning Ally. Learning Ally modules were reviewed which provide a general overview of dyslexia. These modules were

developed in New Jersey for teachers to meet a two hour professional development mandate covering dyslexia. These modules could be modified to meet the needs of Illinois educators for no cost as Learning Ally receives a budget from ISBE which could be used to develop these training models for Illinois. Trainings have already been presented in Illinois at several different locations. Several RIAG task force members have attended or will be attending one of these training sessions. A brief question and answer session was conducted.

Group members agreed to review dyslexia resources in which they were familiar. These resources will be divided by intended user group: parents, educators, and other community stakeholders.

#### Old Business Items:

Approval of the Business Minutes of November 7, 2014 was motioned by Sue O'Brien, and seconded by Tom Parton. No further discussion. Minutes approved.

Group members were reminded for the need to complete review of the Open Meeting Act (documentation due no later than January 27, 2015).

Rules Language for Dyslexia Definition Adoption was motioned by Tom Parton and seconded by Joan Panopoulos. No further discussion. Motion carried.

#### New Business Items

Discussion of Next Steps include the need to meet in person as opposed to virtually due to the amount of work needed to be done. A majority of the members expressed an interest to meet in person. Proposed dates were discussed and it was decided that the next meeting would be on Monday, January 26, 2015, 10 am to 1 pm at Center for the Advancement and Support of Education Initiatives, Illinois State University, 705 East Lincoln, Normal, Illinois 61761

Discussion continued on ways to publicize the RIAG task force meetings and work to promote increased community stakeholders and public attendance and awareness.

Meeting to adjourn was made by Yvonne Williams and seconded by Joan Panopoulos. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 1:33 pm.