



Literacy Standards Review Team

Meeting Notes

Date: Wednesday, June 22, 2016

Time: 9:30 a.m. to 3:45 p.m.

Location: West Des Moines Learning Resources Center, West Des Moines, Iowa

MEMBERS PRESENT:

- Vickie Antsey, Griswold Community School District
- Beth Baker-Brodersen, Des Moines Area Community College
- Sandra Beisker, Dubuque Community School District
- Bridget Castelluccio, Cedar Rapids Community School District
- Kara Dietrich, Ballard Community School District
- Salli Forbes, University of Northern Iowa
- Dixie Forcht, South Tama Community School District
- Carol Glackin, Morningside College
- Elizabeth Hansen, Grinnell-Newburg Community School District
- Sally Huddle, Iowa Wesleyan University
- Laura Johnson, Grant Wood Area Education Agency
- Heather Lundquist, Atlantic Community School District
- Kristine Milburn, West Des Moines Community School District
- Erin Miller, Ames Community School District
- Kathy Perret, Northwest Area Education Agency
- Jonathan Roger, Iowa City Community School District
- Janelle Thompson, Heartland Area Education Agency
- Molly Tripp, A-H-S-T Community School District
- Josh Wager, Des Moines Public Schools

Committee members who were absent: Sarah Brown Wessling, Johnston Community School District; Laurent Burt, Meredith Corp; Mendy Haefs, St. Patrick Elementary School, Sheldon; Kelsey Meyer, Grundy Center Community School District; and Deborah Reed from Iowa Reading Research Center.

Also in attendance were Rebecca Bates, consultant with Midwest Comprehensive Center; Rita Martens, administrative consultant for the Department of Education's Bureau of Standards and Curriculum; Erika Cook, bureau chief for Standards and Literacy; Sandy Nelson, with the Bureau of Learner Strategies and Supports; and Melissa Walker, writer for the review committee.

Agenda item: Welcome, review of purpose and outcomes

Notes: Rita Martens with the Department of Education's Bureau of Standards and Curriculum reviewed the purpose and outcomes with committee members and asked them to discuss among their groups whether they believed they had adequately met them.

The team charge was:

- To gather feedback from stakeholders on existing standards. Martens said she believed the committee had done a good job of this.
- To study current status of implementation of existing standards. Martens said the committee had information regarding this.
- To review infrastructure and supports for existing standards. Martens said the committee didn't have as much information on this topic as department officials would have liked for them to receive but did receive some feedback regarding professional development, and the support teachers/educators have regarding materials, activities and other sources.
- To identify areas for improvement for future work in the K-12 Iowa Core Literacy Standards. Martens said this would be completed during this meeting as the committee writes its recommendations.

Overall, Martens said she thought the committee had met the team charge, and committee members agreed.

Martens reviewed the expected outcomes with the committee members and what they would do during the meeting:

- Write recommendations about standards
 - Keep standard/s as they are
 - Revise standard/s
 - Eliminate standard/s
- Write recommendations about implementation
 - Professional learning
 - Materials, resources
- Offer a report to the State Board of Education. Martens said she would have a date for the state board meeting when the group meets via a Zoom meeting sometime in August. She invited committee members to attend the state board meeting in order to show support for the final recommendations.

Committee members were asked to review the team norms and decision-making norms, which were provided in writing to each group.

Martens then explained to committee members they would use Survey Monkey to write their recommendations. She suggested any recommendation include data to support decisions and include professional development opportunities for standards where survey-takers or others who gave feedback had questions about specific standards. Specifically, she referred to questions and comments about why certain nonfiction texts were included or taught in English Language Arts rather than Social Studies.

Once groups were finished writing their recommendations into Survey Monkey, the entire committee would rate their support/interest for each recommendation. Martens said if there was

a wide variety of responses or disagreement, recommendations would need to be revised or a consensus arrived at because today's work would be forwarded to the Area Education Agency Iowa Literacy Team to help create professional development and learning, as well as used in the information that would be used to write the report submitted to the State Board of Education. She explained that the state board would not vote on individual recommendations but would vote on whether to accept the overall report, which would be an acceptance of the recommendations within it as written.

Committee members also were given the opportunity to review the glossary of terms if they had questions, but there was no discussion.

Agenda item: Recommendation topics, online writing tools

Notes: Martens said committee members would complete two rounds of recommendation writing during the meeting.

Round 1 would cover:

- Iowa-specific standards
- Technical assistance (TA) for the use of specific non-fiction texts in ELA standards
- Number of standards and standards-based grading system
- Professional development K-2, 3-5, 6-8, high school, specific population, assessment, MTSS (D2 facilitation guide)

Martens said as committee members wrote their recommendations, they needed to consider there were a number of people who provided feedback about whether there was a need to have Iowa-specific standards. The identification of specific nonfiction texts in the ELA standards also had a lot of discussion; thus, Martens said the committee may want to consider a recommendation on providing professional development in that area to explain why nonfiction texts are in the ELA section and not Social Studies. The committee may also consider the feedback it received regarding the number of standards and the effects on a standards-based grading system. Overall, she said the feedback provided many comments regarding professional development with issues specific to ELL and special education students, and the need for more professional development to support assessments. Martens also brought up D2 manual and facilitation, which is considered the jumping off point for the study of standards, and said some who provided feedback were concerned about how this document approached the standards and what needed to be added to it.

The committee was then divided into groups broken down by one of the four areas listed above. Groups met to consider feedback and write recommendations.

Agenda item: Writing Session 1

Notes: Committee members met in their groups and worked for about an hour to review implementations and recommendations along with revisions and additions that were discussed at the May meeting, and then to write recommendations.

Agenda item: Writing Session 2

Notes: Committee members were divided into slightly different groups in order to write revisions related to the lowacore.gov website. These revisions were to include specific revisions to the website; how the integration of standards could be supported across content areas; collaboration and planning time; and how digital literacy would be incorporated.

Agenda item: Consensus Building

Notes: The groups recorded their recommendations into Survey Monkey, and then the entire committee reviewed each recommendation individually and rated it with a strongly agree, agree, neutral, disagree or strongly disagree. The Survey Monkey data could not be accessed in a chart format, so the committee individually went through each recommendation and voiced their consensus or lack of consensus on whether to move forward with a recommendation. Recommendations were revised by committee co-chairwoman Kristine Milburn as directed.

All committee members present at the meeting came to a consensus and agreed upon each of the recommendations. Some recommendations were combined in order to create a smaller list from the initial 20 recommendations. Committee members stressed the importance of providing teachers and educators with the professional development they needed to implement the standards and to help students at all levels of learning. They also agreed the lowacore.gov website needed to have more information and be revised in order to serve as a more effective resource for educators.

The committee also discussed adding more language regarding digital literacy to the standards.

Agenda item: Plan to Finalize Report

Notes: Martens said the committee would need to meet via a Zoom meeting in August to vote on the final report that will be submitted to the State Board of Education for review. Possible dates were going to be sent to committee members for discussion.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:45 p.m.