

**KANSAS BOARD OF REGENTS  
LITERACY ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
January 24, 2025**

The January 24, 2025, meeting of the Literacy Advisory Committee Summit was held in Suite 530 in the Curtis State Office Building, 1000 SW Jackson, Topeka, KS.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Dr. Cindy Lane
Rep. Nikki McDonald
Dr. Suzanne Myers
Laurie Winter
Idalia Shuman
Dr. Carolyn Carlson
Heather Morgan
Dr. Beverly Schottler
Dr. Laurie Curtis
Martha Mendoza
Dr. Kim Wilson
Rep. Susan Estes
Dr. Howard Smith
Sen. Molly Baumgardner
Dr. David Hurford
Amber Pagan
Dennis Burke
Judi Price
Dr. Ben Proctor
Jeanine Phillips
Mike Hill
Deb Farr
Susanne Martinez
Nick Mancini
Dr. Randy Watson

**Call to Order and Approval of Minutes**

Chair Lane called the meeting to order, welcomed members, and reviewed the agenda. She announced that Delainey Williams had a baby boy, Oliver, on January 21<sup>st</sup>. Rep. Estes moved to approve the December 17, 2024, meeting minutes. Idalia Shuman seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

**Updates**

Rachel Rubio gave an update on the Implementation of the Centers of Excellence. She shared that the universities were revising the center plans. As part of the process, a review subcommittee was created to review revised plans, including detailed budgets, and provide feedback. The sub-committee will develop a report to advance to the full committee once appropriations for FY 26 is confirmed.

Dr. Lane reviewed the SB 438 requirements and highlighted what the committee has accomplished in the brief time that the Blueprint has been in effect. Lane also reviewed upcoming scope of work and reports due.

Rachel Rubio presented on the National Initiative Updates, starting with background of the Science of Reading and Structured Literacy. She then reviewed the International Dyslexia Association and the IDA accreditation process. Rubio then outlined The Reading League and the Reading League Compass. Last, she highlighted ExcelinEd and its role in literacy education.

Dr. Ben Proctor presented on the State Initiative Updates for the Kansas Department of Education. His presentation focused on the Division of Learning Services Theory of Action – “if we strengthen coherence across Kansas through focusing on a few high-leverage, fundamental actions, then our students will develop more knowledge and skills leading to greater opportunities and fewer limitations.” They have also approved a new accreditation model for per-K through 12<sup>th</sup> grade school systems that he reviewed.

The committee had a lunch break, where they paired up and identified two things they wanted to know more about from the national and state level. After lunch, the committee went around the room and shared their two areas of interest.

Dr. Proctor concluded his presentation by describing the resources available to improve instruction through standards alignment and HQIM, as well as the KSDE responsibilities and supports.

**The Role of School Psychologist**

Deb Farr presented the role of school psychologists, training, and how school psychologists are a key resource to improving literacy achievement. She stated that school psychologists know about reading literacy but do not have in-depth knowledge of the science of reading or how the brain learns to read. School psychologists can help identify learning problems and develop intervention plans. Farr recommends universities include the Science of Reading and Structured Literacy courses in programs for school psychologists. She would like for the literacy centers to prioritize learning what schools are doing and what they need within catchment areas, to prioritize partnerships and collaboration, to support capacity-building, and to support trust-building with community partners, parents, and school-based personnel.

**Data Walk**

Rubio led the committee in reviewing the data from KSCEE, the student performance on English Language Arts assessment data, Structured Literacy Microcredential/Credential Needs by catchment area, and the institutes of higher education LETRS registration data.

**Refine SWOT Analysis**

The committee broke into groups of four to review the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats analysis developed in the December 2024 advisory committee meeting. This work was paused to focus on a legislative update and status of support for the plan to establish the Centers of Excellence in Literacy.

Representative Estes voiced her concern about the Blueprint for Literacy bill not passing due to a lack of understanding.

The committee recessed for 15 minutes. Upon reconvening, Chair Lane asked the committee to engage in an open discussion pertaining to legislative support for the Blueprint, and particularly the Centers. The committee recessed at 4:10 p.m.

The meeting was reconvened at 4:30. Denis Burke moved that the group support Dr. Flanders and Dr. Lane in negotiating the group's opinions to keep the Blueprint for Literacy moving forward. The motion was seconded by Dr. Carlson and passed unanimously.

Chair Lane adjourned the meeting at 5:14 pm

The next meeting will be February 21, 2025.