

**KANSAS BOARD OF REGENTS  
LITERACY ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
March 14, 2025**

The March 14, 2025, meeting of the Literacy Advisory Committee Summit was held on TEAMS.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Dr. Cindy Lane
Rep. Nikki McDonald
Dr. Suzanne Myers
Laurie Winter
Idalia Shuman
Dr. Carolyn Carlson
Heather Morgan
Dr. Beverly Schottler
Martha Mendoza
Dr. Kim Wilson
Regent Diana Mendoza
Sen. Renee Erickson
Dr. Howard Smith
Sen. Molly Baumgardner
Dr. David Hurford
Amber Pagan
Dennis Burke
Mike Hill
Dana Hensley
Susanne Martinez

**Call to Order and Approval of Minutes**

Chair Lane called the meeting to order, welcomed members, and reviewed the agenda. Tammy Kofford attended the meeting for Jeanine Phillips, who joined later in the meeting. Dr. Carlson moved to approve the February 21, 2025, meeting minutes. Martha Mendoza seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

**Updates from the Director and Committee Members**

Dr. Wilson updated the committee on the process to conduct the curriculum mapping analysis. The committee, comprised of representatives from each of the public universities, and representatives from the independent colleges, revised the Curriculum Alignment Planning Tool for Analyzing and Constructing Courses that Align to Reading Research Version 3.0 (CAPT) for Analyzing and Constructing Courses that Align to Reading Research

Version 3.0 developed by The Center for Reading Science, Mount St. Joseph University, to conduct the analysis. The review will be completed by March 18, and they will meet again on March 25 to work on the report due in April. Dr. Schottler reported that several independent colleges are participating in the curriculum mapping analysis.

Chair Lane reminded the committee that Senate Bill 438 requires a curriculum mapping analysis across all literacy courses offered in the undergraduate and graduate programs, and they are starting with the elementary licensure program.

Rachel Rubio updated the committee on the presentation to the State Board of Education. Chair Lane, Dr. Carlson, Dr. Schottler, and Rachel presented an overview of Foundations and answered question about the process to validate the course, and how successful completion is determined. The State Board will consider Foundations for the Seal of Literacy during their April meeting.

Dr. Carlson provided a brief overview of the pilot of Foundations. Forty educators from U.S.D. 501 are enrolled. The pilot provides an opportunity to strengthen the skills of the educators in the application of Structured Literacy and serves as an opportunity for feedback to strengthen the course.

Chair Lane announced that Dr. Sara Miller, Associate Professor at Fort Hays State University is leading the development of a course in data literacy. The course is designed to support in-service educator's use of data to plan instruction. The module development is required by SB 438 and supports the upcoming report to recommend a Balanced Assessment System to be taught in educator preparation programs.

Sen Erickson provided a legislative update. She stated that they worked on the education budget, and the Education Committee concurred with the House recommendations as a committee, which was presented to Senate Ways and Means. Rep. McDonald asked Sen. Erickson if there is \$2 million for the Literacy budget. Sen Erickson responded that she understood the Senate made a global recommendation to remove all ARPA interest funds and that those funds have not been completely reappropriated, and with her committee making the recommendation to accept the House position, she is hoping that is what will happen in conference, but it is still a work in progress.

Rep. McDonald then asked if Special Education was getting added back in, and Sen. Erickson said that the House position on special education was to add \$10 million for fiscal year 2026. The Senate position does not provide for additional special education funding. The House is \$10 million per year, which will have to go to a conference to be worked out.

Amber Pagan reported that the universities are promoting the Science of Reading courses. Chair Lane shared that since the state board meeting, there has been an acceleration in excitement about the Science of Reading courses. SB 438 requires that professional learning be provided at no or low cost to Kansas educators. Fulfilling this requirement will be challenging once the current funding has been expended. Chair Lane encouraged the legislatures to advocate for the full funding to be restored, or to support the House position.

Dr. Meyers reported on the status of the Blueprint Structured Literacy needs assessment. The researchers are finalizing school recruitment, striving to have at least one participating school in each catchment.

Dr. Meyers added that they are validating tools for performance assessment and structured literacy readiness to help schools know what kind of support they need to implement structured literacy. Expert reviews are underway.

### **IDA Accreditation**

Jane Hayes and Amy Taylor from Newman University presented their recently completed IDA accreditation process. They shared their experiences of the accreditation process, why they pursued it, and what impact they anticipate from their work.

### **Insight on Appropriations and the Standing of Senet Bill 438**

Chair Lane Counsel John Yeary to clarify for the Committee, SB 438 Section 3(3), that regardless of appropriations, the advisory committee will still be accountable for achieving the goals. John stated that yes, they would.

Dr. Carlson asked what the committee's role would be moving forward and if there was anything they could still do to get the needed funding. Chair Lane recommended the April meeting be dedicated to how to work toward the goals with limited funding. Sen. Baumgardner responded that the committee needed to make it clear the priority for the funding are courses for in-service educators. Teachers are expressing a desire to participate in the training and are looking for options to support strengthen their practice. Chair Lane encouraged members to talk to their legislators about the importance of the funding.

### **Strategic Plan Review and Feedback**

Chair Lane reviewed the activities and priorities the committee has established for the strategic plan. The imperatives are (1) investing in literacy education and workforce development, (2) elevating educators' skills to apply structured literacy, and (3) supporting schools and districts with literacy coaching. She stated that Imperative 1: Invest is primary focus of the Advisory Committee. Imperatives 2 and 3 cannot be fully implemented without resources. Chair Lane stressed that we need funding to pay tuition and stipends; getting this information to legislators is essential. Dr. Meyers mentioned looking at alternative funding sources, including private funding or grants. Dr. Lane will add that discussion to the April agenda.

### **Closing Remarks**

Chair Lane thanked the committee for its hard work, advocacy, and belief in teachers and children.

Chair Lane adjourned the meeting at 2:36 pm.

The next meeting will be on April 18, 2025.