

WI Early Literacy Curriculum Council (ELCC)

Tuesday, April 16, 2023 | 4:00 - 6:00 PM

MINUTES

Virtual Meeting: Zoom Meeting

Call to Order - Chairperson Amy McGovern called the meeting to order at approximately 4:01pm.

Attendance - Quorum was present.

Council Members:

Present: Amy McGovern (Chairperson), Holly Prast (Vice Chairperson), Katie Kasubaski (Secretary), Megan Dixon, Nancy Dressel, Kari Flitz, Itzel Galindo, Joe Garza, and Bill Hughes.

Department of Instruction Staff: Laura Adams, John Johnson

Approval of the Agenda - Chairperson

Motion: Nancy Dressel motioned to approve the agenda. Joe Garza seconded the motion. **The motion was carried 8-0.** (Holly Prast was not present for this vote.)

Approval of the Minutes- Chairperson

Motion: Bill Hughes motioned to approve the March 19, 2024 minutes as presented. Joe Garza seconded the motion. **The motion was carried 8-0.** (Holly Prast was not present for this vote.)

DPI Updates - Laura Adams, DPI

ACT 20 Update

DPI has provided schools with guidance stating that any school which purchased materials on January 1, 2024 or later is eligible for partial reimbursement. In addition, Schools are eligible if schools need to add a program to complete a package such as adding Geodes to Wit & Wisdom. Grants are slated to last until 2026, and the maximum reimbursement is 50% prorated throughout the life of the grants. The DPI is still working on implementation of these grants. One council member requested it be noted that the DPI reversed course on some guidance regarding grants, and that it might be helpful to send clear updates to school administrators.

Curricular Materials

The WI DPI is supportive of the ELCC only reviewing materials that meet all of the components required in ACT 20 which means no partial submissions. The DPI has the ability to state this on the vendor waiver and other materials. The law states that instructional materials must contain all of the components of ACT 20. Members noted that Tom McCarthy sent out an email with divisive language blaming the ELCC for the delay in the curricular list hours before he attended the last ELCC meeting. Council members called for more open communication with the DPI and less divisive language in communications from DPI staff to school administrators and others.

The Council inquired about a new curricular survey after school districts have implemented new curriculum. The DPI noted that the last curricular survey was completed in 2017 or 2018 and 2020. Wisconsin was part of a cohort of states looking at high quality standards looking for increased academic achievement, and grant funding was provided for the administration of the past surveys. Members noted that this would be helpful to update this survey to analyze implementation of ACT 20.

Office of Literacy Director

The WI DPI is in the interview process for the Office of Literacy Director position. Attorney Ben Jones determined the ELCC can go into closed session because the statute states that the ELCC is to consult on the hiring and hiring is an HR. The Office of Legal Services is making some inferences because of this statutorily defined duty, and it is good practice to go into closed session when it is possible that candidates may be present at the public meeting. The ELCC is not able to go into closed session for other matters in the same way as other councils or groups such as school boards.

Reading Advisory Council

The WI State Superintendent's Reading Advisory Council is working on drafting documents related to ACT 20 which will be shared with the public soon. Members shared that there has been public confusion between the duties of the Reading Advisory Council and the duties of the ELCC. The ELCC has two statutorily defined duties to create a curricular list and to consult with the hiring of the Office of Literacy Director. Members asked if other councils created by the Superintendent had started to meet again as some such as the Special Education Advisory Council which had not been meeting. Members stated that it would be helpful to know of other councils and advisory groups working on reading and implementation of ACT 20.

ACT 20 Reading Screeners

The DPI expects to have a list of recommended reading diagnostic assessments that meet ACT 20 by July. Diagnostic assessments are different from the universal screener. The diagnostic assessments will provide further information for students who need additional support. School districts will choose their own diagnostic assessments from the DPI recommendations. The DOA has publicly posted bids for the universal screener required three times per year. The deadline to apply is May 8, 2024. Schools need to implement the one approved universal screener beginning mid 2024-2025 school year. Members asked about private schools who are required to provide a fall reading screening. One concern was whether they would need to use one screener in the fall and a new statewide approved screener midyear. The DPI will send an update to private school administrators.

Office of Literacy Director - Chairperson

Motion: Nancy Dressel motioned to go into closed session to discuss hiring the Office of Literacy Director. Joe Garza seconded the motion. **The motion was carried 9-0.** (Roll call vote: Yes votes were Megan Dixon, Nancy Dressel, Kari Flitz, Itzel Galindo, Joe Garza, Bill Hughes, Katie Kasubaski, Holly Prast and Amy McGovern.)

During the closed session, members discussed the hiring process in a way that would best preserve candidate privacy. The chairperson led the discussion based on previous council meeting conversations with the DPI on the hiring process. Members approved six questions from council member generated candidate questions for DPI to send to candidates. Joe Garza left at approximately 5:35pm due to a prior commitment.

Motion: Holly Prast motioned to approve the highlighted questions to forward to the DPI for interviews for the Director of the Office of Literacy, and answers will be submitted to the Council in writing. Katie Kasubaski seconded the motion. **The motion was carried 8-0.** (Joe Garza was not present for this vote.)

Motion: Nancy Dressel motioned to return to regular session. Holly Prast seconded the motion. **The motion was carried 8-0.** (Joe Garza was not present for this vote.)

Early Literacy Curricula and Instructional Materials for 2024 - Chairperson

Members discussed an in-person meeting on Monday, May 6, 2024 at the WI DPI building to discuss rubric updates in more detail.

As of this meeting, members had not been assigned terms for their appointments. Members should contact their appointing office for more clarification. Members discussed having all members continue to serve to preserve the continuity of the council work.

Bylaws Updates - Chairperson

The council will discuss bylaws and other guidance documents at the in-person meeting in May.

Council Updates - Chairperson

The DPI will send council members the answers from the director candidates prior to the May 6 meeting. Members anticipate discussing candidate answers and giving more input on candidates at that time.

The next meeting is Monday, May 6 from 9:00am - 3:00pm at the WI DPI building.

Adjournment - The meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:09pm.