

Senate Committee

COMMITTEE MINUTES for EDUCATION

Date: *February 1, 2017*

Location: *RM 22*

Convened: *4:00 PM*

Adjourned: *5:00 PM*

Attendance Roll Call:

Present: Senators Sinclair-CH, Edler-VC, Quirmbach-RM, Behn, Bowman, Chelgren, Danielson, Dvorsky, Greene, Hart, Johnson, C., Kraayenbrink, Lofgren, Mathis, Rozenboom

Absent:

Excused:

Meeting came to order at 4:03.

Minutes were approved

Senator Sinclair introduced guest speakers, Dr. Deborah Reed and Dr. Dave Tilly.

Dr. Reed gave opening remarks on the summer reading program presentation and explained some of the graphs showing their findings from 2016 summer reading program. She also shared the demographics of the study done and went through the criteria for the State ISRP program. Finally she addressed some the variabilities identified in the program. Next she went through the efforts in Ames and Sioux City in regards to early literacy and professional development. She identified finding a common lack of explicit, systematic instructions in foundational skills, not enough time being spent actively reading in classrooms, and a overreliance on guided reading groups.

Senator Sinclair requested the presentation be distributed to the committee. Senator Sinclair next expressed her concerns over mandatory retention and the intended starting age for this program.

Dr. Reed clarified that starting earlier increased the likelihood of them getting on track by the time they reached middle school and starting earlier seemed to have better results.

Senator Sinclair than asked about the steps being taken to ensure quality teachers were being produced.

Dr. Reed confirmed there was more they could do and that they were in the process of talking to the board of educators to push for better education for teachers in regards to fundamental reading skills.

Senator Sinclair asked Dr. Tilly about the efforts of ensuring quality teachers and progress monitoring

Dr. Tilly clarified the progress monitoring process and talked about further educating teachers how to monitor students and finding ways to better equip the teachers with the training to teach

foundational skills.

Senator Sinclair asked how to make better use out of the teacher's time in regards to the testing process.

Dr. Tilly agreed that it was important for teachers to use their best judgement if they disagreed with the test results especially in cases of alternative tests showing differing results.

Senator Chelgren was recognized and had questions regarding the graphs and how the data tied in with the rest of the school year.

Dr. Reed responded that they needed access to the school year data to compare the slopes between the summer and school year and they did not have access to the school year data.

Senator Chelgren questioned if the time expectations during summer school were effective in regards to student engagement.

Dr. Reed responded that the average engagement rating during the summer was higher than they had expected with the time and that they had collected data over engagement and are waiting to have access to that data to know for certain.

Senator Chelgren and Dr. Reed discussed a graph over the results regarding word recognition.

Senator Qurimbach asked how they would want to redesign the summer school program to make it more effective and how they would redesign the school year as well.

Dr. Reed answered that she would like to run tests over what would happen if they stretched out the 70 hours required to cover more days with fewer hours to see if that improved levels of engagement even further. She also would potentially split up classes by level of needed assistance to see if that further improves test scores. For the school year she would like to incorporate less guided reading groups for foundational skills.

Senator Bowman was recognized and made the point that it was important to test all students not just ones who were at risk in order to show growth at all levels. Senator Bowman also wanted to make sure the tests were being administered in a way that would avoid the risk of bullying.

Dr. Reed agreed it was important to show growth among all students as well as making sure tests were being administrated correctly.

Senator Kraayenbrink was recognized and asked if there was any research over which of the three test groups was most effective. He also asked if there were any ideas being developed over increasing parent involvement in the summer reading program.

Dr. Reed discussed the University of Iowa's process of redesigning one of the education classes and hosting an overview of some training online for free, specifically dyslexia training.

Senator Hart was recognized and asked questions over the testing process and the difficulties of some students who aren't making it past the mark even with extra help.

Dr. Reed confirmed that some students even with extra help don't meet the mark by 3rd grade.

Dr. Tilly clarified that the two tests regarding retention and further assistance were different and

they compared the two to ensure that each student was getting what they needed before retention was decided. He offered to discuss the process more in depth with Senator Hart if she would like at a later time.

Senator Sinclair gave closing remarks over the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 5:01.

Senator Amy Sinclair

Casey Nickel, Committee Secretary