

**KANSAS BOARD OF REGENTS  
LITERACY ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
May 20, 2025**

The May 20, 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
Dr. Laurie Curtis
Idalia Shuman
Dr. Carolyn Carlson
Rep. Susan Estes
Dr. Beverly Schottler
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
Dr. Ben Proctor
Judi Price
Deb Farr
Susanne Martinez

**I. Call to Order and Approval of Minutes**

Chair Lane called the meeting to order, welcomed members, and reviewed the agenda. Dr. Carlson moved to approve the February 21, 2025, meeting minutes. Idalia Shuman seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

**II. Updates from the Director and Committee Members**

Foundation in the Science of Reading: Understanding and Applying Structured Literacy Principles – Pilot Courses

Dr. Carlson provided an update on the pilot of Foundations in the Science of Reading: Understanding and Applying Structured Literacy Principles. Washburn University has been piloting Foundations with a cohort of 35 Topeka U.S. D 501 educators. The course comprises three main components: Knowledge, Application, and Coaching. The educators in the pilot course demonstrate high levels of engagement and interest in deepening their skills to apply Structured Literacy principles as essential elements of literacy instruction. The community focus to addressing problems have practice supporting by individual coaching sessions has been well received. The educators are scheduled to complete the second course in mid-July. All educators are on-track to successfully complete the requirements to include passing key performance assessments. A comprehensive report will be provided to the Office of Literacy within four weeks of the course completion.

#### Statewide Implementation of Foundations

Dr. Lane updated the committee on the statewide implementation of Foundations. She stated it is a unique course with knowledge, application, and coaching components. She added that Foundations will undergo a complete review this summer to ensure continuous improvement based on educator feedback and performance data. Deb Farr asked if a document could be created that describes the different options and what is best for each teacher. Dr. Lane responded that a document can be created in collaboration with the Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE).

#### Curriculum Mapping Literacy Courses

Dr. Wilson reviewed the Systemwide Analysis of Curriculum Maps report. Representatives of the public universities and independent colleges utilized a modified Content Analysis Program Tool (CAPT) to review literacy courses across the elementary education licensure program. The rubric analysis of the depth and breadth standards included in each course and identified the instructional approaches used to facilitate learning. Each college of education review team completed the rubric for licensure elementary education programs and submitted their individual analysis to the committee. The data from each institution was aggregated to the system's level resulting in the systemwide report. The report concluded that the standards are addressed in various literacy courses and the depth indicated by the standards. A variety of instructional formats are in place across the educator preparation programs. The report will be shared with the deans of the colleges of education and publish on the Blueprint for Literacy website.

#### Balanced Assessment System for Literacy

Deb Farr reviewed the recommendations contained in the Balanced Assessment System for Literacy Instruction report. A committee comprised of representatives of the public universities and independent colleges were charged to make recommendations as data literacy (use of assessments) is taught in educator preparation programs. The goal is to ensure pre-service are knowledgeable the purpose and administration of a variety of assessment tools, are skilled at interpreting and utilizing the data to plan instruction. The committee **recommends the following:**

#### EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAMS

1. Integrate diverse assessment tools to provide authentic hands-on experience in the selection and application of assessment tools.

2. Include assessment tools recommended by KSDE and frequently utilized in Kansas schools to create congruence between what is taught, and what educators have access to or is required by school districts.
3. Ensure data literacy and databased decision-making is included in educator preparation (if not already in place).
4. Ensure teacher candidates can demonstrate a deep understanding of assessment implementation and data interpretation in PreK-12 settings.
5. Provide opportunities to administer and interpret a variety of assessments in PreK-12 classrooms, including small group and individual contexts, and develop instructional plan based on the needs of diverse learners.
6. Address the gap between assessment data and instructional planning through tools like the "Literacy Assessment Roadmap."

#### EDUCATION SYSTEMS

7. Establish centralized digital repository of assessment resources through collaboration between KSDE and the Kansas Board of Regents (KBOR).
8. Ensure all teacher candidates demonstrate competency in data literacy and literacy assessment, regardless of licensure pathway.

#### Updates from KSDE

Dr. Laurie Curtis reminded the Advisory Committee of KSDE's new school improvement model inclusive of four fundamentals:

1. Structured Literacy,
2. Standard Alignment,
3. Balanced Assessment,
4. Quality Instruction

Dr. Ben Proctor reported KSDE has completed 76 School Improvement Days assisting school districts to develop and review their individual school improvement plans. In FY25-26 School Improvement days will include system reports on implementation of action plans.

Literacy Leadership Carde has been established to support Structured Literacy implementation. Work has also begun to provide guidance and tools for districts to utilize in the selection of high-quality instructional materials.

Additionally, KSDE has implemented a Professional Learning Community for Reading Specialists. To date thirty educators have attended monthly virtual meetings.

The KSDE Great Ideas Conference is scheduled for late July and includes Literacy Summit focused on LETRS facilitation and coaching.

Dr. Proctor reminded the Advisory Committee of the State Board of Education's requirement for educators to earn the Seal of Literacy to renew their license beginning in 2028. The State Board approved KBOR's Foundation of the Science of Reading: Understanding and Applying Structured Literacy Principles as an approved program to earn the Seal of Literacy during the April 2025 meeting. The State Board also approved the Phillips Fundamental Learning Center and R.E.A.D.-Redefined programs as additional Seal of Literacy options for educators during its May 2025 meeting.

#### Update Blueprint Design Research

Dr. Suzy Meyers provided an update on Blueprint Design Research initiative. The research team has been conducting school site visits to observe classrooms, conduct educator, family, and student focus groups to determine satisfaction with professional learning, and systems to support effective schoolwide implementation. The researchers will conduct a second round of observations between September and October. She asked anyone who had any schools that would like to participate to please let her know. Their data analysis will lead to the creation of added resources, refinement of existing resources, inform strategic dissemination, support continuous improvements to educator preparation in the Science of Reading and Structured Literacy.

### **III. Strategic Plan Review and Recommendations**

Dr. Lane reviewed the strategic plan. She focused on the actions needed to improve literacy outcomes in Kansas with the investment, strategies, and actions. After reviewing the document, she took suggestions and questions.

Dr. Schottler suggested explaining the levels in the All Student 3 Year Performance Trends chart, so everyone understands what they are. Dr. Curtis will help get the new phrasing that was just voted in at the last state board meeting. Rep. Estes asked how many paraeducators there were and the turnover rate. She voiced her concern about funding if the turnover rate was high. She also asked about section 2.5.2 and why the current reading specialists do not cover it. Dr. Lane clarified that it is going beyond the current required certifications. Rep. Estes stated that section 2.5.3 would need examples of what the funding could do. Sen. Erickson asked if KSDE would provide para training during teacher in-service days. Dr. Lane will follow up with Dr. Watson and Dr. Proctor for more information. Idalia Shuman suggested adding something for administrators to section 2.5.6. Dr. Smith recommended adding detailed descriptions for the budget to clarify how the funding will be used. Sen. Baumgardner suggested reporting how many teachers have completed the training so the legislators will see the progress. Rep. Estes suggested adding a column for "in progress" and "how many remaining" to the Goal 1 Chart, and Dr. Lane stated those changes can be made. Dr. Smith made a motion to approve the Strategic Plan, adding the training for administration and making the detailed edits that have been identified. Dr. Carlson seconded the motion, and it passed.

### **IV. Moving Forward**

Chair Lane encouraged members to continue conversations with legislators, local school board members, educators, and families. Investing in literacy is an economic and social imperative for Kansas, and the entire nation. We can make dramatic improvements in literacy outcomes when working together, across systems and communities.

Lane reminded the committee of the Advisory Committee structure changes to begin July 1, 2025. Each Advisory Committee member will be assigned to one of two sub-committees: Invest or Empower (Strategic Plan Imperatives). Members may also elect to only attend the quarterly full committee meetings. The sub-committees will meet monthly virtually. The Quarterly meetings will be in person beginning September 10, 2025, at Pittsburg State University. More information will be sent out to committee members with the agenda the end of August.

Lane thanked members for their service and continued commitment to “Teach every child to read.”

Chair Lane adjourned the meeting at 4:30 pm.

The next meeting will be on September 10, 2025.