

**KANSAS BOARD OF REGENTS  
LITERACY ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
September 10, 2025**

The September 10, 2025, meeting of the Literacy Advisory Committee Summit was held at The Foundry, 402 N. Broadway, Pittsburg, Kansas 66762.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Dr. Cindy Lane
Dr. Carloyn Carlson
Rep. Susan Estes
Dr. David Fernkopf
Rep. Nikki McDonald
Heather Morgan
Dr. Suzanne Myers
Sen. Pat Pettey
Dr. Beverly Schottler
Dr. Kim Wilson
Molly Baumgardner
Dennis Burke
Dr. David Hurford
Dr. Charlene Laramore
Amber Pagan
Judi Price
Laurie Winter
Dr. Brooke Moore

**Call to Order and Approval of Minutes**

Chair Lane called the meeting to order at 10:05 am and welcomed members, who introduced themselves. Dr. Carlson moved to approve the May 20, 2025, meeting minutes. Rep. McDonald seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

Chair Blake Benson welcomed everyone to Pittsburg, Kansas, and shared why literacy matters to the Kansas Board of Regents. He then introduced Pittsburg State University President, Dr. Thomas Newsom, who thanked members of the Literacy Advisory Committee, and the current and past members of the state's legislature for their support of the literacy program. President Newsom introduced Dr. Susan Bon, Executive Vice President and Provost, Pittsburg State University. Dr. Bon talked about the university's College of Education and Center for Reading. She emphasized the importance of strengthening their partnerships with local school districts and their dedication to them. Dr. Bon introduced Dr. Dan Dulling, Coordinator for the Literacy Enhancement Grant. Dr. Dulling highlighted how the university is tailoring its support to meet the individual literacy goals of each school district through literacy coaching, grassroots momentum, and close connections.

**PSU Spotlight**

Mr. Dennis Burke, Director of Research Support and Partnership Development - STREAM Education, Pittsburg State University, introduced PSU employees serving on a panel discussion on Coalition Building through the Literacy Coaching Network. Members included Dr. Jennifer Richardson, Assistant Professor, Dr. Jason Clemensen, Associate Dean, and Dr. Dan Duling, School Partnerships and Outreach Facilitator.

Dr. Richardson described the challenges they have with recruiting quality literacy coaches. Their goal is to establish lab classrooms in each of the schools and have PSU provide professional learning, partnering with Greenbush to confirm coherence on common language and approach.

Next, Dr. Clemensen talked about building sustainability and capacity in the schools. The goal is to tailor to support needed as identified by each school partner. He spoke about how short-term success is measured by educator satisfaction with coaching support, and long-term success involves sustaining high-impact literacy coaching. He also emphasized that growth is essential, with a focus on screeners and progress monitoring.

Dr. Duling discussed building a literacy model that does not duplicate existing supports. He stated it has been important to connect the work and make a model with Greenbush, TASN, the Center for Reading, and the College of Education.

Mr. Burke described the efforts surrounding collaboration and cooperation, noting that the support models are tailored to meet the schools' needs and are responsive to those needs.

A member of the committee asked what the lessons are for higher education that may shape the preparation and graduate programs? Dr. Richardson stated feedback from schools is needed to assist in the revision the Reading Specialist program. Dr. Clemensen added that higher education's responsibility must include cultivation of partnership with educators, so the universities are responsive to the needs of the workforce.

Sen. Pettey asked about sustainability for the project. Chair Lane shared that Pittsburg State University is investing university resources to grow the literacy coaching network. Funds from the Blueprint were awarded as a grant to pilot and develop the coaching network. Data from the pilot will be shared with legislators to demonstrate the need for a coaching network to advance literacy expertise, and the impact on student outcomes.

Amber Pagan inquired about opportunities for teachers to discuss their experiences with other teachers in the region. Dr. Richardson responded that they are developing a community of practice to allow teachers to connect, and it has been well received.

Jeri Powers asked what is being implemented to ensure that the various agencies are all working together. Dr. Duling responded that they are meeting with the distinct groups, including Blueprint, TASN, Service Centers, Universities, and KSDE, to ensure they are working together to obtain the goal of the grant.

### **Committee Meetings**

The Invest Committee and Empower Committee convened in separate sessions. Reports were given by the committee chairs, highlighting the focus of the committees.

Judi Price, chair of Invest reported on the focus and activities of the committee. She noted Invest is hosting legislative coffee chats to build awareness about literacy as a statewide priority. These individual and small group meetings are planned over the next few months. Ms. Price asked that if anyone has a personal connection with any legislator, they meet with her so they can sign up for the coffee chats.

Invest is also hosting a virtual community partnership event is scheduled for October 20, 2025. The purpose of the session is to engage community advocates and organizations and to unify advocacy efforts.

Ms. Price also highlighted Literacy Day at the Capitol, scheduled for January 20, 2026. She reviewed the key talking points they plan to emphasize, and Dr. Lane suggested using short video clips of educators who have completed the Foundations program to highlight its success. The committee also asked that there be representation from the Kansas Board of Regents at the event.

Dr. Hurford, chair of the Empower Committee, shared highlights of the committee's work. The committee's purpose is to serve as lead learners for the Advisory Committee as to the best practices. for literacy preparation and training; policy recommendations; research and strategies to advance educator expertise in literacy; and monitor progress of the implementation of the strategic plan.

The committee is focused on educator preparation and how to strengthen clinical/ practicum experiences. During the meeting today, the committee discussed the system-wide curriculum mapping analysis of the elementary education program.

Dr. Lane gave the director's report, reminding the committee that the purpose of the blueprint is to equip educators so that every child learns to read. For that to happen, the committee must collaborate with partners across PK-12, and advocacy organizations focused on literacy. The challenge is to bring those partners together to consider a single vision and a unified set of goals that will guide them forward. She challenged the committee members to focus on solutions, play offense rather than defense, and to find common ground.

Dr. Lane then reviewed the strategic plan, reminding members of the two imperatives, Invest and Empower. The work of the Invest strategies includes a press kit that Rachel Rubio has created, featuring extensive data, infographics, and information about the challenges and actions to improve literacy skills. Dr. Lane then reviewed actions in the strategic plan, providing a status report on the stages of implementation.

Under the direction of Dr. Wilson, Kansas State University is piloting a three-credit course for

**Discussion Agenda:**

The committee broke into groups and analyzed the ExcelinEd Early Literacy Matters, State-by-State Policy Implementation Report. Each group identified the strengths identified in the Kansas report, and questions to deepen the understanding of the information presented.

Chair Lane adjourned the meeting at 3:39 pm.

The next meeting will be on December 10, 2025, at Kansas State University in Manhattan, Kansas.