



Understanding and Serving Students with Dyslexia Advisory Group
October 4, 2018
9:30 – 11:00am

Co-Chairs:

Kristi Dominguez, Executive Director of Teaching and Learning
Dawn Christiana, Director of Teaching and Learning

Members present:

Meri Kate Adams, Nancy Bischoff, Sara Buetow, Samantha Dang, Jennifer Gruenert, Alli Hancock, Jodi Kinzel, Stephanie Korn, LaVera Langeman, Stacey Nordtvedt, Campbell Phillips, Pam Pottle

Excused: Megan Hall, Jeanne Endersby

Co-chairs Kristi Dominguez and Dawn Christiana opened the meeting, and advisory group members introduced themselves. Each member spoke about the experiences and connections to Dyslexia which led them to apply to this advisory group.

The co-chairs explained that the advisory group was selected based on a variety of perspectives and is a representative group of educators from different grade levels, students, parents and medical professionals in different fields.

The advisory group was asked to partner up with another member to explore each other's personal story deeper and then engaged in an activity to look for commonalities in their personal stories.

This exercise yielded these themes:

- Access to learning is limited due to our current models
- Early identification of predictors of future reading struggles
- Hope and passion for growth and change around dyslexia
- Building a professional's tool box for Teachers, SLPs, Physicians, Parents
- Communications pathways
- Are there easier ways to diagnose dyslexia?
- Early intervention is key. Foundational literacy skills are key
- We need more multi-sensory/hands on ways of learning

The Advisory group discussed the State adopted definition of Dyslexia (see powerpoint).

Members were asked to say one word or concept from the definition that would translate into actions.

Words:

- Unexpected
- Language
- Poor spelling
- Not consistent with intelligence
- Phonological
- Neurological
- Disorder
- Word recognition
- Reading comprehensive
- Specific
- Sensory
- Back ground knowledge
- Deficit
- Secondary consequences
- Impede growth
- Motivation
- Spelling
- Sensory capabilities

The co-chairs discussed the focus for the next meeting on November 8th , which will be: Where are we now in Bellingham? How do the “action words” we identified connect to current practices, and what actions can we take to move forward in serving our students better?

Dawn Christiana complimented the group. She explained that group/discussion “norms” were not established at today’s meeting to see how the advisory group worked together without them.

The group discussed possible creation of a general statement about the makeup of the advisory group and their connection to Dyslexia.