

Dyslexia Committee
September 12, 2018
Administration Center Board Room
4:30pm-6:30pm

Members Present: Sam Ames, Becky Anderson, Jen Benson, Christy Clausen, Bruce Cordingly, Donna Gallagher, Aileen Hammar, Sherry Krainick, Elizabeth Meza, Milt Miller, Heather Miller, Denise Need, Krystal ParkerMeyer, Krithika Rangan, Jenny Ross, Leah Sawyer, Jen Welch.

Unable to Attend: Audee Gregor, Erin Chargualaf, Pamela Stevenson, Kristie English

Welcome

Introduction of Jenny Ross, Speech Language Pathologist (SLP), who is joining the committee.

Opening activity: In groups, the topic was to share anything new learned about Dyslexia over the summer.

Aileen provided a list of resources for books, videos, Podcasts, documentaries, websites, organizations & journals.

Old Business

Minutes accepted as written

Presentation

Mike Tholfsen, Principal Product Manager for Microsoft Education. Their mission statement is: Empower every person on the planet to achieve more/Empower every student on the planet to achieve more. Microsoft's approach on the student side is to focus on how to grow a student's potential and gain independence. Teachers become more empowered to engage every learner and schools build reputations as positive places.

Mr. Tholfsen spoke about a Microsoft product called OneNote which is a free digital notebook (digital ink) and is meant to replace paper. OneNote is designed for all users and can improve learning outcomes for students. It provides a learning environment to promote independence, efficiency and confidence. Individuals with Dyslexia, Dysgraphia, Dyscalculia may find the personalization capabilities very beneficial. It provides personalized tools for learning in all subject areas with many options to customize its content. Organization of material can be personalized, text and backgrounds can be customized, words can be broken into syllables, nouns/verbs/adjectives (etc.) can be highlighted, and there are text to speech functions.

10/4/18 (in) FINAL

Common Abbreviations/Acronyms Used: ELL (English-Language Learner), Hi-Cap (Highly Capable), LAP (Learning Assistance Program), MTSS (Multi Tiered Systems of Support), PBIS (Positive Behavior Interventions & Supports), PD (Professional Development), RTI (Response to Intervention)

Right click option provides read aloud on any web page; language translation features are also available.

(Tip: The Book icon on a news webpage toolbar eliminates messy ads and you can personalize syllables, background etc. Right click on PDFs for a read aloud option.)

In the classroom, OneNote can be used by teachers to deliver assignments or information into each of their student's digital class notebook.

The Immersive Reader is another Microsoft learning tool – a picture dictionary. Students can click a word and immediately see a picture associated with that word.

OneNote is available for Windows 10, Online and Mac. There is also an app for iPhone, iPad and Android.

Office lens is another app available for iPhone or Android. You can photograph a document and make it readable. It can break up syllables and provides audio (read aloud)

Since Northshore is a Google environment how would OneNote work? It works in the Chrome environment. Chromebooks don't support Edge browser but it can be downloaded for free in windows 10.

Tech would need to give access for school access.

Many of these tools are available for free on Office 365 on the web.

Q. When will purchases from the Tech levy be made? Who is advising the Tech purchases as we are doing this work?

A. Committees are working on this, as well as Assistive Tech, with oversight by district staff.

A Committee Member noted that Technology is only one way for UDL. There is a perception that Tech may be the only way to deliver UDL. We need to cover more on UDL. Remediation is different than accommodation. The charge of the committee is less about accommodation and more about screening and remediation.

New Business

October is Dyslexia awareness month. Should we do something to support this? Hamlin Robinson had a Walk in Their Shoes event. Some of the members described it as a simulation of the challenges that a student with Dyslexia might feel. Three stations were set up to simulate, and get a sense of, what it is like for those with dyslexia in the areas auditory processing, reading, and writing.

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Suggestions:

- Perhaps Northshore can host an evening event. Collaborate with PTSA. We could possibly incorporate high school students to help set up and go school to school. Northshore could develop a kit to take on the road.
- Show a movie on Dyslexia during the first ten minutes at staff meetings.
- Start a think tank to get something on the books and how it can evolve over time. The PTSA Special Ed Rep Northshore Council is interested in becoming involved.
- Announce through newsletters, Facebook. Will need to select an idea to start.
- 31 days on dyslexia

SUBCOMMITTEE to brainstorm this work: Bruce, Aileen, Krystal and Sherry

Discussion:

By 2020 the law says we need an assessment tool.

Invite District assessment committee to come to a meeting to present what they are working on. Can this be tied to assessment data? Show something that is compelling and promote the question about “what can we do, how do we start?” Microsoft may have a team to come and train. Give the why and give the tool. We need answers to start helping Gen ed teachers. They are feeling the pressure. LAP and Title teachers are feeling the same. Maybe provide Ambassadors to take back to schools.

Across grade levels, what kind of tools do teachers need most?

The Dyslexia Committee has many different levels of knowledge. Start communicating information with Gen Ed about Dyslexia and use October as a launching month. Give ideas, tools. Then keep it going on an ongoing basis. Build on communication and strategy work.

Each person and each role coming together to deliver the message is empowering.

Dr. Conor University of Irvine CA has done extensive research in reading. It is a computerized system to identify areas of weakness and identify interventions.

The follow information is taken from Dr. Connor’s website:

As part of this research, I have led the development and efficacy evaluation of the Assessment-to-Instruction (A2i) online technology, which uses computer algorithms to translate assessment results to recommendations for child-specific amounts and types of

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literacy instruction (US Patent No. 8506304), the Content Area Literacy Instruction (CALI) intervention for kindergarten through fourth grade, Individualized Student Instruction in Math (ISI-Math), as well as the Word Knowledge e-book, that is designed to improve third through fifth-graders' word knowledge and comprehension monitoring.

She can come to Northshore Oct 12/Oct 13. Should the Committee still meet October 3rd, or, meet on Oct 12th as a group and have a presentation on Oct 13th? If we meet during the day, subs would be needed. The suggestion was made to be sure we get through the agenda if it's part of the day on Oct 12th.

Discussion around Dr. Conor's presentation:

- Spread the word. There is always confusion and we need a good starting point. Parents would be attracted too.
- Different facets coming together is powerful.
- Oct 12 & 13 is a good launching activity.
- Distribute small bits of information on a frequent basis instead of large notifications all at once.
- Provide continuous education to move district forward. In the background we will work on educating students in a holistic way.
- 31 days leading up to main event.
- Coordinate with WABIDA to make sure Dr. Conor's topics are complimentary with what we are doing.
- PTSA could bring student panel to talk about their experience.
- Engage intervention staff.
- Staff has been interested and want to share in the work

Future Business

- District assessment committee in October; K-12 assessment across system, screeners, Format summative progress monitoring, etc. What would a comprehensive system look like. Math assessment tools are scarce.
- Need to hear from assessment committee in October. Parents need to see that we have touched on assessment so input can be given to the committee. What are tools for dyslexia?
- Keep in mind that the Committee's charge is to make recommendations, not make decisions.
- It was decided to keep the Oct 3rd Dyslexia meeting

2018/2019 Meeting Dates 4:30pm – 6:30pm

Wed Sep 12, 2018	Board Room
Wed Oct 3, 2018	Room 208, 5-6:30 invite assessment committee
Wed Nov 7, 2018	Room 208

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Wed Dec 5, 2018	Room 208
Wed Jan 9, 2019	Room 208
Wed Feb 6, 2019	Room 208
Wed Mar 6, 2019	Room 208
Wed Apr 3, 2019	Room 204
Wed May 8, 2019	Room 208
Wed Jun 5, 2019	Room 208

Acronyms:

PD – Professional Developmental

RTI – Response to Intervention (academic)

PBIS- Positive Behavior Interventions & Supports (social/emotional)

MTSS – Multi Tiered Systems of Support

LAP- (Learning Assistance Program) State funded grant for students who are below grade-level standard in English and math.

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