



DETROIT LAKES PUBLIC SCHOOLS

AGENDA

WORK SESSION BOARD MEETING

Monday, May 15, 2023 - 5:45 PM

Laker Transitions Building, 1104 West River Road, Detroit Lakes, MN 56501

The mission of the Detroit Lakes Public schools is to fill our sails with Laker PRIDE.

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- I. **CALL TO ORDER**
Presenter: Steffl, Board Chair
- II. **ROLL CALL**
Presenter: Steffl, Board Chair
- III. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
Presenter: Steffl, Board Chair
- IV. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**
Presenter: Steffl, Board Chair
- V. **DISCUSSION ITEMS**
Presenter: Steffl, Board Chair
 - A. Overview of Science of Reading
 - B. Superintendent Evaluation
 - C. Board Committee Assignments
- VI. **MEETING ADJOURNED**
Presenter: Steffl, Board Chair

I pledge allegiance to the flag
of the United States of America,
and to the Republic
for which it stands,
one Nation under God,
indivisible,
with Liberty and Justice
for all.



What is Science of Reading (SOR)

DLPS 2023

What is the Science of Reading

- The Science of Reading is an evidence-based approach to teaching reading.
- It's focus is on the key components of reading instruction.
 - **Phonemic Awareness:** Understanding and manipulating individual sounds in words.
 - **Phonics:** Connecting sounds to written letters and letter combinations.
 - **Vocabulary:** Developing knowledge of words and their meanings.
 - **Fluency:** Reading accurately, with appropriate speed and expression.
 - **Comprehension:** Understanding and making meaning from text.

What is the Need?

- **Critical need for reading proficiency in academic success.**
 - Downward trend in statistics regarding reading proficiency.
- **By focusing on the explicit instruction of the 5 components**
 - Improved reading proficiency and comprehension skills.
 - Enhanced vocabulary development and language acquisition.
 - Increased confidence and motivation in reading.
 - Reduced reading difficulties and learning gaps.
 - Higher academic achievement across all subjects.

Strategies for Promoting Strong Reading Instruction

- Provide teachers with professional development on evidence-based reading instruction methods.
- Align curriculum materials with the Science of Reading principles.
- Regularly assess students' reading skills and provide targeted interventions as needed.
- Engage parents and the community in supporting students' reading development.
 - Parent communication
 - Imagination Library
 - Access to books
 - Less screen time for PreK and primary
- Establish ongoing support and resources for teachers.

Background Information

- Dyslexia Institute in MN is behind this movement.
- Possibly state required materials that are what they call “teacher proof” and scripted instruction. Reportedly 5 companies will be named as the required materials.
- LETRS training is very time intensive and is described to be like a graduate course in how to teach reading.
*Based on the work of Louisa Moates, Ed.D
- MN students are scoring above national average.
 - Failing scores – based on what measures

What do the critics say?

- 1. Overemphasis on Phonics:** Places an excessive focus on phonics instruction, potentially neglecting other important aspects of reading such as comprehension, critical thinking, and literature appreciation.
- 2. Limited Flexibility:** Can be rigid and prescriptive, leaving little room for individualized instruction or adaptation to diverse student needs and learning styles.
- 3. Inadequate Attention to Contextual Factors:** Does not sufficiently consider the cultural, social, and linguistic backgrounds of students, potentially overlooking the importance of context in reading instruction.
- 4. Misalignment with Whole Language Approach:** Critics argue that the Science of Reading dismisses the value of whole language approaches, which emphasize the use of authentic texts and meaningful reading experiences.
- 5. Potential for Narrow Curriculum Focus:** May lead to a narrowed curriculum, sacrificing other important subjects and areas of learning.

Cautions as we move forward

- **Continue to listen to teachers and examine best practices in our classrooms.**
 - We can build on the current expertise and materials we have. We are not doing things incorrectly but may have some gaps
- **Cautiously examine new curriculum that state recommends if there is funding provided.**
 - State or local decision on materials?
 - Some claim this is a privatization initiative and that certain companies will financially benefit.

Next Steps in DLPS

- Review our Literacy Data – Read Well By Third Grade, STAR and MCA
- Provide explicit instruction in phonemic awareness and phonics – Shifting the Balance book implementation
- Limit "station" work and examine the literacy block for direct instruction time.
- Interventionists -- skill based curriculum and professional development for those teachers
- New teachers –provide specific support in area of teaching reading
- Continue to stay abreast of current research and legislation



Questions