



**Saint Paul Public Schools
Special Education
Advisory Council**

Sec. 8 Minnesota Statutes 2004, section 125A.24 (PACs)

In order to increase the involvement of parents of children with disabilities in district policymaking and decision-making, school districts must have a special education advisory council that is incorporated into the district's special education system plan.

Attendees: Amy Eelkema Baxter, Amy Johnson, Brenda Natala, Calton Sims, Choua, Gina Paton, Jackie Kelly, Jessica Ramstad, Kathry Wallace, Kimberly Totushek, Mayra Mariscal, Melissa Haley, Melissa Weeks, Michele Silvester, Oanh Nguyen, Rachael Sewell, Christina Nicholas

17 people: 6 of 11 members, 3 staff, 8 guests

Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC) Minutes Approved

Date: 01-09-23

Time: 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Virtual Meeting via Zoom link to join <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/9438313562>

(Virtual ONLY this meeting will NOT be hybrid)

6:00 p.m. Housekeeping, Welcome & Introductions

6:06 p.m. Melissa Weeks went over housekeeping items. Introductions/ Share/ Connect: Your name, if you are a member or guest, a little about your child, where your child attends school, what brings you to SEAC tonight?

SEAC members, guests and staff used a tool to recognize and understand emotions. **Mood Meter.**

SEAC January 2023 Agenda

6:20 p.m. Approve December minutes

6:20 p.m. Calton Sims moved to approve SEAC meeting minutes, Jessica Ramstad seconded. Minutes were approved and passed.

What is SEAC:

SEAC is a group of parents, guardians, staff and community members that meet monthly to increase the involvement of parents of children with disabilities in decision making.

How does SEAC work:

At SEAC meetings members are informed and share input to improve programs and systems for students with disabilities and their families.

What are Parents Supposed to do at SEAC?

Learn something that will benefit your child, share what you learn with people in your community, ask questions and share input.

6:25 p.m. Charting the LifeCourse Training- Amy Eelkema and Jackie Kelly, Ambassadors

SEAC members, guests and staff answer the following questions:

- 1.- How well do you know CtLC based on last month's meeting?
- 2.- Are you confident in how to use CtLC material?
- 3.- How likely are you to use CtLC materials next month?
- 4.- If you have any feedback please either put it in the chat or contact Jackie.

Charting the LifeCourse-

- **Review Trajectories**
 - Collect Data from # of people that completed Trajectory
 - Feedback “strongly agree or agree” from December training.
 - Review “Trajectory Homework- SEAC Goal Setting”
 - Sharing thinking
- **All PAC “Get to Know You” Planning - proposed dates: April 24, 27 or 28.**

6:45 p.m. SpEd Update- Brenda Natala, Executive Director Specialized Services.

Office Support: Mayra Mariscal and Natalie Kemp (starting 1/23/22)

OSS Organization Link: schools and assigned supervisors

American Rescue Plan (ARP) Covid Relief federal dollars awarded to SPPS.

SPPS ARP Website and **Strategy Details**

Special Education has ARP strategies in

- Systemic Equity (#92)
- Positive School and District Culture (#5, #3)
- Effective and Culturally Responsive Instruction (#2, #20, #4)

#3 - Early Childhood Autism Supports

- 30 ECSE licensed staff trained in Autism Navigator during 2021-2022 school year
- January 2023 - New cohort of 37 ECSE staff starting training
- ECSE educators are using Autism Navigator strategies with families in homes and with students in ECSE self-contained classrooms to meet the unique needs of each child

#73 - ECSE Assessment & Services

- New half day ECSE classroom opened and staffed to serve up to 16 students at Early Childhood West Hub
- 657 referrals for 3-5 year olds processed since 7/1/22
- 147 evaluations in progress
- 180 evaluations completed

#2 - Early Childhood Mental Health Supports

- 27 ECSE Staff have been trained as Circle of Security Parent Facilitators
- 6 Circle of Security Classroom Facilitator Training
- Collaboration with ECFE on-going to offer parent groups throughout the year
- ECSE Staff providing training to parents as needed on individual basis

#20 - Special Education Recovery Services

Literacy -

Goal: Implement SONDAY training for licensed staff

Progress: 144 special education licensed staff trained 21-22 SY

47 special education licensed staff trained in 22-23 SY

Goal: Implement the use of FAST for progress monitoring

Progress: Special education staff will be trained by school psychologists this spring

Behavior Referrals:

Goal: Provide support to school to reduce referrals to special education or increase of services for special education students

Progress: Staff completed the behavior team referral form for 60 students.

Assistive Technology:

Goal: Increase the use of Assistive Technology by 10%

Progress: 70 items were purchased for students and the AT lending library. 350 AT item have been delivered to students. 159 OSS paid apps have been assigned to students since 09-06-22

#4 - Check and Connect

Overview

Check & Connect is an evidence-based mentoring intervention for K-12 students who show

warning signs of disengagement with school and who are at risk of dropping out.

Check and Connect Staff

Ben Havelka, Check and Connect TOSA, Project Lead

Angelo Dungey, Check and Connect Educational Assistant

Progress

17 mentors and 61 students

#5 - Mental Health supports in collaboration with Office of School Support and Office of College and Career Readiness - pays for expanded psychologist positions

#22 - Social Work supports - increase in SSW staff

#92 - Recruiting Diverse Paraprofessionals

Goal: To recruit and retain diverse paraprofessionals, training, coaching and mentoring.

Starting February 2023

7:00 p.m. Facilities Master Plan and the SpEd Envision plan- Moving forward with accessibility- Kathy Wallace, Manager Facility Planning

[Facilities Presentation link](#)

Facilities Overview

Who we are: The department is responsible for cleaning and maintenance of all the schools and other SPPS buildings, as well as capital improvements - physical changes, updates, remodeling and new construction. The Facility Dept also handles health & safety related to facilities (ESG).

Long Range Facility Planning

- **Strategic;** addresses facility improvements equitably, efficiently, cost-effectively
- Aligned with **SPPS strategic goals**
- Student-centered: Addresses **21st century learning** needs

7:45 p.m. SEAC Forum/Meeting Reflection- Opportunity for hearing parent voice, sharing stories from the disability community, giving feedback for future agenda items.

7:50 p.m. Announcements: Events/Resources/Agenda requests

Jan 11th - Connecting Families Special Education Parent Academy

- 1st Session

Jan 19 - ABCs of the IEP for parents of transition age students

- Virtually in English

Jan 19 - MN Connect Network Session: Keeping the Student at the Heart of the IEP Process Using Charting the LifeCourse.

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM, via zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86089273377?pwd=U3JBYUEzaG84NENTandiN3MxSWVtdz09>

-Autism Winter Resources

-[Arc](#)

Micro Grant

8:00 p.m. Adjourn

8:05 p.m. SEAC Executive

Next SEAC meeting: Monday, February 13, 2023 6-8 p.m.