



**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, Chong Thor, Choua Xiong, Danielle Daniels, Gina Ackerman Paton, Jackie Kelly, Jolene Stolpestad, Kimberly Adams, Kimberly Totushek, Mayra Mariscal, Melissa Haley, Melissa Weeks, Nicole Warner, Oanh Nguyen, Rachael Sewell.
18 people: 7 of 10 members, 3 staff, 8 guests

Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC) Minutes Approved

Date: 09-12-22

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

Location: Hybrid meeting:

In-person: 360 Colborne St, Saint Paul, MN 55102 (Meeting room A, Childcare room D).

Virtual via Zoon: Link to join <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/9438313562>

[SEAC September 2022 Agenda](#)

[SEAC September 2022 Recording](#)

5:50 p.m. Optional Pre Meeting Chatter - Join us if you can for an informal check in.

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

6:04 p.m. Melissa Weeks went over some housekeeping items. Introductions/ Share/ Connect: Your name, if you are a member or guest, a little about your child, where your child attends school, a back to school tip.

6:25 p.m. - Approve [June Minutes](#) -

6:10 p.m. Rachael Sewell moved to approve SEAC meeting minutes, Oanh Nguyen seconded. Minutes were approved and passed.

6:30 p.m. - What is SEAC? -

6:35 p.m. Jackie Kelly.-

1. Family Engagement in Education is recognizing that student outcomes are greatest when staff and families partner in the education of students. Partnering with families means building authentic, reciprocal relationships. Staff share power with families, empower families, and seek feedback from families.
2. It is a state mandate that each district offer a SEAC in order to involve families in district policy and decision making.
3. SPPS has a long history of offering monthly SEAC meetings throughout the school year and using the feedback from SEAC to improve systems, programs, opportunities and experiences for families and students.

SEAC is a group of parents, guardians, staff and community members that meet monthly to improve outcomes for students with disabilities. . At SEAC meetings members are informed and share input. Families learn something that will benefit their children, share what they learn with other families and people in their communities, and advise on the direction of SEAC agendas and priorities.

6:40 p.m. - Turn and Talk -

6:40 p.m. Nicole Warner suggests that if SEAC is all over Minnesota why don't they meet and share and discuss ideas. Jackie, Rachael and Melissa have discussed and are proposing SPPS SEAC connect with other SEACs this school year to learn and share structure, topics and priorities of other SEACs. Co-Chairs will be sharing idea with SEAC Executive at monthly meeting.

6:45 p.m. - SpEd Update- Brenda Nataala, Executive Director Specialized Service -

7:00 p.m. Brenda Nataala introduces the OSS team.

-[OSS Organization 2022-2023](#) Schools and assigned supervisors.

OSS is committed to the elimination of the disparity of outcomes for all students with disabilities and believes in high expectations, embracing differences and inclusive practices.

This year OSS focus in capacity building for:

Specialized instruction - use of curriculum. Implementation of ASD/DCD specialized programs. Implementation of 8/2 schedule - secondary. Access to general education. Accountability for following due process procedures. IEPs, evaluations timelines. Disciplinary procedures for students with IEPs

Challenges

Equity Challenges - Racially predictable patterns.

Students accessing general education. Academic outcomes for students with IEPs .

Suspensions for students with IEPs. Graduation Rate of students with IEPs.

Staffing. Special Education Teacher openings. Paraprofessional Openings.

OSS Supervisors

Regular visits to buildings based on building needs. Support for following special education processes. Implementation of specialized instruction. Monitor program effectiveness through observation and data collection. Supervise special education coaches. Problem solving, with IEP process disputes, the rights of students who have been suspended.

Building Administrator's Role in Special Education

- Hiring, supervision and evaluation of special education staff.
- Supervision of special education services and programs in the building.
- Monitoring progress of students in special education.
- Monitoring special education teachers implementation of curriculum
- Have a relationship with students in special education and their families.
- Monitoring general education differentiation, modification and accommodations for students with IEPs.
- Have courageous conversations with the entire staff about the outcomes (academic and behavioral) for students in special ed.

Shift to Cross Categorical Classrooms

- Classrooms combine students with ASD and DCD needs.
- Best practices and strategies based on student needs, not label. Replacement/supplemental curriculum is similar.
- More students can attend school with siblings and have increased access to schools close to home.
- Adapts to shifts in enrollment. More students eligible for ASD and fewer students with DCD eligibility.

Beginning of School Year

- Know your child's principal and classroom teacher
- Know your child's IEP manager
- Know your child's IEP goals, services and progress reports.

Resource:

["Who's On My Team?" Special Education Services Summary for SPPS Families](#)

Jackie Kelly shared some tips on how to organize the Child's IEP Binder.

[-How to Organize your Child's IEP Binder](#)

Add Pacer Center's Student Snapshot

Special Education Extended School Year June 21- July 15

The extended school year (ESY) was in person.

Special Education Recovery Services July 18- July 29

Were provided to eligible students during the school year, as well as during the summer recovery services session or Summer Learning Programs.

Grant- Connecting Families/ CTLC

Minnesota Department of Health-Disabilities Department had a grant available for two parts:

- **Connecting Families** which will help new families of children with disabilities to feel more connected to other families, information and support needed to navigate the system. Part of the activities are to create spaces for families to connect and provide information and support for families to navigate and access resources.
- **Charting the LifeCourse training** will provide the CtLC practices and tools for families of children with disabilities & the people that work with them.

SPPS has submitted a proposal for both grants and has a meeting scheduled this week with DHS to learn more about our grant proposal.

Parent feedback: Sounds similar to parent support groups which is good, If we get the grant how long would it last, process for families to sign up, which families get the opportunity to participate? **Action:** Jackie to share Grant Proposal in SEAC Chatter. Request feedback from SEAC.

7:30 p.m. - SEAC Forum/Meeting Reflection -

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

Resources:

-Video [How to Organize Your Child's IEP Binder](#)

-Pacer Center's Booklet [A Parent's Guide for SEAC](#) - ACTION requested- if you're newer to SEAC please review.

-[OSS Organization 2022-2023](#)

-[SPPS SEAC Webpage](#) with Pacer's Parent Guide to SEAC

Back to School Resources & Tips:

-[Pacer Center's Parent Engagement/Student Success - Resources](#)

-[Parents with High Expectations A Parent's Vision and High Expectations are Powerful](#)

-[Parents with High Expectations Keys to Success in the Family-School Partnership](#)

-[Parents with High Expectations Want to Help Your Child Succeed in School? Be Involved!](#)

-[Parents with High Expectations You and Your Elementary School-aged Child](#)

-Communication Bill of Rights

*ask Jackie if you would like a printed copy of resources.

8:00 p.m. Adjourn

8:00 p.m. Meeting adjourned

8:05 p.m. SEAC Executive

Next SEAC meeting: Monday, October 10th, 2022 6-8 p.m.