



**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, Brenda Natala, Calton Sims, Choua, Jackie Kelly, Larry Wren, Mary Dougherty, Mayra Mariscal, Melissa Weeks, Michele Silvester, Nicole Warner, Nicole Berning, Oanh Nguyen, Rachael Sewell, Roxanne King, Tim Feyma.

**16 people: 7 of 10 members, 4 staff, 5 guests**

### **Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC) Minutes Approved**

Date: 05-02-22

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

Location: Virtual meeting via Zoom

Link to [SEAC May 2022 Agenda](#)

**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.**

6:07 p.m. Melissa Weeks went over some housekeeping items. Introductions/ Share/ Connect: Your name, your child, why you are here.

#### **6:10 p.m. Approve [March minutes](#) and [April minutes](#)**

6:10 p.m. Calton Sims moved to approve SEAC meeting minutes, Amy Eelkema Baxter seconded. Minutes were approved and passed.

#### **6:15 p.m. Inclusion Activity "My Vision for a Good IEP"-**

6:15 p.m. Brenda Natala asked members and guests what the vision of a good IEP meeting would be and what they wouldn't want.

Members shared: A good IEP meeting for members is when the IEP managers get things done early, so parents/guardians get a notice ahead of time, and they have time to plan accordingly. And what they wouldn't want for an IEP is a manager taking over without letting parents/guardians share their point of view, as well as an IEP manager saying one thing and doing another.

**Action:** Brenda will be using input in new teacher training.

#### **6:30 p.m. Nicole Berning, Navigating Autism Services and Supports, MN Department of Human Services-**

6:35 p.m. Nicole Berning provided families of children with ASD an overview of the available services and how to best access those services. Strategies to advocate for coordinated services across the home, school and community. Identify community recreation opportunities, supports

and social skill groups. Learn practical strategies to support your child at home, in school and out in the community.

- Services and support across: Healthcare, Education, Home and community based services, Transition and Employment Supports.
- Online resources to help navigate.
- Share person-centered planning tools.
- Questions and contact information.

Pathway to Services and Supports for Autism provides summary of services and supports. Also available in Hmong, Oromo, Somali, Russian, Vietnamese, Karen and Spanish.

**7:00 p.m. Legislative Update, Mary Dougherty, SPPS Legislative Liaison.**

7:20 p.m. Mary Gilbert, shared legislative information and action items for members interested via phone calls, email with letter templates for follow up with legislators.

- Stabilize Funding- Eliminate Cross Subsidies
- Comprehensive Plan for School Work Force
- Enhance Taxpayer Equity.
- Enhance Local Control and Reduce Mandates
- Provide Resources for Child and Family Stability and Support.

Action: SPPS Policy Liaison, Mary Gilbert, shared legislative information and action items for members interested via phone calls and email with letter templates for follow up with legislators.

**7:20 p.m. Special Education, Brenda Natala, Special Education Director-**

- **SEAC Report Response Follow Up-**

In January 2020 SEAC shared their [18-19 SEAC Report](#) with the Special Education Director, Superintendent, BOE members and District Staff as well as hosted a World Cafe to hear feedback about their report, in March 2020 Marcy Doud, Special Education Director gave her [Response to SEAC Report](#), the next day SPPS schools were closed due to a teacher's strike, the following week SPPS was closed due to the Pandemic.

**Recommendations: 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8**

Action: Follow up on recommendations in June.

**7:45 p.m. SEAC Forum -**

The forum allows for the expression of concerns and recommendations pertaining to the education of students with disabilities in SPPS. SEAC members strive to discuss & advise on issues of broad importance to SPPS as a whole. Personal stories & reflection can be used to inform the group's understanding of broad issues. Perspectives and confidentiality will be respected. Members are encouraged to bring forth stories of what is working well, concerns, and or recommendations for discussion within the group. We respectfully ask that names of people are not used.

**7:55 p.m. Meeting Wrap Up -**

- Announcement, Event or Resource to share

Resources:

[MN Autism Resource Portal](#) Contact: [ASD.DHS@state.mn.us](mailto:ASD.DHS@state.mn.us)

[MN Autism Resource Symposium](#)

[MN Autism Training and Events](#)

[Charting the LifeCourse Training](#)

[Wait Times for CMDE and EIDBI Agencies](#)

[Disability HUB MN](#)

[MnCHOICES assessment](#)

[MNsure](#)

[NEXT STAGE: Pathway to Transition and Long-Term Services and Supports for Autism Spectrum Disorder \(ASD\)](#)

[Down Syndrome Assoc. Of MN Statewide Conference](#)

[DiscoverAbilities Adaptive Sports Clinics](#)

[The Ultimate Resource Guide for STEM Students with Autism](#)

[SPPS Resources for Families of Students with Disabilities](#)

[Dakota County Disability Supports for Young Adults](#)

[Pacer's ExCITE Camp](#)

- Tip to share on SEAC Facebook Group
- Agenda items: share with SEAC Executive for consideration

**8:00 p.m. Adjourn**

8:00 p.m. Meeting adjourned

**8:20 p.m. SEAC Executive**

**Next SEAC meeting:** Monday, June 06, 2022 6-8 p.m.

**May Resources:**

[The Farm House 4H Club](#)