



**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, Heather Kilgore, Jackie Kelly, Jennifer Krueger, Larry Wren, Marcy Doud, Maren Hulden, Mayra Mariscal, Melissa Haley, Melissa Weeks, Michele Silvester, Rachael Sewell, Tim Feyma.

15 people: 6 of 8 members, 6 staff, 3 guests

Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC) Minutes Approved

Date: 10-04-21

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

Location: Virtual meeting via Zoom

Link to [October Presentation](#)

5:30 p.m. Optional Pre Meeting Chatter - Join us if you can for an informal check in.

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

Introductions/ Share/ Connect: Your name, your child, in-person or online school, what are your challenges?

6:05 p.m. Melissa Weeks went over some housekeeping items.

6:15 p.m. Special Education Recovery Education, Maren Hulden, Legal Aid

6:08 p.m. Maren Hulden provided an overview of [Special Education Recovery Education](#). Minnesota Session Laws 2021, First Special Session, Chapter 13, Article 5, Section 1.

- Summary of Legislation.

Districts must reach out to families to invite them to an IEP meeting.

The purpose of the meeting is to determine whether special education services and support are necessary to address lack of progress on IEP goals or in the general education curriculum or loss of learning or skills due to disruptions related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Youtube summary:

[Covid Special Education Recovery Services in Minnesota](#)

- IEP Determination

-If the IEP team determines that the services and supports are necessary, the team shall determine what services and supports are appropriate for the student and when and how those services should be provided.

-Types of services and supports:

- Extended School Year (ESY)
- Additional IEP Services
- Compensatory Services
- Other Appropriate Services.

6:45 p.m. Special Education Update

- Special Education Recovery Services.

6:45 p.m. Jennifer Krueger went over to present the SPPS Special Education website. She added a new page to talk about [SPPS Special Education Recovery Services](#) to support parents and learn more about it. This page is available in English, Hmong, Spanish and Somali, Karen will be provided.

- Informing Families
 - IEP case managers trained.
 - Principals trained
 - OSS website
 - Happening Now communication goes to all families in the district

Member shared: “ I feel confident that I know What I Need to Ask? And What I Need to Share” at SpEd Recovery meeting.

“Communication is a range.” “Getting creative about communicating will get better results for kids and will be easier to implement the right services at the right time.”

Feedback for consideration and action:

How do we get information out to others?

Importance of IEP Team members understanding Special Education Recovery options before the meeting.

- Envision SPPS. Web site: [Envision SPPS](#)
 - Sustainable, holistic, well rounded education.
 - Schools with sufficient enrollment to provide opportunities:
 - Arts, Science, Health/Physical Education, Social Studies, World Languages,
 - Academic Supports, Mental Health Supports.
 - Pathways and access for special education.
 - School Board Meeting: October 11, 2021.

7:10 p.m. SEAC Training, [A Parent’s Guide to SEAC](#)

7:25 p.m. Review SPPS Vision and Mission

- Vision

-Education where all children feel good about themselves, like school, and receive an education that meets their needs in a way that promotes the outcome of happy healthy adults leading meaningful lives filled with joy and contributing to society.

- Mission

SPPS SEAC Mission:

The purpose of the Saint Paul Public Schools' Special Education Advisory Council is to collaborate with the District's Office of Specialized Services to:

- **Address the unique needs** of diverse learners so they can meet their maximum potential.
- **Promote** respect and inclusion for all students and families.
- **Build strong relationships** between families, schools, community partners, and district decision makers to influence policy making.
- **Empower and support parents** to effectively advocate for children.

We do this by:

- **Informing and educating** parents, school staff, students and community members through workshops, websites, and printed materials.
- **Providing opportunities** for parents and caregivers to connect with the schools, community resources and each other.
- **Promoting collaboration** as a means to improve the education process for all learners.
- **Influencing change**, policy and procedures through researching needs and advocating for solutions.

Action: Request to change from inclusive to inclusivity in Mission Statement. “The words “inclusive” and “Inclusion” imply that there is an inside group and an outside group. “Inclusivity” is an active verb and it implies that there is no invite into the group. All groups are part of a whole. - Martin Odima Jr., SPPS Special Education Coach

Action: Proposed updates to mission will be presented to SEAC for vote of approval at November meeting.

7:45 p.m. Approve Sept. minutes. [SEAC Sept 2021 Minutes.docx](#)

7:40 p.m. Rachael Sewell moved to approve SEAC meeting minutes, Calton Sims seconded. Minutes were approved and passed

7:50 p.m. Meeting Reflections/Announcements/Events/Resources

- What are your meeting take-aways?
- How can SEAC best support families and students this fall?

8:00 p.m. Adjourn

7:50 p.m. Meeting adjourned

8:05 p.m. SEAC Executive

Next SEAC meeting: Monday, Nov. 1, 2021 6-8 p.m.