



**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: Amanda Bivins, Amy Eelkema, Amy Riley, Brenda Natala, Chong Thor, Dana Abrams, Eduardo Jurado, Garrett Jax, Heather Jax, Hai-Yen Vo, Jackie Kelly, Jessica Reese, Jessica Teich, Kathleen Kimani, Kathleen Wilcox-Harris, Larry Wren, Luc De Rosia-Vuelker, May Thor, Marcy Doud, Marva Lynn Shellenberger, Mayra Mariscal, Melissa Haley, Melissa Weeks, Michele Silvester, Michelle Larkin David, Nicole Warner, RaShonda Muhammad, Sara Schimid de Carranza, Tara Ellis, Teresa Glass, Tim Feyma.

30 people: 6 members, 10 staff, 14 guests

Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC) Minutes Approved

Date: 12-07-20

Time: 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Location: Virtual meeting via Google Meet

6:00 pm Housekeeping, Welcome & Introductions

Introductions/ Share/ Connect: Share your name, if you're a member or guest, a little about your student, where they attend school and why you chose to attend SEAC tonight?"

6:04 pm Melissa Weeks (MW) went over some housekeeping items. Reviewed what SEAC is and how SEAC works. **Action item:** The presentation portion of SEAC meetings will be recorded to ensure the information is available to people unable to attend the meeting.

6:07 Member and guest introductions.

6:15 pm Approve November minutes

6:31 pm Tara Ellis moved to approve SEAC meeting minutes, Amy Eelkema seconded. Minutes were approved and passed.

6:20 pm SPPS Family Guide to Problem Solving

Dana Abrams, Assistant Director of Family Engagement, Kathy Kimani, Director of School Support, Larry Wren, Supervisor, Specialized Services

- Gathering information
- Problem Solving Steps
- Title IX and 415
- District, School and Partner Resources

6:32 pm Presentation shared with the group. A SPPS Family Guide to Problem Solving, guide on where to go, what to look for to talk to were described.

6:47 pm For concerns around sexual harassment or abuse contact building Principal and or Dana Abrams, Assistant Director of Family Engagement.

For families with students receiving special education services the IEP Case Manager is the go to person. The IEP lists the IEP Case Manager and service providers and their contact information.

Action item: For families that have more than one student receiving special education services check out the [Parent's Student SPED Services Summary Page](#). One place to keep track of Case Manager, IEP Goals, Principal and Clerk.

The Special Education supervisors are a person you can reach out to and that can help you navigate the system. They can also help you with paperwork. The supervisors attend SEAC meetings and will follow up with concerns you've shared.

Currently there are many concerns about student attendance and the number of students failing classes.

7:10 pm OSS Update, Marcy Doud, Assistant Superintendent OSS

7:16 pm Each High School has developed a new plan for supporting students that includes community partners and resources. Please reach out to your student's school for more information. Staff are working hard to better supports students so that COVID-19 does not have long lasting impacts on students.

Kathleen Wilcox-Harris (KWH) believes all students should be held harmless from the consequences of COVID-19; grading practices are being review. Minnesota Department of Education really has given districts the ability to look at grading practices and be innovative.

7:35 pm Parent shared" I'm just really grateful. At all of the people working on these different issues. I am concerned as all of you are about our students, especially our seniors, but I'm very encouraged by the ideas that you're trying and I'm hearing you say very loud and clear you are not going to give up and that you're going to keep moving forward. I'm really very very grateful that all of that work and I also am really encouraged."

7:40 pm Meeting Take-Aways/Announcements/Events/Resources

Members and guests share.

7:36 pm AT Tips of the month, Teresa Glass.

Assistive Touch-customizable button that enables students to activate certain features, such as taking a picture, from home screen.

TacScreen-benefits students that learn from motor memory.

"What will you use with your family or share with your community?"

SEAC has a wonderful Facebook group organized by the SEAC committee. In Facebook search for Saint Paul SEAC and join the group if you already haven't. It's a great place to share stuff out with the community. **Action item:** Share SEAC Facebook with guests.

Shout out and thank you to Dana and Kathy for joining us.

Thank you to Jackie Kelly, Marcy and Teresa for helping me with my last IEP.

8:00 pm Adjourn

7:53 pm meeting adjourned

8:05 pm SEAC Executive

Next SEAC meeting: Monday, Jan. 4th, 6-8 pm.