



**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.

Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC) – Minutes Draft

Date: 06-01-20

Time: 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm

Location: Virtual meeting via Google Meet (Instructions to join the meeting will be shared via email)

Attendees:

Rhonda Morrison, Jackie Kelly, Amy Eelkema, Amy Johnson, Ashley Ward, Brenda Natala, Calton Sims, Chamomile Link, Hai-Yen Vo, Julianna Drajko, Larry Wren, Leslie Hitchens, Marcy Doud, Lynn Shellenberger, Melissa Weeks, Michele Silvester, Tara Ellis, Kathleen Morrison, Melissa Haley

9 members, 2 guest, 7 staff

6:00 pm Welcome & Introductions-

6:05 pm Approve May meeting minutes

6:06 pm SEAC May Meeting Minutes reviewed and approved

Motion to approve Amy Eelkema

Seconded Rhonda Morrison

6:10 pm Updates (10 minutes each)

Updates - Marcy Doud

Summer School and ESY Marcy Doud - Power point slides are available with more details

- Credit Recovery Summer School Being offered with SPED Support, Distance Learning Environment
- Extended School Year (ESY) services
- No traditional Distance Learning Summer School in 2020

Saint Paul Summer Connect - New to SPPS. All ages inter-agency digital summer programming. SPPS hosts platform and Ramsey County, Public Library and other entities to provide the programming/enrichment activities. It will be publicly announced.

Grading Update - All students must be held harmless for anything outside of their control. DL should not impact a student's current path to graduation. More details in power point slides.

SEAC Report Update - PD for SPED teachers in MS HS, Graduation Pathway Guide for SPED Teachers, MS to HS Transition Night for parents (virtual with presentation and Q&A)

Fall 2020 -

- No decision has been made. Governor to provide more guidance in June.
- Continue Distance Learning
- Hybrid Model
- School as Normal

All 3 models are possible options. CDC guidelines will impact us but what is the feedback from SEAC members?

What are some considerations you have regarding a hybrid model? A Jamboard was used to gather input. You can also email Marcy at any time or add comments in the chatbox of the meeting. Some input included:

- Grade Standards
- Delivering IEPs in person
- Distance Learning 2.0 should include more synchronistic learning with live zoom rooms or videos from teachers. This would be appropriate for HS Also would like to find ways for kids to connect for class.
- Small meetings with teachers in class or outside to check in
- My student with ADD is not doing well with no structure, no accountability, he needs an anchor for lack of a better word to assist him with staying focused
- Considerations - balance with holidays not longer school days. Mornings daily preferred. Questions on working parents schedule, child care for those over 5th grade.
- Routine for hybrid particular important (building TTH distance learning MWF) health and safety mornings and alternate days may be best so can clean.
- Staff training on how to react in a trauma sensitive way when kids are making mistakes like standing too close or hugging.
- My son doesn't like doing online work. Only he needs school or where can have something like this Google Meets with his class and teacher
- A week off of at home learning switched with a week of in school would be difficult
- Concerned about lack of physical activity if kids cannot use playground or have physical education classes.
- Real time classes.
- Need much more live instruction.
- Harold likes interaction so he doesn't get the social distance.
- Concerned about emotional impact of social isolation. Especially for kiddos needing SEL help.
- All work including daily check in needs to have value.
- I'm thinking about keeping a routine for my SPED student. If the plan is for a hybrid model I would want some careful thinking around a schedule that is not too complicated. Also for families with parents
- Accessibility is so important - worry about the gaps and how?
- More tutoring access to teachers for all students and not just SPED students
- DL guarantee teacher or para touch point daily or weekly group discussions and group homework sessions with moderators. Assignments posted on Schoology as assigned.
- Prioritize the kids falling behind.
- Half days might make more sense for us.
- Will grading hinder the pathway to college?
- Will the grading affect the college acceptance?

7:00 pm (15 min.) Wrap Up this Year:

Did we accomplish our Mission?

Saint Paul Public Schools SEAC

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:

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 an attitude of respect toward all students and a welcoming environment for all 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.

Have We Accomplished Our Mission?

- 1) **INFLUENCING CHANGE**, policy and procedures through researching needs and advocating for solutions.
 - SEAC Report
 - Facebook Group Goals
 - Increase followers
 - Increase discussion via regular post with discussion topics
 - Social Media
 - Consider SEAC Twitter
 - Consider SEAC Focus Group
 - Initiated mentor/mentee initiative
 - SEAC members participated on DPAC
 - SEAC member participated on Ramsey County's Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Advisory Council.

- 2) **INFORMING AND EDUCATING** parents, school staff, students and community members through workshops, websites, and printed materials:
 - Monthly SEAC meetings
 - **Sept:** Guest Zuki Ellis, Review Ramsey County IDD Committee's Recommendations to Improve the Young Adult Transition Planning Process, SpEd & Strategic Plan updates
 - **Oct:** ECSE updates and St. Paul 3K
 - **Nov:** Special Olympics Unified Schools
 - **Dec:** Legislative update, SpEd Update
 - **Jan:** SEAC Executive presented the SEAC Report to members and 25 guests
 - **Feb:** Pacer Center Advocates presented "Tips & Tools for Talking with School Staff" which included information on partnerships, working together, preparing for IEP meetings, listening and speaking skills and dealing with disagreements.
 - **Mar:** SEAC Report Response, themes from World Café, District Response and Next Steps
 - **April:** Special Education and Distance Learning
 - **May:** The Arc MN's Future Leaders of Self Advocacy Training, Legislative Update and Coalition for Children with Disabilities and Distance Learning Check In
 - **Resources are shared at all SEAC meetings** (upcoming SPPS, Community events and Information sheets such as Pacer Center's "How Do I Know if My Student is Making Progress" and screenings of "Including Samuel").
 - SEAC Report
 - District Wide Family Engagement Events
 - SEAC Chatter
 - SEAC Facebook Group

- 3) **PROVIDING OPPORTUNITIES** for parents and caregivers to connect with the schools, community resources and each other:
 - Monthly SEAC meetings: there were 85 members, 57 guests and 23 staff in attendance.
 - Monthly SEAC Executive meetings
 - District Wide Family Engagement Events:
 - SEAC Facebook Group (forum for discussion)
 - Pivot to online meeting forums during Distance Learning which allowed for greater participation.

- 4) **PROMOTING COLLABORATION** as a means to improve the education process for all learners.
 - Monthly SEAC meetings
 - Sept: Guest BOE Chair Zuki Ellis
 - Jan: SEAC Executive presented the SEAC Report to members and 25 guests including BOE members, Superintendent, Chiefs and Directors as well as Ramsey County IDD Committee members.
 - District Wide Family Engagement Events
 - Groves Academy College Fair Field Trip
 - Parent Academy
 - Virtual Middle School Family Night

Powerpoint slide shared with accomplishments listed from the year. Broken down month by month. How did SEAC learn? How did SEAC inform? What opportunities did SEAC provide? How did SEAC promote collaboration?

Is there anything you would like to add or anything that we missed? People felt Jackie captured it all, no additions.

7:15 pm **Next year:**

What would you like to see on the agenda next year?

Theme/s?

Examples: Inclusion, Distance Learning

Next Year for SEAC- Rhonda Morrison

What would people like to see on Agenda for next year? **Member input:**

- Access to full IEP supports at summer school when summer school is not DL
- Inclusion
- If we are distance learning, really supporting those kids and families who need the most support is going to be challenging. Giving them a platform.
- Concerns about long term distance learning and the impact it has on our students, both social/emotional and academically.
- How are progress reports going? Are parents in middle and high school getting them?
- Inclusion and community building
- Discussion about case managers. Might be unique to our school but our SPED parents are confused by what they do. How can they help, who to turn to with questions/concerns about our children's IEP etc.
- How can we address or improve the SPED process so parents do not feel like it is a fight between them and the school district?
- How can we make the IEP process more like the supportive ECSE program?
- Proactive vs. Reactive
- Concerns about long term distance learning and the impact it has on our students, both social/emotional and academically.
- Mental Health
- Focus on connection and healing in our SPPS Sped Community Justice.
- Theme - EC open and welcoming process vs dK 1 SPED
- MS teaching teams sharing discussion rooms for student interaction and engagement

Recommitment for SEAC moving into 20-21. **Action requested:** Please check in with Jackie regarding your intentions.

Jackie will let all families with a student receiving Specialized Services know about SEAC via Blackboard Connect in the fall. **Action requested:** Please spread the word with your community and friends to encourage applicants.

Action requested; Leadership roles are available as well. Please contact Jackie with your interest.

Meeting dates for 20-21, most said first Mondays will work.

Recruitment - What should we do differently? **Member input:**

- Reach out to principals
- PACER parent leadership event
- Recruit parents of ELL parents
- Yes to the PTA/PTO
- Social Workers
- School facebook page
- School newsletters
- Counselors when they are interacting with parents can recruit

- PreK focus
- Ask case managers to share SEAC flyers
- Mail to all SPED families
- Have an open house and bring a friend
- What if it was part of the online stop sign system
- Check in table for back to school
- How is the recruitment flyer? Does it represent us? Do we need buzzwords?

7:45 pm **Membership:**

SEAC membership, recruiting, leadership roles, recommitments
Meeting dates for School Year 2020-21

7:55 pm Announcements

-MN Dept of Education COVID-19 Resources for People with Autism and their Families

<https://mn.gov/autism/covid-19-resources.jsp>

-Pacer Center's Survey

PACER Center needs your help! We want to know what types of training and resources would be most helpful to parents of children with disabilities of all ages in Minnesota.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/8W8SLWL>

-Watch SEAC Chatter for some other links, etc.

Member feedback about Virtual format and using Jamboard for meeting participation.
Frustrations having to write down notes and thoughts due to disability.
Giving feedback verbally is much much easier for some folks.

Thank you everyone and see you next year.

8:00 pm Adjourn

8:05 pm SEAC Executive

Next Meeting Date: August ?