



**Saint Paul Public Schools  
Special Education  
Advisory Council**

**Attendees:** Jackie Kelly, Marcy Doud, Amy Eelkema, Rhonda Morrison, Kathleen Morrison, Melissa Haley, Tara Ellis, Anastasia Sacacos, Leslie Hitchens, Hai-Yen Vo, Emilie Levinson, Melissa Weeks, Julianna Drajko, Ashley Ward, Lynn Shellenberger, Jennifer Alexander.

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

**Date:** Monday 03-02-20

**Time:** 5:30 pm- 8:00 pm

**Location:** Administration Building, 360 Colborne St.- Meeting rm. B, Childcare rm. H

**5:30 pm**      **Dinner and Childcare Check-In**

**6:00 pm**      **Welcome & Introductions**

6:00 pm      Attendees went around the table and introduced themselves.

**6:10 pm**      **Approve January & February meeting minutes**

7:59 pm      February minutes were reviewed and approved.

**6:15 pm**      **SEAC Report Response, Marcy Doud, Assistant Superintendent of Specialized Services**

-Themes from World Café

-District Response

6:08 pm      Marcy gave a powerpoint presentation to address themes that emerged from the World Cafe experience as well as some detailed district responses. Copies of the powerpoint are available by request. Toolkit piece was appreciated by parents and staff members. Amy Eelkema and Jackie Kelly serve on Ramsey County Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Citizen's Advisory Committee (IDD CAC) who are also interested in putting together a toolkit for parents. Ramsey Co. Children's Mental Health should probably be involved in that as well. Perhaps toolkits could be provided at the initial IEP meeting of the school year for each student. SEAC members really liked the presentation with all the concrete recommendations. Equal access regarding pathways. Professional development at all levels. Changing mindsets. What are the laws around all of it? We can continue to update this in the old business section of our meetings to keep the progress visible.

6:53 Turn and Talk - Conscious Discipline, we've been working on it with our OSS Coaches and it's been transformational. Would SEAC like to host a year of training? 8 sessions with strategies and supports, including other families, etc. Trainers would help support the professional development, would SEAC like to use an entire year to address this training? Conscious discipline relates to social and emotional developments with internal and external behaviors. If a child is in a survival state, what are some strategies you can do and how can you best interact in the moment when a child is not able to communicate effectively? It's beneficial for adult to adult communication as well as adult to student

communication. It would increase that common language between home and school. It's a huge time commitment for SEAC to agree to.

### **Reactions to Turn and Talk:**

Some members did not feel that the work (Conscious Discipline) would make enough of a difference unless GenEd and Sped and parents were all participating in it at the same time but since they aren't, it might not be the best use of time.

ECSE is a great program! What are the parents getting in those early years that parents are raving about right now? Because it seems whatever it is gets lost along the way as the students get older? Where is the breakdown? Where does it happen and why does it happen?

The focus of this program is too much on mental health. What about the students with physical impairments? How do you teach the staff to deal with students who have more of a physical issue? Not all disabilities are about mental health.

Could we address Conscious Discipline as Parent Academy style? Offer it up to more people and then have them graduate from the program after a while so it doesn't take up all our SEAC time?

We have the 30 minutes of meal times that we don't do much with. Maybe we could use that time to start the Conscious Discipline so it doesn't take up all of SEAC? Maybe we could do a condensed version of the training? Social emotional learning is for everyone, across all disabilities.

Onboarding, pre-referral and eligibility issues could be an area of exploration.

People could weigh in at SEAC chatter and should be discussed at Executive Meeting as well. We will continue this conversation.

### **7:45 pm      Announcements**

8:00 pm      April 30th from 5:30-7:30 at Johnson SH, Middle School Family Night, addresses transition from MS to HS. Dinner will be served. 30 minute presentation followed by breakouts. This is the pilot year for this kind of event and it's from SEAC recommendation. It was suggested that this event take place prior to the School Choice Fair to give parents a chance to redirect their students accordingly. Multiple sessions may be given, not just this one per year. Parents should be receiving a flyer via backpack. Voicemail, email and text messages are all coming to remind parents to attend. It is the case managers responsibility to get this information out to families (flyers). Child study is another great place to get the word out to teachers.

### **8:00 pm      Adjourn**

8:05 pm      Meeting Adjourned

### **8:10 pm      SEAC Executive**

Next meeting: Monday, April 6th