



Lynn Shellenberger, Amy Eelkema, Jackie Kelly, Melissa Weeks, Tim Nelson, Melissa Haley, Rhonda Morrison, Sarah Zielinski, Tim Feyma, Anastasia Sacacos, Juliana Drajkó, Rachael Sewell, Elisabeth Mulvaney, Hai-Yen Vo, Nick Cedergren.

10 of 15 members, 4 guests

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

**Date: Wednesday 11-06-19**

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

**Location:** Administration Building, 360 Colborne St.- Meeting rm. D & E, Childcare rm. H

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

**6:00 pm Welcome & Introductions**

Welcome new members Calton Sims and Julianna Drajkó

**6:03 pm Meeting called to order. Introductions were made around the table.**

**6:10 pm Approve October meeting minutes**

**6:10** October meeting minutes approved, motion made by Melissa weeks, seconded by Rachael Sewell

**6:15 pm Special Olympics Unified Schools,**

Nick Cedergren, Special Olympics MN Schools and Youth Coordinator

**6:11**

- Presentation given: Where we were, where we are, where we are going.
- Shifting their focus and goals to schools and striving for inclusion.
- Activity: Who is on the bus? The bus is a metaphor for Inclusion in your school.
  - Who is on the bus?
  - Who is off the bus?
  - Who is the bus driver? Who is steering?
  - What fuels the bus? What makes up the fumes?
  - What do the wheels look like?
  - Are there headlights or a windshield?
  - What kind of engine does the bus have?

- Any stop signs? Any speed bumps?
- Is there a road ahead

Different people had different experiences, perspectives, etc. Some had positive feelings and some had negative feelings.

WHY do we do this? Special education students:

- Have lower graduation rates
- Are 2-3 times more likely to be bullied
- Are 4.5% less physically active
- Have an 81% unemployment rate
- Experience death 16 years sooner
- Are 3-4 times more likely to be victim of rape or assault
- And we are seeing a 35% reduction of teachers enrolling in sped degrees, fewer teachers

Unified Champion School

Inclusive student leadership + unified sports + whole school engagement = positive shift in school culture.

Movement is spreading nationwide.

SPPS schools currently considered Unified Champion Schools are:

- Global Arts Plus MS
- Highland MS
- Central HS
- Johnson HS

**Inclusive student leadership** - Goal is to have students “drive the bus” of inclusion

- 56% of sped students spend less than 10 minutes a day with non sped students.
- Unified clubs can help combat this and bring students together. We provide services to help you get these clubs started, we pay for activities and events to remove time and money as barriers to getting these clubs started.
- Student Leadership Summits - 250 students and teachers together and talk about inclusion all day.
- Student Board of Directors - Grant sponsored summits that gather students together to discuss ideas and plans

**Unified Sports** - Combines athletes with and without disabilities together on the same field

- Unified Physical Education - PE class for credit
- Unified Wellness

**Whole School Engagements**

- Bullying Prevention Campaigns
- Words Matter, the push to eliminate the word retard/ed.
- Person First campaign. Keep the human before their disability
- Volunteering Opportunities

- Fundraising Events - Polar Plunge

Funding - Year 1 is 100% covered (within reason) by grants

Year 2 50% paid by grants, 50% paid for by school

Year 3 100% paid for by schools

(But if it takes a year or two longer for a school to get up to speed we will stick with them until they are self sufficient)

Results we are seeing:

- 100% change in self esteem
- 87% Improved behavior and attitudes
- 98% reduction of bullying, teasing and offensive language

The ripple effect takes this training out into the world. Students who receive this training become future teachers, leaders, employers, humans, etc.

Next Steps

- Determine school liaison
- Fill out the commitment to inclusion online form
- Official training with special olympics mn staff
- Start the unified movement in your school

**7:15 pm Review SEAC Report** - Marcy reviewed it and really liked it but this report belongs to SEAC.

Melissa Weeks motioned to approve, Rachael Sewell seconded, motion passed

December 2nd is next SEAC meeting and COB meeting is Tuesday Dec 3rd 4-8 pm to present the report to the School Board

**7:30 pm Mentor/mentee initiative**

7:34 pm We are trying to do some outreach and mentor new/incoming potential members to help encourage/retain members.

**7:40 pm Announcements**

New School Board Members

Jessica Kopp, Chauntyll Allen, Zuki Ellis, Steve Marchese

Lynn Shellenberger; I think we should look into summer school

Possibility of having a special ed summer school class

DPAC Meeting last week. All PAC meeting on the horizon, parents come together to get to know one another, it's a great event. When the date is determined, we will let SEAC know.

**7:50 pm Group and Individual photos**

Tabled until next month

**8:00 pm      Adjourn**

**7:50 pm      Meeting adjourned**

**8:10 pm      SEAC Executive**

Next meeting: Monday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>.