



Attendees:

Marcy Doud, Kathleen Morrison, Rachael Sewell, Lisa Randall, Tara Ellis, Melissa Haley, Rhonda Morrison, Lynn Shellenberger, Amy Eelkema, Jackie Kelly, Hai-Yen Vo, Zuki Ellis, Julianna Drajko, Chamie Link, Calton Sims, Ashley Smith, Jennifer Alexander, Michelle Sylvester
9 of 13 members, 6 guests

Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC) - Minutes

Date: 09-09-19

Time: 5:30 pm- 8:00 pm

Location: Administration Building, 360 Colborne St. (Meeting rm B)

5:30 pm Dinner and Childcare Check-In

6:00 pm Welcome & Introductions

Welcome special guest Board of Education Chair Zuki Ellis.

Old Business

6:10 pm April, May & June Minutes approved with no corrections

6:25 pm Ramsey County IDD Committee's Recommendations to Improve the Young Adult Transition Planning Process and Key Learning Gaps

Objective: Conclude Ramsey County IDD's Report and Recommendations

What do we know now? Marcy and SEAC member discussion.

6:11 pm Key Learning Gaps identified by Ramsey County around transitioning from school/special education to adult life.

1. Lack of information for young adults and parents.

Graduating with IEP Diplomas, Accuplacer instead of ACT, College cannot make you retake classes you've already taken in HS but that's not a consistent practice. Accuplacer is a common tool in 2 year colleges to say you might need placement classes. If you received an IEP diploma, 4 year colleges don't have to honor those and your college choices may be hindered by getting an IEP diploma. If you attend a 4 year college, you may have to retake courses that were adapted to SPED in High School because the college would require the course to be taken unaltered.

2. Lack of consistency in delivery of information and offering services. Gen Ed does their thing and Spec Ed does their thing but they aren't communicating with one another. In looking at these inconsistencies we've discovered gaps we weren't previously aware of and identify how the county can serve there. SEAC is a good place to discover gaps and having things come to light. SEAC and the county worked together and asked the county to put together a list of

things they would like schools to know that would aid collaboration. That list is being created. Changes have been made and we are still working on implementation. High school kids are the hardest to support with services due to gaps. Transition goals in all the areas need staff to reach out to the county to collaborate. Chair Ellis approved a pilot program to bring in state & county teams into SPPS IEP meetings (part of the Omstead Act) so we can learn from and grow out in the district. SPPS staff has received professional development around the pilot program.

3. Funding for state and county level resources is lacking which impacts the quality and level of services and stakeholders.

Legislative changes on due process paperwork are coming and we will need to bring those to SEAC and explain them in addition to how to communicate them to families.

There's a group of level 1 kids who are getting missed, not getting these county or state services, all they get is Special Ed services and they are falling through the cracks.

4. Gaps in understanding by teachers, social workers, other staff

Unable to have discussion because of time.

New Business

6:47 pm Special Education Update and alignment with Strategic Plan- Marcy Doud, Assist. Superintendent of Specialized Services

Objective: Learn about Special Education Department updates, goals for the year and alignment with Strategic Plan.

SPED team took a deep dive into data and everyone is working so hard but are we doing what we need to do regarding progress monitoring so we can make adjustments to goals. District restructured Supervisors to line up with Pathways and Regions (Areas). Our SPED Supervisors are now aligned to an Assistant Superintendent on the 5th floor to be more efficient.

A brief conversation was held (elbow partners, two person discussions) about the SPPS mission statement: "To inspire students to think critically, pursue their dreams, and to change the world."

Outcomes for the school year: Be inspired to create transformational change to meet the needs of each student. To celebrate and share successes to affirm our conviction for equitable student achievement as one community. To provide endless opportunities for all through a collaborative process. Working at the top level to work to change systems.

A group of students that SPPS is failing was identified and made a long term goal. SEAC is responsible the inclusion of that goal individually on the Strategic Plan. Chair Ellis remembers that MLL and SPED were lumped into the Strategic Plan together and SEAC helped identify that those should be pulled apart and treated separately.

Priorities for the 19-20 year were outlined. Increase achievement of students receiving special education services. Increase our capacity to meet the instructional needs of each learning and Intentionally match instructional strategies to learning IEP goals. Have a guaranteed and viable replacement curriculum for students in the ASD/DCD program.

Goals need to be intentionally matched with students needs. We need to develop profiles of student learning. We need to do benchmarks and progress monitoring around students and move forward with strategies.

Some OSS priorities include development of a literacy matrix, redesigning sped coaches role to support literacy and develop a literacy PD plan to build the capacity of our SPE coaches. We are designing a team to review best practices and research based resources, develop a PD plan for teachers and monitor and evaluation implementation of the new resource.

Strategic Long Term Goals, put into practice Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) and Positive Behavior and Supports.

Team building plan for coaches, leads, School Social Workers (SSW) and psychs, provide Equity PD for them around non-bias observations and student behavior plans. Redesign the data quarterly reports for principals to align with ECIS requirements (student behavior) and SEL components.

ECSE data is also being looked at. Looking at trends in buildings, going back to look at Behavior Intervention Plans as they relate to suspensions. Working with administrators regarding discipline and sped students. Working to reduce overidentification and suspensions, hired more SSWs and Psychs.

CASEL model, our largest goal this year is the self-awareness of adults so that we can best assist our students.

SPED Math, MCA/MTAS proficiency levels are well below the state average. We have heavy lifting to do. Would be interesting to look at the data of how many SPED parents have opted out of those tests. Those tests are very biased and some people want to get rid of them entirely.

There are racial disparities in SPED/EBD, out of school suspensions & total disciplinary actions. We need to get to know students and check our biases. We have to be willing to talk about what's actually happening in our buildings and in our classrooms and what expectations our teachers have for our students of color. The changes can't come fast enough to support students in real time, there's a lot of hurt that's been done to our students and our families by this district. Students, even young students, pick up on the body language, attitude, tone, language, they can read people better than adults. All our educators want what's best for our students, but not all of them know how to DO what's best for our students.

Relevant, timely feedback for students and for teachers.

Changes to our goals: consistent communication, Coaches take the district info/changes to the buildings, the psychs attend the Child Study meetings to make sure the information gets passed along, the social workers are working on the trauma and better teaching/staffing ratio.

-SEAC would like to see some data throughout the school year if at all possible.

-SEAC has been discussing putting together a satisfaction survey, which could be counted as more data, but 2 years down the line, it could capture a picture if transition planning is being truly relevant.

MDE is currently asking some of those questions and we could possibly look at that.

There is a powerpoint presentation of the bullet points, goals, priorities (etc) listed above for reference.

7:52 pm Announcements & Updates:

8:05 running late so announcements were covered quickly and will go out via SEAC Chatter

Groves Academy College & Post-Secondary Opportunities Fair

Tues., Oct. 1st, 6 - 8:30 p.m.

SPPS students with disabilities and their families are encouraged to attend.

There will be over 40 schools & organizations sharing the disability services and programs they have to support college success.

Families may go on their own or take a bus from SPPS

Link to: [more information and flyers](https://www.spps.org/Page/34645). (<https://www.spps.org/Page/34645>)

Saint Paul Public Libraries (SPPL) Intelligent Lives Film Screenings

Oct, 2, 10 , 17 and 21st

SPPL's is hosting 4 screenings of the award winning film that challenges our perceptions of intelligence, supporting abilities, interests and possibilities.

SPPL is looking for interested people to participate in panel discussion after the screening.

Link to more about SPPL's Intelligent Lives Screenings:

<https://sppl.bibliocommons.com/events/search?q=intelligent%20lives>

Link to more about film Intelligent Lives:

<https://intelligentlives.org/trailer>

Special Education Parent Academy

Mondays, Oct. 7, 14, 21, 28 and Nov. 4th 5:30 - 8:00 pm.

Special Education Parent Academy assists parents in understanding the school and special education systems to be effective advocates for their child's education and make informed decisions. This class is most valuable for families that have elementary aged students and are newer to special education.

This class is presented in English.

Link to more: <https://www.spps.org/Page/34150>

PACER Center Transition Event: Living, Learning and Working After High School

Sat. Nov. 2, 9:00 am - noon

A free mini conference for parents only (No youth or professionals because of limited seating).

Information provided will reflect different kinds of post-secondary pathways

Info will be in this month's Pacesetter.

Flyer available.

SEAC Report to the Committee of the Board

Moved to Tues, Dec 3rd.

Hoping all SEAC members will be able to attend. Please save the date on your calendar.

Ad Hoc committee

Will be meeting this fall more information to come.

ACTION requested- Please share info about SEAC with others in your community and encourage them to join us.

8:00 pm Meeting Adjourn

Future meeting dates: Tues. 10/8, Wed. 11/6, 12/2, 1/6, ²/₃, 3/2, 4/6, 5/4, 6/1

8:10 pm SEAC Executive meeting

9:00 pm SEAC Executive adjourns