

## **Special Education Parent Advisory Committee Meeting Notes**

The Special Education Parent Advisory Committee (SEPAC) met on Tuesday, May 16, 2023, with 17 attendees joining via a webinar.

Attendees: Tammy Graber, Katy Barnum, Kelli Bourke, Jason Cresap, Siew Hoon Lim, Sarah Weisser, Elizabeth Hilliard, Janet Sonpon, Victoria Johnson, Khera Houston, Aaron Cohen, Amanda Hurley, Leah Nihezagire, Mirjana Rakasovid, Kimberly Myers, Shelby DiFonzo and Shirley LaMont. Carly Gaddie, Patty Cummings and Kirsten Hanson were absent.

Ms. Shelby DiFonzo, Assistant Director of Special Education, called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m. Ms. DiFonzo turned the meeting over to Chairperson, Katy Barnum.

### **Agenda was presented:**

1. Special Education Presentation
2. Recognition of Public Audience
3. Review Mission Statement
4. Review by-laws
5. Review voting terms
6. Review open stakeholder position - High School
7. Establish 2023/24 school year meeting dates
8. Adjournment

Tammy Graber moved to approve the agenda. Siew Hoon Lim seconded the motion.

### **Special Education Leadership Updates**

Ms. Shelby DiFonzo provided Curriculum updates to the families.

- SIPPS \*(Systematic Introduction in Phonological Awareness. Phonics and Sight Words)
- UFLI (University of Florida Literacy Institute)
- Bridges Intervention
- STAR/LINKS/SOLER (Social Learning and Emotional Regulation)

### **Recognition of Public Comment**

Chairperson Katy Barnum opened the floor for public comment. There were no public comments.

### **Review of Mission Statement**

Tammy Graber moved to approve the SEPAC Mission Statement as written. Siew Hoon Lim seconded the motion.

### **Review of by-laws**

#### **Review of voting terms**

Discussion surrounding the by-laws and voting terms acknowledged several items that need to be defined further as a committee. A suggestion was made to form a subcommittee over the summer to address the items. The subcommittee will consist of Sarah Weisser, Tammy Graber, Katy Barnum and Shelby DiFonzo. The subcommittee will address, but not limited to, the clarification of wording in the by-laws, elections and term limits for committee members, member expansion of the committee, etc. This subcommittee will bring back recommendations regarding these agenda items to the SEPAC committee for approval at the next meeting.

### **Review of open high school stakeholder**

Several ideas were suggested on how to recruit a high school stakeholder to serve on the committee. Some of the ideas presented were the VTC center, building administration, vocational rehabilitation counselors, JET program and the Peer to Peer program.

### **Meeting Timeline**

Currently, there will be four (quarterly) FPS SEPAC meetings during the school year. Sarah Weisser asked the question if there should possibly be more than four FPS SEPAC meetings during the year.

*The next FPS SEPAC meeting will be on Tuesday, Sept 19th at 5:30 p.m.*

The meeting adjourned at 6:22 p.m.

**Are there topics you would like to discuss?**

Please email either Patty Cummings @ [cumminp1@fargo.k12.nd.us](mailto:cumminp1@fargo.k12.nd.us)  
Shelby DiFonzo @ [difonzs@fargo.k12.nd.us](mailto:difonzs@fargo.k12.nd.us)