

Special Education Parent Advisory Committee
Meeting Notes
May 21, 2024

The Special Education Parent Advisory Committee (SEPAC) met on Tuesday, May 21, 2024, with 17 attendees joining via a TEAMS Webinar.

SEPAC Stakeholders Present: Katy Barnum, Tammy Graber, Kirstin Hanson, Siew Hoon Lim, Kelly Ehli, Shelby DiFonzo, Sarah Weisser

SEPAC Stakeholders Absent: Kelli Bourke, Jason Cresap

Attendees: Cassandra Jorgenson, Sara Tommervik, Peter Schott, Amanda McCarty, Ashly Hafdahl, Nate Hafdahl, Elizabeth Hilliard, Mikkel Rohm, Malick Bill, Nicole Schuler

Chairperson Katy Barnum called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Agenda was presented

- Approval of Minutes -January 16, 2024 meeting
- Approval of Minutes-March 19, 2024 meeting
- Approval of Agenda
- Assistant Director of Standard Based Instruction and Special Education presentation
 - Findings from Office of Civil Rights (OCR)-Tara Brandner
- Recognition of audience
 - Please sign up through the chat option of the webinar. Each participant who signs up will have 3 minutes to make a public comment. This meeting is open to the public but is not a public forum. The primary focus of the meeting is the business listed on the agenda. Only the Council person will acknowledge public commentary. Please be assured, however, that all members are welcome and appreciate your comments.
- Success Stories/Feedback
- Wrap up on the SEPAC
- Community Events/Resources
- Review open stakeholder positions
- Establish next meeting date
- Adjournment of meeting

Siew Hoon Lim moved to approve the Meeting Minutes from January 16, 2024 with corrections; Tammy Graber second the motion.

Siew Hoon Lim moved to approve the Meeting Minutes from March 19, 2024 with corrections; Tammy Graber second the motion.

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

Special Education Leadership Updates:

Shelby DiFonzo, Assistant Director of Standards Based Instruction and Special Education

- Presentation on current open positions in Special Education
- Explanation of Resource/Extended Resource Rooms
- How to prepare for school in August (focus on transitional grades). How do parents, schools prepare and what happens in the Spring.
- Explanation of direct service minutes vs. indirect service minutes on IEPs.
- Findings from Office of Civil Rights (OCR)-Tara Brandner-did not attend
 - Shelby will contact Tara to reschedule this portion of the meeting over summer.

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Recognition of audience

Chairperson Katy Barnum opened the floor for public comment.

- No public comment

Success Stories/Feedback

- Sarah shared that Explorer Academy has done amazing work.
- Tammy Graber shared that three of her students are walking through graduation in June.

Wrap up of the SEPAC

- Look at ways to grow membership.
 - An article in The Journey for the Fall.
 - Inservice for staff

Community Events/Resources Available

- Not discussed

Open Stakeholders positions -Survey for next year

- Non-teaching staff
- High School Student Representative
- Teacher Position
- Vice Chairperson

Meeting Timeline

- The next FPS SEPAC meeting is scheduled for September 17, 2024 @ 5:30pm

The meeting adjourned at 7:02 p.m.

Are there topics you would like to discuss?

Please email Shelby DiFonzo @ difonzs@fargo.k12.nd.us