



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

Sec. 8 Minnesota Statutes 2004, section 125A.24 (PACs)

In order to increase the involvement of parents of children with disabilities in district policymaking and decision-making, school districts must have a special education advisory council that is incorporated into the district's special education system plan.

Attendees: Amy Eelkema, Joel Van Valin, Oanh Nguyen, Christina Locke, Ashley Ousley, Nicole Warner, Rhonda Morrison, Kathleen Morrison, Jackie Kelly, Mayra Mariscal, Amy Johnson, Heidi Nistler, Laura Wallo, Choua Xiong, Michael Shepperd, Sarah Zielinski, Angelo Dungey, Jonathan Breyab, Michaela Smith.
19 people: 8 of 17 members, 5 staff, 6 guests

Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC) Approved

Date: 1-13-2025

Time: 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. meeting (5:30-6:00 p.m. light meal and connecting).

Location: Google Meet

To join the video meeting, click this link: <https://meet.google.com/ogi-twma-tmj>

Otherwise, to join by phone, dial +1 347-354-5207 PIN: 709 638 866#

6:00 p.m. What is SEAC:

SEAC is a group of parents, guardians, staff and community members that meet monthly "to increase the involvement of parents of children with disabilities in policymaking and decision-making".

How does SEAC work:

At SEAC meetings members are informed and share input to improve programs and systems for students with disabilities and their families.

Housekeeping, Welcome & Member & Guest Introductions

What are Parents Supposed To Do At SEAC?

- **Learn** something that will benefit your child.
- **Share** what you learn with people in your community (neighbor, friend, child's teacher....).
- **Ask questions and share input.**

Member & Guest Introductions

- Share your name, if you're a member or guest and a little about yourself or your child what is most important in your child's education right now?

January 2025 Agenda

6:20 p.m. Approve December 2024 Minutes

6:20 p.m. Rhonda Morrison moved to approve SEAC meeting minutes, Christina Locke seconded. Minutes were approved and passed.

6:25 p.m. SpEd Update- Heidi Nistler, Director Special Education.

Special Education Updates

The SPPS Board of Education has selected Dr. Stacie Stanley as the preferred candidate for the next superintendent of Saint Paul Public Schools.

Special Education

- Identified one additional change was identified after our last meeting
 - Change - make it clear that specialized programs are multi-categorical and focused

on meeting individual needs - not based on disability category

- Communications will be updating format and translating into other languages

SPPS Facilities 10-Year Plan Update

SPPS has launched a planning process to update its 10-year Facilities Master Plan (FMP), which provides a strategic blueprint for how to equitably modernize its facilities while keeping pace with the evolving needs and best practices of our district and its programs.

- Currently establishing work groups to identify future facilities-based needs, priorities, and values
 - Special education work group facilitated by Heidi Nistler
 - Will meet virtually several times this year - daytime
 - **ACTION REQUESTED:** SEAC representative interested in joining a work group?
 - Or can bring questions to upcoming SEAC meeting

Board Policy 509 Update

- [SPPS Board Policy 509](#)

- Family letter
 - Will be sent out this month - electronically with link to copy of the policy
 - Might make one revision to let families know about SEAC and invite them to upcoming meetings.
 - *Thoughts on this?*
- Supplemental document challenges

Special Education Overview

- **January/February**

- **Who are our students?**

- *How many students receive special education services?*

For the last 3 years, the growth in our students with disabilities has far outpaced the growth in students without disabilities

- *What are the demographics of the students receiving special education services?*
- *How has this changed over time?*

- **February/March/April**

- **How are our students doing?**

- *Are students with disabilities making progress academically?*
- *What are our biggest areas of academic need?*
- *How many students with IEPs are suspended?*
- *Who are the students being suspended?*

7:10 p.m. Mikaela Smith.- Principal Focus Beyond Transition Services

What is Focus Beyond?

Part of St. Paul Public Schools' transition program, students have finished 12th grade, eligible through their 22nd birthday, all students have an IEP, transition needs and all credits are not needed.

Focus Beyond provides transition services through collaborative partnerships that guide students through individualized pathways, promoting lifelong learning as contributing members of their community.

Who comes?

- Students who need job skills or work experiences.
- Students who need support to decide what to do after high school, need more time to figure out their future or need more help to be independent
- Students who need support to explore postsecondary options, need to work on communication, self-advocacy, or social skills, need help with jobs, career exploration, independent living, or planning for the future.
- Students from any school in St. Paul.

Pathway Model

- 1.- Highest needs for supervision and support.
- 2.- Moderate needs for supervision and support.
- 3.- Lowest needs for supervision and support.

Students are eligible to attend Focus Beyond if:

- They have unmet transition needs documented in their Individualized Education Plan (IEP)
- They have a current IEP en Evaluation Report
- They have completed the 12th grade but have not accepted a high school diploma.

8:10 p.m. Adjourn

Next meeting: Monday, February 10th, 2024 Virtual only