

## Special Education Parent Advisory Committee

### Meeting Notes

May 20, 2025

The Special Education Parent Advisory Committee (SEPAC) met on Tuesday, May 20, 2025, with 15 attendees joining via a TEAMS Webinar.

SEPAC Stakeholders Present: Katy Barnum, Shelby DiFonzo, Julie Emery Hetland, Kirstin Hanson, Siew Hoon Lim,

SEPAC Stakeholders Absent: Scott Hanson; Kelli Bourke, Jason Cresap; Sarah Fries; Kelly Ehli

Attendees: Cassie Jorgenson; Faisal, Heather Suda; Elizabeth Hilliard, Kelli H, Bill Malick; Shani Suda, Dika, Misty Hulett; Tracy Keller

Chairperson Katy Barnum called the meeting to order at 5:35 pm

#### Agenda was presented:

- Approval of Minutes
  - [2-18-25 SEPAC Meeting Notes](#)
- Approval of Agenda
- Director of Special Education Committee presentation
  - School Based Medicaid
  - Level of Determination Report Card
  - Indicator 8-Parent Survey updates
  - Cell phone Policy Based on Senate Bill 2354
  - Upcoming FPS Policy Review
  - SPED Transportation Process
- 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
- Community Events/Resources
- Establish next meeting date
- Topics for next meeting
- Adjournment of meeting

Julie Emery Hetland moved to approve the Meeting Minutes from February 18, 2025, Siew Hoon Lim second the motion.

Julie Emery Hetland moved to approve the agenda for tonight's meeting, Siew Hoon Lim second the motion.

**Special Education Parent Advisory Committee**  
**Meeting Notes**  
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**Director of Special Education Committee Presentation:**

Shelby DiFonzo, Director of Special Education

- [SEPAC 5-20-25 PowerPoint Link](#)
  - School Based Medicaid
    - School Districts can receive reimbursement from Medicaid for Medicaid eligible students for services listed on a student's IEP, with a signed Parent Consent to Bill Medicaid form. Services include Speech and Language, Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, Behavioral Health, Nursing Services
  - Level of Determination Report Card
    - FPS received a Meets Requirements
  - Indicator 8 – Parent Survey updates
    - Completed parent surveys increased from 124 in 23-24 to 272 in 24-25.
    - Suggestions on how to increase parent participation.
      - Continue sending out BrightArrow messages (email, text message)
      - Send information in the IEP packet mailed to parents/guardians.
  - Cell phone Policy Based on Senate Bill 2354
    - FPS is in the process of forming a committee to assist in drafting a new cell phone policy. Once the draft is completed and approved by the school board, the policy will be officially implemented.
  - Upcoming FPS Policy Review: [Administrative Policies - Fargo Public Schools](#)
    - Policy 6280 Toileting, Carry over: 6310, 6320 and 3250.
  - SPED Transportation Process
    - The IEP team will now be responsible for defining the level of support each student requires during pickup and drop-off. The levels include: Curb-to-Curb, Eye-to-Eye and Hand-to-Hand.

**Recognition of Audience**

Chairperson Katy Barnum opened the floor for public comment.

- No public comment

**Success Stories/Feedback**

- Shelby DiFonzo gave a shout out to Cassie Jorgenson, Special Education Curriculum & Instruction Coordinator, for doing a wonderful job speaking about the STAR Curriculum.
- Kirstin Hanson shared a success story about the general education teachers and special education staff collaborating regarding co-teaching opportunities.

**Community Events/Resources Available**

- None at this time

**Meeting Timeline**

- The next FPS SEPAC meeting is scheduled for October 21, 2025 at 5:30 pm

The meeting adjourned at 6:35 pm

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

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