



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: Joel Van Valin, Oanh Nguyen, Christina Locke, Christina Nicholas, Rhonda Morrison, Kathleen Morrison, Nicole Warner, Mayra Mariscal, Amy Johnson, Heidi Nistler, Jackie Kelly, Sarah Zielinski, Salma Siddiqui, Brietta Clementson.

19 people: 7 of 17 members, 5 staff, 1 guests

Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC)

Date: 4-14-2025

Time: 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. meeting

In Person: Administration Building, 360 Colborne St. room B. (5:30-6:00 p.m. light meal and connecting).

Virtually: Google Meet NEW link <https://meet.google.com/qrh-qhyt-zyp>

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.

[April 2025 Agenda](#)

6:15 p.m. Approve Minutes [March 2025](#)

Rhonda Morrison moved to approve SEAC meeting minutes, Christina Locke seconded. Minutes were approved and passed.

6:20 p.m. SpEd Update- Heidi Nistler, Director Special Education.

State of SPPS Special Education

10-Year Facilities Master Plan Update

The Facilities Master Plan provides SPPS with a 10-year vision on how best to equitably modernize its portfolio of 70+ schools and buildings to meet the evolving needs of teaching and learning in the 21st century.

Through its guiding documents, the FMP provides the framework for SPPS to produce a strategic,

five-year implementation plan that is updated annually in response to changing District priorities. During the 24-25 school year, SPPS is beginning the process of updating the Facilities Master Plan

SPPS-Real Estate Portfolio

- 73 Facilities
- 7.8 Million square feet of space
- 519 acres of land

Workgroups: Examine topic-specific key questions related to their direct or indirect interrelationship with facilities and produce a final report with their key findings.

- 10+ workgroups taking place December 2024 to May 2025
 - Special Services Workgroup (*Special Education and Health and Wellness*)
 - *Input from SEAC for special education*

Initial Recommendations:

Questions and emerging themes for special services:

1. **Access** - how are we ensuring that all schools are accessible for all students, staff, and families?
2. **Space, Facilities, and Construction** - what needs to be taken into consideration when schools are being renovated or built?
3. **Itinerant, Related, and Community-based Services** - what considerations need to be taken into account for services provided by staff who travel throughout the district?
4. **Early Childhood Special Education** - what unique considerations need to be considered for our youngest learners?
5. **Health and Wellness** - how are we ensuring that our schools are designed to meet the health and wellness needs of students, staff, and families?

Themes

Types of facilities spaces that emerged:

- General education classrooms
- Special education classrooms
- Health offices
- Common spaces in schools and buildings
 - *Examples: Front offices, hallways, gyms, auditorium*
- Spaces outside of schools and buildings
 - *Examples: Entrances to schools, playgrounds*
- Community-based services
 - *Examples: home-based early childhood, transition program outings in community*

Input from SEAC Members

Facilities: physical space itself (walls, flooring, ceiling, doors, ramps) and what is in that physical space (furniture, lighting, sound)

Questions:

- What promotes success and engagement for students with disabilities in these spaces?
- What presents a challenge for students with disabilities in these spaces?

Next steps:

-Heidi will include SEAC input and feedback in the Special Services workgroup recommendations
-Facilities Core Planning Team will review all workgroup recommendations this summer
-Fall 2025 into Winter 2026 - site-based plans and priorities will be developed (include more family engagement for individual Schools)

-Spring and Summer 2026 - updated 10-year facilities master plan is finalized and made public

6:50 p.m. SPPS Council Code of Conduct

[Code of Conduct Annual Agreement DRAFT form](#)

PAC members will now have the opportunity to review the draft Code of Conduct and provide input to help ensure it is clear, effective, and supportive of our shared goals. Your input is essential in refining this document to best serve our advisory councils and their members. The Code of Conduct is part of a broader effort to ensure SPPS' 8 advisory councils operate effectively, equitable, and in alignment with district priorities.

The purpose of the Code of Conduct is to:

- foster a respectful and inclusive environment
- clarify roles, responsibilities and expectations
- ensure that PACs are aligned with SPPS priorities
- contribute meaningfully to decision-making
- provide a clear process for addressing concerns and conflicts constructively

Questions and input from PAC:

Where does the Code of Conduct fit into PAC policies (LCD, SEAC mandate, PAC by laws, etc). Does the Code of Conduct replace bylaws, supersede bylaws??

Are groups no longer empowered to make decisions

1.1 Not parent friendly language. Authorization sounds harsh.

Ability to remove someone that's destructive of relationships or property

Include "each group has it's own unique focus and community"

Does this clarify if a person may be removed?

[Code of Conduct feedback form](#)

7:58 p.m. May 12 and June 2, SEAC meetings

8:05 p.m. Adjourn

Next meeting- Monday, April 12, 2025 Hybrid meeting