Saint Paul
Public Schools

Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC)

April 14, 2025

Saint Paul Public Schools
Special Education
Advisory Council

Welcome & Grounding

Introduction to SEAC

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”.

Source MN Statute 125.A.24

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.

“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.**

*For more check out PACER’s SEAC materials.

Member and Guest Introductions

Share:

- your name
- if you're a member or guest
- a little about yourself or your child

Agenda

6:05 p.m. Introductions

6:20 p.m. Approve March Minutes

6:25 p.m. SpEd Update: Heidi Nistler, Director Specialized Services

- **State of SPPS Special Education (30 min)**

7:40 p.m. Forum, Reflection and Resource Moment (20 min)

8:00 p.m. Adjourn

Approve Minutes: March 2025

Special Education Update

10-Year Facilities Master Plan Update

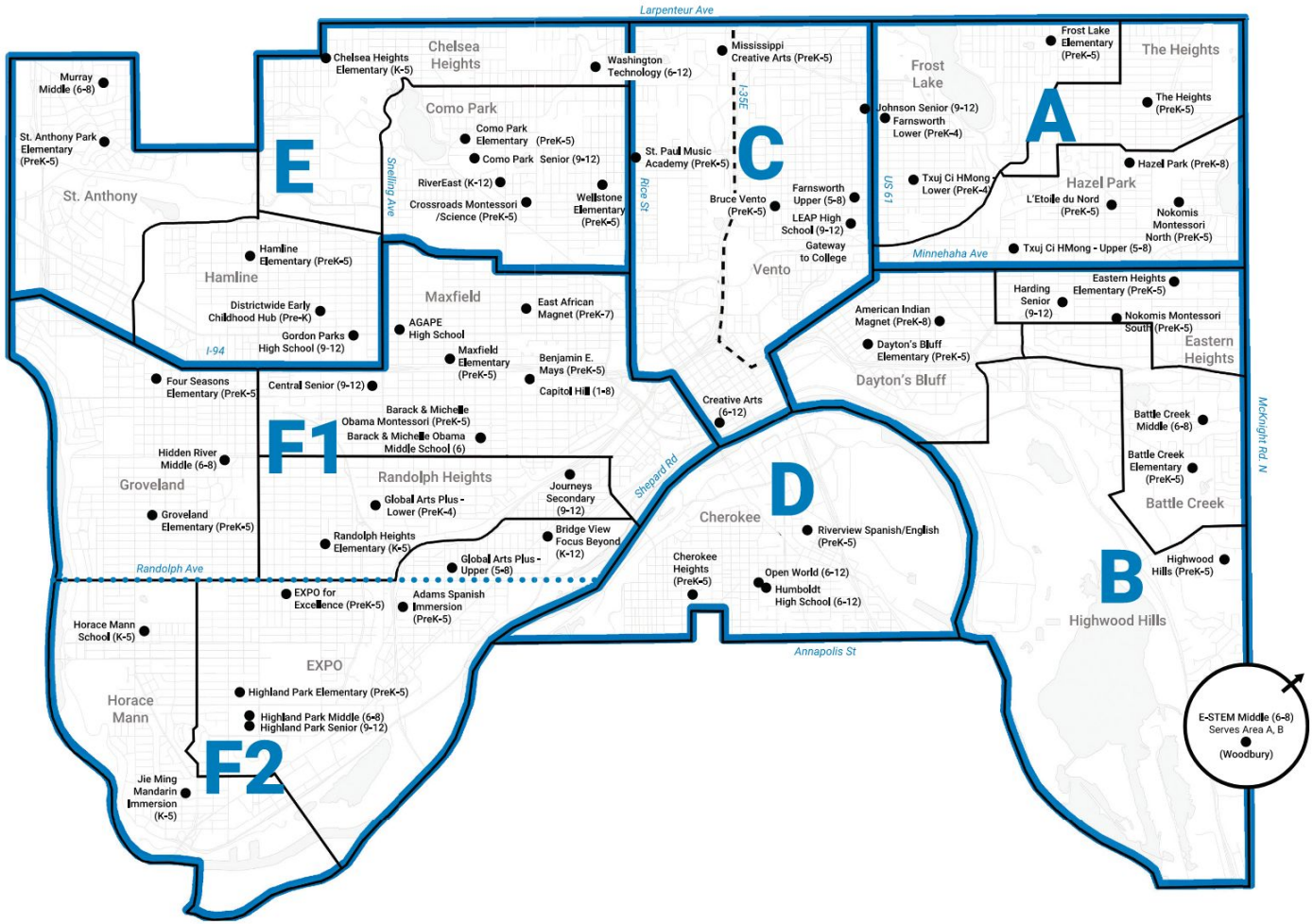
The Facilities Master Plan provides SPPS with a 10-year vision on how best to equitably modernize its portfolio of 70+ schools and buildings to meet the evolving needs of teaching and learning in the 21st century.

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

Saint Paul Public Schools - Real Estate Portfolio

- 73 facilities
- 7.8 million square feet of space
- 519 acres of land



10-Year Facilities Master Plan Update

Workgroups: Examine topic-specific key questions related to their direct or indirect interrelationship with facilities and produces 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

General education classrooms	Special education classrooms	Health offices
Common spaces in schools	Spaces outside of schools	Community-based Services

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?

Share out

What themes emerged for each area?

Next steps…

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

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.

Code of Conduct feedback form

May SEAC meeting

Monday, May 12

- 2nd to last SEAC meeting
- Student panel?
  - Focus Beyond
  - Washington
  - HPSH Disability Alliance
-

June SEAC meeting

Monday, June 2nd

-conflicts with Humboldt and Johnson and high school graduations

SEAC Forum - Reflections & Resource Moment

Open time for…

- hearing parent voice
- sharing stories from the disability community
- giving feedback for future agenda items
- sharing resources

Next meeting: Monday, May12th
HYBRID join us in-person or virtually