



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, Christina Nicholas, Rhonda Morrison, Kathleen Morrison, Rachel Sewell, Mayra Mariscal, Amy Johnson, Heidi Nistler, Jackie Kelly, Sara Reyes, Pablo Matamoros, Salma Siddiqui, Halla Henderson, Jim Vue, Dr. Hsu E. Htaik, Mr. Nicholas
19 people: 8 of 17 members, 4 staff, 7 guests

Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC)

Date: 03-10-2025

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/kbs-wxzc-dtq>

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, Do you have a plan for spring break?.

March 2025 Agenda

6:25 p.m. Saint Paul Public Schools Board of Education, Halla Henderson

BOE Chair

Board-Initiated Goals Governance (BIGG)

- In Phase One, we conducted a survey and held listening sessions with students and staff.
- Our Data and Research Subworkgroup coded this data with assistance from REI.
- Each member of this subworkgroup discussed their findings with each other and came to similar conclusions.
- The feedback we received mostly confirmed the draft goals we'd been considering, but challenged us to address some concerns that we had not previously included in our draft goals.
- The most consistent themes we saw in the data were:
 - Improvement in reading/writing proficiency

- Improvement in mathematics proficiency
- Development of strong critical thinking skills and deep understandings of government and civics
- Development of life and soft skills, especially financial literacy
- Preparation for life after high school, whether their path is toward college or a career
- Concern for student social/emotional wellbeing
- Desire for the district to provide more music and arts offerings for students
- We used these themes to develop our preliminary goals.

BIGG Survey Development

- The Board of Education approved their preliminary goals at the January Board of Education Meeting.
- A survey has been developed based on the Student Outcomes and Programmatic goals, which will be made available to the SPPS community prior to the end of February.
- The survey will ask people whether or not they approve of each goal, whether or not anything should be changed regarding each goal, and will provide them with space to let us know if we are missing something.
- We hope to collect feedback and make adjustments prior to the April BOE, so that we can adopt our final BIGG Goals at that meeting.

SURVEY

Your responses to the below survey questions will help the Board finalize these goals.

Your participation is voluntary, and you are not required to answer any questions you do not wish to respond to. Simply skip any question(s) you prefer not to answer. This survey is anonymous, meaning none of the questions will ask for information that could identify you.

The survey should take approximately 5 minutes to complete. Please respond by March 31:

spps.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_5bzO7naY98Ki6QS

The Board will review your feedback and finalize these goals. They will vote to formally adopt the goals at a future Board of Education meeting.

Thank you for your participation. If you have questions, please contact the Board of Education at sb.members@spps.org.

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

OSS/SEAC Overview

Work and focus for 24-25:

- [Special education at-a-glance brochure](#)
- Policy 509 - Removal of students with IEPs
- SPPS special education data review
- Upcoming:
 - Facilities workgroup feedback
 - CEIS (Coordinating Early Intervention Services) Plan (more on this later!)

Special Education Overview

- **January/February**
 - **Who are our students?**
 - *How many students receive special education services?*
 - *What are the demographics of the students receiving special education services?*
 - *How has this changed over time?*
- **February**
 - **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?*
- **March**
 - **How are our students doing?**
- *How many students with IEP's are suspended?*
- *What are the students being suspended?*

Actions

- Check and Connect
 - **What is Check and Connect?**
 - Check and Connect enhances student engagement through relationship building, problem-solving, capacity building, and persistence in school

7:20 p.m. SPPS Advisory Council Member Code of Conduct. Pablo Matamoros.

[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](#)

7:25 p.m. Booklet Update [Introduction to Special Education For SPPS Families](#)

7:30 p.m. June 2, SEAC meeting

Monday, June 2nd

-conflicts with Humboldt and Johnson and high school graduations

7:35 p.m. Approve [February minutes](#)

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

7:40 p.m. Forum, Reflection and Resource Moment

Open time for...

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

8:00 p.m. Adjourn

Next meeting- Monday, April 14, 2025 Hybrid meeting