

MVCC/MRVED

Special Ed Advisory Council (SEAC)

Wednesday, May 14th, 2025/ 5:30 PM

Members Present: Wendy Best, Amanda Lowry, Chelsie Bothun, Chelsie Vaala, Karin Falness, Sara Hubbard, Ashley Weber, Amy Engesser, Londa Swenson, Amy Hubbard, Angie Young

1. **Welcome & Introductions:** All council members introduced themselves and shared a bit about themselves
2. **Purpose & Role of SEAC**
 - a. Angie Young reviewed the purpose of the Special Education Advisory Council with the group as well as responsibilities of council members
3. **Review of By-Laws & Operating Procedures**
 - a. Angie Young reviewed the By-Laws that were shared with the council prior to the meeting. No questions were brought up by council members
 - b. Angie Young asked for input on the length of council member terms. The council agreed that a 2-year term for council members was appropriate.
 - c. Angie Young asked for input from the council regarding the day/time that SEAC meetings would be held. Members agreed that Wednesdays typically work best, especially when enough notice is provided to ensure time off or child care. The council also agreed that a start time of 5:30 or 6:00 would work best.
 - d. A Shared Google Folder will be created for the council by Angie Young and shared out to council members. This folder will include all meeting agendas and meeting minutes as well as any additional resources that are provided by or to the council for review, discussion, and distribution
4. **Overview of Special Education in Region**
 - a. Angie Young shared a presentation that outline the districts represented by the SEAC as well as information about the disability areas represented in each school district and some current challenges in Special Education within school districts

5. Priorities for 2025-2026 School Year

- a. The council discuss some possible priorities that the council could focus on for the upcoming school year
- b. Chelsie Bothun suggested looking into additional training for school staff, particularly coaches and those in charge of extra curricular activities. Amanda Lowry supported this suggestion
- c. Amy Engesser suggested looking into ways for parents in our region to be able to connect with each other (i.e. support groups, family nights, etc.) as she has often heard from parents that they feel isolated and would like to find other parents to connect with in the area

6. Comments

- a. Chelsie Bothun shared that she is excited about the council and the positive benefits that could come from continued collaboration between families and the school districts
- b. Amy Hubabrd also expressed enthusiasm for the council and felt this evening's meeting was a good starting place to get more conversations going about how to best support students and families in our districts

7. Wrap-Up

- a. Angie Young will share a Google Survey with the council to determine dates for Fall 2025 and Spring 2026 meetings to ensure dates are set before the end of June.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:15 pm.