

Special Education Parent Advisory Committee
Meeting Notes
October 21, 2025

The Special Education Parent Advisory Committee (SEPAC) met on Tuesday, October 21, 2025, with 16 attendees joining via a TEAMS Webinar.

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

SEPAC Stakeholders Absent: Scott Hanson, Julie Emery Hetland, Kelli Bourke, Jason Cresap, Sarah Fries, Kelly Ehli

Attendees: Jen Sahr, Cassandra Jorgenson, Kimberly Myers, Elizabeth Hillard, Faisal Manjahy, Jessica Anderson, Muhammad Usman, Brandee Watterud, Karen Wilson, Bradley Hartje, Jamie, Nicole Schuler

Chairperson Katy Barnum called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm

Agenda was presented:

- Approval of Minutes
 - [5-20-25 SEPAC Meeting Notes](#)
- Approval of Agenda
- Review of:  Fargo Public Schools Special Education Parent Advisory Committee
- Election of Officers -deferred to January 27, 2026 meeting
- Director of Student Support Services Committee Presentation
 - Behavior Data Review
 - Code of Conduct
 - BARR
 - Catalyst
 - Review of Restraint, Ukerua and Calming Room
- 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
- Adjournment of meeting

Siew Hoon Lim moved to approve the Meeting Minutes from May 20, 2025, Chairperson Katy Barnum second the motion.

Siew Hoon Lim moved to approve the agenda for tonight's meeting, Chairperson Katy Barnum second the motion.

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Director of Student Support Services Committee Presentation:

Shelby DiFonzo

- [SEPAC 10-21-25 Powerpoint Link](#)
 - Catalyst-Deferred to January 27, 2026 meeting
 - Review of Restraint, Ukeru and Calming Room (RUC)
 - Patty Cumming, Director of Compliance IDEA/504 Title IX reviews all RUC forms along with directors and the Superintendent.
 - Clarification was made that Calming Rooms are NOT seclusion rooms. They are a space where an adult is always present, helps a student to de-escalate and must be written in a child's plan.
 - Review of Bylaws: [sepacbylaws.pdf](#)

Assistant Director of Student Support Services Committee Presentation

Jen Sahr

- Presented behavior data on out of school suspensions, Fargo Public Schools Code of Conduct and Building Assets, Reducing Risks (BARR).

Recognition of Audience

Chairperson Katy Barnum opened the floor for public comment.

- No public comment

Success Stories/Feedback

- None at this time

Community Events/Resources Available

- North Dakota IDEA Advisory Committee Listening Tour virtual event scheduled for October 28th, 2025
Click on link below for more information.
<https://www.nd.gov/dpi/sites/www/files/documents/SpecEd/North%20Dakota%20Special%20Education%20Listening%20Tour%20OCT%2028.pdf>

Meeting Timeline

- The next FPS SEPAC meeting is scheduled for January 27th, 2026 at 5:30pm

The meeting adjourned at 6:20 pm

Are there topics you would like to discuss?

Please email Shelby DiFonzo@ difonzs@fargo.k12.nd.us