

**Special Education Parent Advisory Committee**  
**Meeting Notes**  
**March 31, 2026**

The Special Education Parent Advisory Committee (SEPAC) met on Tuesday, March 31st, 2026 with 13 attendees joining via a TEAMS Webinar.

SEPAC Stakeholders Present: Katy Barnum, Shelby DiFonzo, Julie Emery Hetland, Siew Hoon Lim

SEPAC Stakeholders Absent: Kelli Bourke; Scott Hanson, Kirstin Hanson, JasonCresap; Kelly Ehli, Sarah Weisser

Attendees: Dr. Cory Steiner, Jeff Anderson, Marijo B, Shanta Islam, Gul Badin, Kim Myers, Cassie Jorgenson, Elizabeth Kar; Nicole Schuler

Shelby DiFonzo, Director of Student Support Services called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm

**Agenda was presented:**

- Approval of Minutes
  - [SEPAC Meeting Notes 1-27-26](#)
- Approval of Agenda
- Director of Student Support Services Committee Presentation:
  - Guest speaker: Dr. Steiner, FPS Superintendent
    - Topic: Vision for Student Support Services Department
  - Infinite Campus transition
  - Budget update
  - Extended School Year (ESY) reminders
  - Strategic Plan review
  - FPS Scorecard overview
- Recognition of Audience
  - a. a. (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 it is not a public forum. The primary focus of the meeting is the business listed on the agenda. Generally only the Council person will acknowledge public commentary. Please be assured, however, that all members welcome and appreciate your comments.)
- Success Stories/ Feedback
- Community Events/Resources Available
- Establish Next Meeting Date
- Adjournment of meeting

Julie Emery Hetland moved to approve the meeting notes from January 27, 2026, Cassie Jorgenson second the motion.

Julie Emery Hetland moved to approve the agenda for tonight's meeting, Cassie Jorgenson second the motion.

**Director of Student Support Services Committee Presentation:**

Shelby DiFonzo

- Infinite Campus transition
  - <https://www.nd.gov/dpi/news/introducing-bridge-multi-generational-project-plan>
- Budget update
  - At this time, no anticipated staffing reductions in Special Education.
  - Staffing shortages remain in the areas of Special Education Teachers, Paraprofessionals and Speech Language Pathologists (SLPs)

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- Extended School Year (ESY)
  - Being held June 8th-26th, Monday - Thursday
  
- Strategic Plan Review
  - The district is currently re-examining our Strategic Plan to ensure it remains focused on what matters the most to our students, staff and community
  
- FPS Scorecard Review:
  - [FPS Scorecard overview](#)
  - Next Scorecard will be out mid to late April

Dr. Steiner, Superintendent

- Topic: Vision for Student Support Services Department
  - Talked about wanting FPS to continue to build partnerships with families.
  - Using the Lead Teacher Model

**Recognition of Audience**

Chairperson Katy Burnum opened the floor for public comment.

- Elizabeth Kar asked if in the future there were to be a reduction in staff, if the SEPAC would be informed. Shelby DiFonzo stated yes, the SEPAC would be informed.

**Success Stories/Feedback**

- Shelby DiFonzo shared that several schools have participated in the ABLÉ games with great success
- Katy Barnum shared that the Carl Ben PTA paid for HOPE Inc. to come to Carl Ben and the students really enjoyed the event.

**Community Events/Resources Available**

- No updates at this time

**Meeting Timeline**

- The next FPS SEPAC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 19th, 2026 at 5:30 pm
  - This meeting will be held in person at the District Office, as well as on TEAMS. More information to come closer to the meeting date.

The meeting adjourned at 6:18 pm

**Are there topics you would like to discuss?**

Please email Shelby DiFonzo @ [difonzs@fargoschools.org](mailto:difonzs@fargoschools.org)