

Special Education Parent Advisory Committee
Meeting Notes
September 15, 2026

The Special Education Parent Advisory Committee (SEPAC) met on Tuesday, September 15, 2026 with 13 joining via TEAMS Webinar.

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

SEPAC Stakeholders Absent: Kelli Bourke, Kelly Ehli, Sarah Weisser, Scott Hanson, Kirstin Hanson, Jason Cresap

Attendees: Jolene Schue, Kim Myers, Cassie Jorgenson, Emily Hanson, Jeff Anderson, Elizabeth Kar, Rachel C, Sabrina Jones, Nicole Schuler

Chairperson Katy Barnum called the meeting to order at 5:32 pm

Agenda was presented:

- Approval of Minutes
 -  SEPAC Meeting Notes 5-19-26.pdf
- Approval of Agenda
- Director of Student Support Services Committee Presentation:  SEPAC 9_15_26
 - SEPAC Overview
 - Introduction of Stakeholders
 - Level of Determination Report Card
 - Review current information
 - Discuss formation of a SEPAC work group to review district data and provide feedback
 - IDEA State Advisory Committee Updates
 - Share updates regarding the IDEA State Committee
 - Discuss potential next steps for SEPAC involvement in supporting families
 - Explore possible family engagement and support opportunities for Fall 2026
 - SEPAC Communication Enhancements
 - Review current SEPAC flyer and materials
 - [Draft 1](#)
 - [Draft 2](#)
 - Gather feedback regarding clarity, accessibility of the flyer and materials
 - Discuss adding a QR code to the SEPAC website/materials
 - Brainstorm ways to increase visibility and engagement for families
 - Identify what would make SEPAC communication more meaningful, welcoming, and easy to access for families
 - Poll for meeting format: In Person, Virtual, Hybrid
 - IC SPED: Tips and Tricks- Esignature option
- 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 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

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- Adjournment of meeting

Julie Emery Hetland made a motion to approve the meeting notes from May 19, 2026, Siew Hoon Lim second the motion.

Siew Hoon Lim made a motion to approve the agenda for tonight's meeting, Julie Emery Hetland second the motion.

Director of Student Support Services Committee Presentation: Shelby DiFonzo

-  SEPAC 9_15_26
- SEPAC Overview
 - Introduction of Stakeholders: Stakeholders who were present introduced themselves, as well as the other individuals who were on the call .
- Level of Determination Report Card
 - Reviewed current Report Card data and what it means for Fargo Public Schools
- Discuss formation of a SEPAC work group to review district data and provide feedback
 - Siew Hoon Lin, Jeff Anderson and Elizabeth Kar volunteered to be on the work group
- IDEA State Advisory Committee updates
 - Katy Barnum provided information and updates on the committee.
- Discussed ways to increase participation in SEPAC
 - Increase communication to parents/guardians
 - Adding information to the Resource areas in the conference rooms
 - Work on updating/enhancing the SEPAC flyer-have at back to school nights, conferences at ECSE
 - Increase awareness of the SEPAC meetings with Special Education teachers

Recognition of Audience

- None at this time.

Success Stories/Feedback

- Katy brought up that the IEP meetings are showing up on the athletic calendar and app. Shelby will address with the IT department.

Community Events/Resources Available

- Jeff Anderson asked the group if they wanted the 2025-2026 ND IDEA report. Katy will email the report to Shelby to share with SEPAC.

Meeting Timeline

- The next FPS SEPAC meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 25th, 2027 at 5:30 pm

Meeting adjourned at 6:34 pm

Are there topics you would like to discuss?

Please email Shelby DiFonzo, Director of Student Support Services @difonzs@fargo.k12.nd.us