



**Saint Paul Public Schools
Special Education
Advisory Council**

Melissa Weeks, Calton Sims, Julianna Drajkó, Anastasia Sacacos, Jackie Kelly, Tim Nelson, Rhonda Morrison, Melissa Haley, Kathleen Morrison, Melissa Haley, Kathleen Morrison, Lynn Shellenberger, Amy Eelkema, Tara Ellis, Chamie Link, Hai-Yen Vo, Jennifer Krueger, Mary Gilbert Dougherty, Marcy Doud, Danielle Mathias, Michelle Sylvester.

11 of 15 members, 3 guests, 6 staff

Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC) - Minutes

Date: Monday 12-02-19

Time: 5:30 pm- 8:00 pm

Location: Administration Building, 360 Colborne St.- Meeting rm. B, Childcare rm. H

5:30 pm Dinner and Childcare Check-In

6:00 pm Welcome & Introductions

6:03 pm Introductions around the table

6:10 pm Approve November meeting minutes

6:09 pm November minutes and December agenda approved.

6:10 pm Legislative Update:

Mary Dougherty Gilbert, Legislative Liaison

6:13 pm Powerpoint presentation was given. Copies are available upon request.

Important dates: November Forecast (end of Nov), Session reconvenes 2/11, Feb forecast (end of Feb), supplemental budget will follow forecast, Sine die May 18.

The average cross subsidy in MN is \$757 million (the amount taken from the general budget to cover the underfunding in Special Education).

Action item: To stay connected to legislative issues Mary will connect with SEAC when there is a "Call to Action". Important points to know: Letting legislators know items of concern and importance, that you're a constituent and a real person affected by the issue.

Increase Diversity in the Teacher Workforce

Enhancing Taxpayer Equity

Reduce Mandates and Enhance Local Control

Provide Resources for Child and Family Support

A discussion arose about the differences of supports for ESY vs Summer School, about credit recovery and services available and the graduation gap. Summer school does not have FAPE and credit recovery is not a special education service.

Tim is in Partners in Policy and can help distribute that information.

6:40 pm Special Education Update

Marcy Doud, Assistant Superintendent of Specialized Services

6:49 pm **Action item-** As a parent when you receive anything you feel is redundant or paper heavy and if it could be dropped or altered without minimizing the rights of the students, we'd like your input.

Much of the paperwork is about protections and rights. It's evidence collected to be sure the district is doing what they should be doing. Some parents have found the paperwork overwhelming at first but then when an issue arose, the paperwork was the only proof they had to back them up. Paperwork can prove to teachers that they have done their job correctly so it protects them as well.

What is the special ed obligation to support a child whose family makes a choice of summer school? Navigating through some big things right now like the federal government not doing their job when it comes to funding. There are inequities in language and service, money being passed back and forth between districts which is a lot of paperwork and is not efficient.

Literacy and Social Emotional Goals were established when Marcy arrived a year ago.

Dec. 1st is "the count". It's our childcount in SPED. (Oct. 1st is GENED childcount) tells us who is in SPED and that's how our federal funds are allocated so it's important to count all our SPED students.

OSS includes SPED, 504 and Student Health and Wellness. Breakdowns of SPED was given. Marcy gave an enrollment update. SPED makes up 15% of our student population. GENED population is decreasing but our SPED population is not. Our SPED child count includes students being served in SPPS as well as SPPS students being served in other districts. Our data mirrors the statewide data for the most part. Our numbers are increasing due to better early intervention and identification.

SPED Open Positions

1 ASD Teacher

Action item- 13 TA positions- if interested connect with Marcy

1 Psychologist position

2 SPED coaching positions

Review of Academic Priorities for the department for 19-20, goals and objectives were outlined.

MCA Data was shared in math, reading & science.

Review of Social/Emotional Priorities for the department. You have to be able to support your own self management before you can support the self management of students. Conscious Discipline will be provided as PD for 10 days for our SPED coaches. It's part of Trauma Informed Social and Emotional Development. Played a short marketing video about the program to the group. This program is meant for all, general education and special education but SPPS is starting with special education because of the disproportionality of sped students being suspended. Some questions were asked and a brief conversation arose around the topic. Members shared their own stories and

experiences. Comment that there should be a parent component so that home and school can work together.

7:40 pm Announcements

Family Event about Communication Devices, Thurs, Jan 16th, 5:30-7:30 pm at Washington Tech. Magnet School. Come meet other families and learn how to help your student communicate. Link to more: <https://www.spps.org/Page/36447>

The Kids We Lose by Ross Greene, January 21 in Burnsville. Sponsored by MACMH (MN Association for Children's Mental Health) to register go to MACMH.org. The training is 15% off if you register before 12/21 and an additional 10% off if you register in groups of 5 or more. Previous SEAC member Martha Johnson has been to 5 trainings and am a fan! Love his books too! If you cannot attend and want to learn more check out website: livesinthebalance.org

TED Talk recommended by Danielle

https://www.ted.com/talks/nadine_burke_harris_how_childhood_trauma_affects_health_across_a_lifetime/up-next?language=en

7:50 pm Group photo

8:00 pm Adjourn

8:10 pm SEAC Executive

Action item - Attend Monday, January 6th SEAC meeting. In lieu of SEAC reporting to the Committee of the Board, Tuesday, Dec 3rd, SEAC will be inviting Board members and SPPS administrators to attend the January 6th SEAC meeting. The SEAC Report will be shared and there will be an opportunity for conversation by all.