



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

Sec. 8 Minnesota Statutes 2004, section 125A.24 (PACs)

In order to increase the involvement of parents of children with disabilities in district policymaking and decision-making, school districts must have a special education advisory council that is incorporated into the district's special education system plan.

Attendees: Amy Eelkema Baxter, Brenda Natala, Calton Sims, Cruz, Jackie Kelly, Jim Vue, Kellie McCourtney, Larry Wren, Mayra Mariscal, Melissa Haley, Melissa Weeks, Michele Silvester, Nicole Warner, Oanh Nguyen, Rachael Sewell, RaShonda Muhammad, Roxanne King.

17 people: 8 of 10 members, 4 staff, 5 guests

Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC) Minutes Approved

Date: 12-06-21

Time: 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Location: Virtual meeting via Zoom

Link to [December Presentation](#)

5:30 p.m. Optional Pre Meeting Chatter - Join us if you can for an informal check in.

6:00 p.m. Housekeeping, Welcome & Introductions.

6:04 p.m. Melissa Haley went over some housekeeping items. Introductions/ Share/ Connect: Your name, your child, why you are here, introductions via chat.

6:10 p.m. Meet and Connect with Board of Education Vice Chair Vue.

6:18 p.m. Jim Vue talked about his experience with pandemic days and Special Education for his kids and connecting with families.

6:30 p.m. Approve [November meeting minutes](#)

6:47 p.m. Rachael Sewell moved to approve SEAC meeting minutes, Melissa Weeks seconded. Minutes were approved and passed.

6:35 p.m. Review and Vote on updated. [SEAC Procedural Guidelines](#)

6:48 p.m. Jackie Kelly went over some additions and changes that were made.

Brenda Natala suggested changing "The Assistant Superintendent of Specialized Services" title to "Director of Special Education".

Melissa Weeks made a motion to approve the changes, seconded by Melissa Haley.

SEAC Organizational Guidelines Document was approved and updated.

6:45 p.m. SEAC membership.

7:04 p.m. Melissa Haley made an update on SEAC membership.

- New Member Roxanne King

- Co-Chair, Melissa Haley stepping down as Co-Chair
- Vote to elect new Co-Chair Rachael Sewell

Melisa Haley asked all those in favor of Rachael Sewell as a new Co-Chair, the vote was unanimous.

- Vote to appoint new Executive Committee members
 - Calton Sims and RaShonda Muhammad

Melisa Haley asked all those in favor of two new Executive Committee members, the vote was unanimous.

6:50 p.m. Special Education Update, Brenda Natala, Director Specialized Services.

7:10 p.m. The meeting was recorded. Brenda Natala went over to present

Academic Updates:

- Training for teachers
- Progress Monitoring
- Curriculum investments

Special Education Recovery Services Update:

- Do families feel confident they know: What they need to ask? And what they need to share”?
- Pull data from dashboard
- Recovery service plans.

Envision SPPS Update:

- Program changes, impacts, closures, relocations and/or expansions effective SY22-23

Special Education Staffing, Problem Prevention/Problem Solving,

Special Education and Discipline, Manifestation Determination.

7:20 p.m. SEAC Forum. Share issues of importance in our community.

7:35 p.m. Melissa Weeks invited the SEAC group to share their experiences.

SEAC Guest Oahn Nguyen shared two Epilepsy related resources:

[Epilepsy Awareness Month Oahn’s Blog Post](#)

[Seizure Smart Legislation](#)

Message from Superintendent Gothard- I’m Listening

*“I have heard that SPPS leadership doesn’t listen. We don’t know what staff want, what students need, or how best to serve our community. I take this feedback to heart, and as we move through our current challenges and onto the next, **I want to hear your ideas and your solutions** for better serving our community and making our schools the best they can be for our students and families.”*

- How do we improve student outcomes?
- School climate?
- Staff satisfaction?

- *How do we stabilize or even increase enrollment?*
- *What should we stop doing, and what should we do more of?*

7:50 p.m. Meeting Wrap Up

- Announcement, Event or Resources to share.

Resources: Mad Hatter Wellness is offering FREE Monthly Support Calls for both Parents/Caregivers and Educators on the topics of healthy relationships and sexual health. They also have lots of free resources and tools on their website to support staff and caregivers in having these conversations.

Sexuality for All Abilities

Terry Stein has purchased the curriculum for every building

-The Power of Me for 3, 4, 5th grade

-Sex Education for Special Education

Lots of free resources: Podcasts, Newsletters, Trainings, Events

Boundaries Flip Books for discussing boundaries with students

Supports for People with Disabilities who identify as LGBTQAT+

-Proof Alliance Conference

Proof Alliance wants to show families in Minnesota our appreciation by providing a little holiday financial support to buy gifts, holiday decorations, whatever you desire! COMPLETE SURVEY <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2CPGFMK>

This program provides financial assistance to families raising children with an FASD, or individuals with an FASD. Funds are restricted to families/individuals residing in Dakota, Ramsey and Washington Counties. Funds will not be allocated for supports or services already being paid for by a government entity. Please contact Roxanne King at roxanne.king@proofalliance.org or 651-917-2370 for more information.

If you are an ongoing contractor with Proof Alliance, you are ineligible for funds.

-Project Search Internships at Gillette

-SpEd TA opportunities

Reflection:

- What is your take-away?
- Tip to share on SEAC Facebook Group.
 - What would you like shared on SEAC Facebook this month?

8:00 p.m. Adjourn

8:00 p.m. Meeting adjourned

8:05 p.m. SEAC Executive

Next SEAC meeting: Monday, Jan. 3rd, 2022 6-8 p.m.