



**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: Amina Abdullahi, Yasmin Muridi, Amy Eelkema Baxter, Brenda Natala, Choua Xiong, Christina Nicholas, Heidi Nistler, Jackie Kelly, Joel Van Valin, Kimberly Adams, Melissa Haley, Melissa Weeks, Nicole Warner, Oanh Nguyen, Rachael Sewell, Rashonda Muhammad.

16 people: 9 of 14 members, 3 staff, 4 guests

Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC) Minutes Approved

Date: 06-15-2023

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

Location: Hybrid via Administration Building, 360 Colborne Street or

Virtual via Zoom: Link to join <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/9438313562>

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

6:00 p.m. Melissa Weeks went over housekeeping items. Introductions/ Share/ Connect: Your name, if you are a member or guest, a little about your child, where your child attends school, what brings you to SEAC tonight?

Melissa Weeks is stepping down as Co-Chair. RaShonda Muhammad will stepping up as Co-Chair to replace Melissa. SEAC is so grateful for Melissa's contributions. Melissa has been a member since the 2016-17 school year. Melissa established the SEAC Facebook group, has been and will continue to be a SEAC Facebook Group administrator. Melissa wrote the 2021-22 and 2022-23 SEAC End of Year reports. A SEAC Recommendation to the district was to increase the representation of students with disabilities in SPPS marketing. Tyler was one of the first "SEAC models". SEAC is immensely grateful for the time, effort and impact Melissa and Tyler have had on SEAC through the years.

What is SEAC:

SEAC is a group of parents, guardians, staff and community members that meet monthly to increase the involvement of parents of children with disabilities in decision making.

How does SEAC work:

At SEAC meetings members are informed and share input to improve programs and systems for students with disabilities and their families.

What are Parents Supposed to do at SEAC?

Learn something that will benefit your child, share what you learn with people in your community and ask questions and share input.

[SEAC June 2023 Agenda](#)

6:10 p.m. Approve [May 2023 Minutes](#)

6:15 p.m. Nicole Warner moved to approve SEAC meeting minutes, Amy Eelkema seconded. Minutes were approved and passed.

6:15 p.m. SpEd Update- Brenda Natala, Executive Director Specialized Services.

Welcome to **Heidi Nistler**, Assistant Superintendent of Specialized Services.

[New leader award](#)

Unified Sports Athletes

On May 31, Unified athletes from Johnson High School were ball kids for the Minnesota Aurora, our professional women's soccer team.

Specialized Classrooms

Culturally Focused Schools with Specialized Classrooms for ASD/DCD

- Highwood Hills Elementary
- East African Elementary
- Phalen Lake Elementary

[Belwin Conservancy](#) Afton, Minnesota.

[Belwin Outdoor Learning](#) Access to nature education field trips for **all** students with disabilities. Free, scheduled by teachers.

Accessible Nature Discovery Space

Belwin is building a new building with 2 classroom spaces for students with disabilities for Fall 2024.

[Donate to Belwin's NEW Accessible Nature Discovery Space](#)

6:30 p.m. CtLC Training: Buckets of Support, Life Domains, and Life Stages.

[Charting the LifeCourse- Session 4](#)

CtLC Resources:

- [Charting the LifeCourse Tools – Disability Hub MN](#): Information and links to fillable PDFs of the Charting the LifeCourse Tools discussed today
- [LifeCourse Nexus Marco de Referencia en Español](#)
- Family Voices of MN - On-Demand Webinars
- [MN Connect: Family & Professional Partnership in IEP Development Keeping the Student at the Heart of the IEP Process Using CtLC](#)
- [MDH Institute on Community Integration using CtLC:](#)
- in the IEP Process- June 20
- [My Vault](#): Learn more about the My Vault tool and create a professional account to support people in creating an employment team, digitally creating tools for the plan phase of employment development services and sharing information with their team.
- <https://disabilityhubmn.org/hub-tools/online-resources/my-vault>
- [Family Voices of Minnesota](#). A parent-to-parent networking group connects families across the state, empowering them to become advocates for children and youth with special health care needs and disabilities.

7:00 p.m. SEAC business.

[2022-2023 SEAC Report](#)

2023-24 SEAC Meeting Dates

Proposed Dates:

1. September 11- 2nd Monday
 2. October 2- 1st Monday
- *Tentatively SEAC Report to the BOE Oct 10th

3. November 6- 1st Monday
4. December 11- 2nd Monday
5. January 8th- 2nd Monday
6. February 5th- 1st Monday
7. March 4th- 1st Monday
8. April 1st- 1st Monday
9. May 6- 1st Monday
10. June 3- 1st Monday

Co-Chair and Executive positions: [Organizational Guidelines](#)

SPPS Special Education Staff Spotlight Proposal

Establish a Recognition Committee:

- The committee will be responsible for reviewing nominations and selecting individuals to be recognized each month.
- Members of this committee will also be responsible for writing and formatting recognition stories for sharing via social media and newsletters.
- Communications will help develop a template for stories.

7:40 p.m. SEAC Forum/Meeting Reflection- Opportunity for hearing parent voice, sharing stories from the disability community, giving feedback for future agenda items.

7:50 p.m. Announcements: Events/Resources/Agenda requests

Summer Resources:

[Pacer Center's Inclusive Recreation, Adaptive Sports and Summer Camps](#)

Every day there are more recreational, sports, social, and summer camp opportunities accessible to children and young adults with disabilities and their families. 55 are listed here for you.

[100 Fun Summer Activities for Kids](#)

[Minnesota State Parks Summer Activities](#)

[Minnesota State Parks "I Can" Outdoor Skill Programs for Beginners](#)

[GiGi's Playhouse Summer Calendar](#)

[Ramsey County Children's Mental Health Collaborative Resource Board](#)

[Minnesota State 2023 Summer Camps](#)

Minnesota State offers a variety of academic and athletic summer camps [for middle and high school students](#).

[Saint Paul Adapted Recreation](#)

[Highland Friendship Club Summer 2023](#)

Serving individuals with disabilities from teens through adulthood by providing a range of opportunities to develop lifelong skills, friendships, and connections within their community.

[Sprockets Program Finder](#)

Sprockets is a place to find activities for kids to do outside of school time. It is a collaboration of community organizations, the City of Saint Paul and Saint Paul Public Schools.

The Program Finder lists available programs AND allows you to input keywords, your child's age and your location to find programs that you're most interested in and are closest to home. ***For example if you are looking for swimming lessons for your 5 year old.***

Special Edition Safe Summer Nights

- 06-13-23 5-7 p.m. Griggs Recreation Center, 1188 Hubbard Avenue
- Free food, bike giveaways, first responder vehicles, various police specialty units and community partners
- Variety of activities that can be adapted for friends and family members who may have disabilities.

Down Syndrome Association of MN Summer Programming

8:00 p.m. Adjourn

Next SEAC meeting: Monday, September 11, 2023 6-8 p.m.