

Eagle Ridge Academy - Special Education Advisory Committee

Monday – June 2, 2014: (6:00 PM - 7:00 PM) Room 124

1. Introductions -

Mike Deschneau (SpEd Coordinator)	X
John D'Alessandro (SpEd Teacher)	X
Mandee Rickard (2nd Grade Teacher)	X
Jessica Ballantine	
Christi Blaskowski	
Holly Collison	X
Erin Davies	X
Rhonda Hammons	X
Anne Krocak	X
Kim Robb	X
Stacey Siats	
Amanda Weidner	
Elizabeth Wilkins	X
Kathy Wuetrich	X

2. What is the purpose of SEAC? <http://www.mnseacinfo.org/about/whatisaseac.asp>

- be a bridge between school and parents
- advise and advocate
- add parents of students without disabilities to our committee

WHAT IS A SEAC?

A SEAC (pronounced “seek”) is an acronym for Special Education Advisory Council, which is a group that provides input on special education issues to its local school district. Its purpose is to advise and advocate, not to decide policy. Minnesota law requires each school district in the state to have a SEAC although it does not specify how the groups should be organized or what duties they should perform. As a result, each SEAC may have a unique mission and structure.

MINNESOTA STATUTE

Minnesota law requires each school district in the state to have a special education advisory council (SEAC). Here is what the statute says:

125A.24 Parent advisory councils.

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

(1) This advisory council may be established either for individual districts or in cooperation with other districts who are members of the same special education cooperative.

(2) A district may set up this council as a subgroup of an existing board, council, or committee.

(3) At least half of the designated council members must be parents of students with a disability.

When a nonpublic school is located in the district, the council must include at least one member who is a parent of a nonpublic school student with a disability, or an employee of a nonpublic school if no parent of a nonpublic school student with a disability is available to serve. Each local

council must meet no less than once each year. The number of members, frequency of meetings, and operational procedures are to be locally determined.

Rhonda:

Review of minutes from meeting January 2013

Laura Medwitz

- What is the special education process?
- open communication is key (parent/teacher)
- list of questions to be answered
- services not initiated day one

What policy making decisions do we have - power?

Is this a sub-group of an existing group?

Results of Kate Olson interviews (August board meeting)

3. Discuss and Determine Meeting Norms (Practices) / Collective Agreements

- a. http://specialed.spps.org/special_education_advisory_council_-_organizational_guidelines.html#Meetings

b. Handout - Example

c. 3-5 Norms for next meeting

- we are here to increase student learning
- we will be positive, cooperative, and open to each others ideas
- we will be prepared and respect the time schedule
- we will listen to each other, participate, and stay on task

4. Look at SEAC structure:

a. Bylaws

- Review missions of other schools and develop a mission that supports ERA's mission and vision.
- Membership requirements/responsibilities
- initial set of committee

b. Meeting Schedule

- meet monthly

- Mike will send out possible dates for consistent meeting schedule

5. Brainstorm areas we'd like to have discussion on:

- teacher compliance with SPED
- possible in-service for gen ed
- creating a team (para, gen ed teachers, parents, case manager)

6. Determine agenda items for next meeting:

- Norms
- SEAC binder from PACER
- Mission
- Bylaws
- 3-5 goals for 1 year from now