

## Meeting Minutes

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Nov. 19<sup>th</sup> SEAC meeting at the Instructional Services Center.

The meeting began with Kim giving some background information and answering questions about her previous work in the field.

Kim started with the Farmington School District as the Director of Special Education on July 1<sup>st</sup>. Her previous position was as Assistant Director of Special Education for Goodhue County, which includes 5 Districts. She knew Carla, the previous Director for Farmington, and decided to apply when she learned of the opening. Her background is in speech pathology. She is married, has 2 children in college, and still lives in Red Wing.

Craig was the assistant principal in Red Wing. He's a former SLD teacher. He is attending classes to get his Director's License, and will be able to begin attending SEAC meetings in January.

His primary focus is going to be on the Middle and High School grades, while Kim will focus on Early Childhood Special Education and Elementary schools, all while getting to know the wonderful staff in the district.

When asked about what changes she plans for the District, Kim said that she doesn't see a need for any in the immediate future other than those that are ongoing statewide. She stated that she would like to look at Setting 3 options to look at a new elementary program, and possibly implement it by next year.

Another aspect that she reported on was that the teachers are working on shoring up data in SPED-forms that can help with programs.

When asked how parents would best determine if their child is getting the ratio of service that their children require. She answered that the IEP team is the proper place to reach out and get support for understanding their children's needs.

The focus of IEP's is 'Standards Based', and trying to help those students perform to the required Standards. This requires special assessment and individualized instruction very closely tailored to the child's needs.

That concluded the introductions and Q&A session, after which Kim had the following topics and questions for the SEAC.

She retouched on the mission statement, which is:

The mission of the Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC) is to:

1. Advise District #192 Special Education Department;
2. Advocate for high quality special education programs;
3. Facilitate communication among family, school, community and the school board

Membership to the SEAC is open, and at the formation of the Council, many parents wanted something more direct and substantial, and attendance fell off when people realized that it's not a forum to seek support, but a way to advise and support the programs that support the District's students with special needs. There is still much opportunity for parent participation on the SEAC.

The Facebook page for the SEAC can be a great link to the SEAC page on the school website. Since it is not a District resource, it allows for some flexibility in its use. Kim receives information on many programs available to the public, and the Facebook page can be a great way to publicize this, as well as for people to discuss a wide range of topics.

To increase exposure and attendance, Kim will create an invitation to attend the SEAC meetings, stressing the mission of the SEAC, advertising the Facebook page, and providing information on resources for parents and families. As Kim pointed out, it is the SEAC's meeting to run, and hers to attend and guide.

Kim and the Council Co-Chairs will continue to run the meetings, and will collaborate on topics prior to sending out the agendas and minutes for the meetings. The agreed upon schedule for emailing communications will remain 1 week prior to the meetings, to also serve as a reminder of time and location.

It was also mentioned that the Chairperson, (or Co-chairs as currently serve) is a 2-year position. The Co-chairs plan on being active for an additional year, in case anyone has interest in the position.

The SEAC discussed the schedule for meetings. The charter does not require monthly meetings, so it was discussed that we alternate business meetings with content meetings. Whether the content meetings are a speaker, or just Q&A sessions for people to bring together their concerns, or seek resources for their particular situations. Based on this discussion, the December meeting will be a Business meeting, and January will have a speaker. (Janelle?)

There were multiple resources listed as well. I'm not sure we want to communicate those in the minutes, but should probably put on the Facebook page?

The next meeting will be Dec. 17<sup>th</sup>, 6:30-7:30, at the ISC.

12/2 Dakota Ridge School, Apple Valley 6:30-8 p.m. Employment Options, Work and benefits, resources and supports available...

DCCC: community resources... Dakota County Social Services... other resources - overview.

if the group is interested she could come to a following meeting: a resource of resources

Pacer Puppet Group for elementary and lower grades

Park Nicollet ADHD support group

Dec 17, 6:30 ISC

-suggestion to line up the meetings with events and speakers to draw people

-what about an open table discussion to allow a place for parents to share their concern

-possibly an ask a director, address certain questions

-having a parent (parent support worker) with some basic training or background, to be able to help those who are new to the process and need help, that the district could review to them

-possibly one at each building or grade level

-offering support, friendship - strengthening the special education community

-knowing what special education questions can be asked

-possibly recommended from principals ... for parents who could be an advocate

SEAC meetings: about future ones

-not required to meet every month, suggestion to alternate from speaker and more of a business meeting

-it doesn't have to be a speaker

-not a support group, but it would be a resource

Dec: business meeting

Jan: Speaker, social time afterward (possibly Janelle)

Feb: Business?

March: Speaker ... (Janelle if she couldn't make Jan)