



**Austin ISD Special
Education Family
Advisory
Committee (SEFAC)**

Minutes for September 30, 2025

Opening Statement: The Special Education Family Advisory Committee met at the **Central Office 4000 S. I-H 35 Frontage Rd. Austin, TX 78704** on **September 30, 2025**. Some members also joined through Zoom.

Meeting Details:

- **Meeting Date:** September 30, 2025
- **Meeting Time:** 6:00 PM - 7:25 PM
- **Meeting Location:** Central Office 4000 S. I-H 35 Frontage Rd. Austin, TX 78704

SEFAC Members (Attendance)

Name	Member Type	Vertical Team	Status (P/NP)
Patricia Benigno Ruiz	Parent	Navarro ECHS	NP
Ricardo Bentin	Parent	Bowie HS	P
Molly Barker	Parent	Crockett ECHS	NP
Sarah Blyth	Parent	McCallum HS	P
Alasin DeVeney	Elem SpEd Teacher	Joslin ES	P
Ashley "Nikki" Hempe	Parent	Akins HS	P
Natalie Johnson	Parent	McCallum HS	P
Jami Kirkland	MS SpEd Teacher	Burnet MS	P
Dr. Cherry Lee	Interim Asst Sup SpEd	District	P
Allyson Mangum	Parent	Unique Vert Team	P
Kellie Marino	Supervisor of SpEd	District	P

Elexa Martinez	Parent	Ann Richards	P
Dr. Mary Anne Maxwell	Asst Sup K-12 Acad	District	NP
Kristin Mijares-Levy	HS SpEd Teacher	Bowie HS	P
Vanessa Morgan Valdovinos	Parent	McCallum HS	NP
Beth Pasko	Parent	Akins HS	P
Bree Rolfe	Family Engage Spec	District	P
Daisy Saldua	Parent	Northeast ECHS	P
Kara Schultz	Elementary Principal	Ridgetop ES	P
Randi Shade	Parent	Unique Vert Team	P
Laura Sykes	MS/HS Asst Principal	Burnet MS	NP
Deb Trejo	Parent	Austin HS	P
Trasell Underwood	Parent	LBJ HS	P

Visitors/Community Members/AISD Staff

- Fernando De Urioste School Board Member
- Sherry Marsh TEA Monitor
- Lesa Shocklee TEA Monitor

Meeting Agenda and Discussion

1. Call to Order, Attendance, Quorum (6:00 PM)

- **1.1. Call to Order:** Deb Trejo called the committee to order at 6:00 PM.
- **1.2. Quorum:** A quorum was met. 18 members were present.

2. Member Comments / Public Comments (6:00 PM)

- **2.1. Member Comments:**
 - Bree Rolfe shared updates on Family Learning and Engagement events in October and Dyslexia Awareness Month activities.
 - Ricardo Bentin requested clarity about parents' access to the Parent Collaboration Portal in Frontline, noting it is part of the strategic plan. Other

- members also expressed needs around parent access with the new system.
- Trassell Underwood requested information on whether IEP accommodations were being properly shared and implemented.
- Kristin Mijares-Levy noted that Eduphoria's text-to-speech tool uses a setting labeled "English with a Spanish accent", making it inaccessible for emergent bilingual students.
- Beth Pasko asked about accessing historical student data in Eduphoria to support tracking progress.
- Information requested about district funding of Concussion Baseline from the health department.

3. Membership Updates (6:00 PM)

- **3.1. Update:** Updates regarding membership were provided by **Deb Trejo**. New members welcomed: Beth Pasko, Nikki Hempe, Elexa Martinez, Molly Barker, Vanessa Morgan Valdovinos, Sarah Blyth, Trasell Underwood, Laura Sykes, Alasin DeVeney, and Bree Rolfe. The new committee Parent Co-Chair is Deb Trejo, and the Teacher Co-Chair is Jami Kirkland.

4. Strategic Plan Updates & Review (6:10 PM)

- **4.1. Presentation:** Update and review were provided by **Dr. Cherry Lee** and **Kellie Marino**.
 - **Dr. Cherry Lee** provided background on the Strategic Plan and shared information about ongoing quarterly updates for the Board of Trustees.
 - **Kellie Marino** outlined five key goal areas of the strategic plan and shared a monitoring document for committee feedback.
 - **Deb Trejo** noted that review of this document will be a standing agenda item each month.
- **4.2. Discussion:**
 - **Ricardo Bentin** requested that the monitoring document be provided digitally.
 - **Kellie Marino** noted that the plan spreadsheet indicates the status and evidence for each of the strategic plan items.
 - **Members** discussed how they could be notified of document changes.
 - **Key Takeaways:** **Kellie Marino** will provide a digital copy of the monitoring document and explore ways to highlight significant changes and updates.

5. Work Session: Review and Provide Feedback on Consolidation Plans regarding Special Education (6:35 PM)

- **5.1. Activity:** **Dr. Cherry Lee** shared the consolidation timeline: Phase I (Apr–Jun 2025) data collection and evaluation; Phase II (Jun–Oct 2025) community engagement and scenario development; and Phase III (Oct–Nov 2025) draft plan presentation (Oct 9) and Board vote (Nov 20).
- **5.2. Discussion/Outcome:** Led by **Deb Trejo** and **Jami Kirkland**

- **All committee members** collected their ideas on sticky notes and categorized them into Parents, Students, Teachers to respond to the question: *What do parents/families need during the consolidation process?*
- **Deb Trejo and others** emphasized that students receiving special education services should be prioritized.
- **Alasin Deveny** highlighted the impact of consolidation on life skills students and stressed prioritizing the most vulnerable students.
- **Kristin Mijares-Levy** asked how teachers would be informed about which schools students would attend if boundaries changed.
- **Trustee Fernando de Urioste** explained that the consolidation is necessary to stabilize the district for the next ten years.
- **Trassell Underwood** suggested studying successful consolidations, like Norman-Sims, and expressed concern about job security for classified employees.
- **Kellie Marino** collected committee feedback to share with stakeholders, and **Dr. Lee** agreed to provide updates after the district's Friday announcements.

6. Future Agenda Items, Closure, and Adjourn (7:25 PM)

- **6.1. Future Agenda Items:** Discussion on future topics was led by **Deb Trejo**. The district will bring answers about the concerns and issues raised during this meeting. The strategic plan monitoring will continue in the future meeting.
- **6.2. Closure:** The meeting closure was led by **Jami Kirkland**. Deb Trejo thanked everyone for attending and making quorum. The next meeting will be on October 28th on Zoom.

7. Adjournment

- The meeting adjourned at 7:31 PM.