

Minutes of the 2025-26 IHSA Student Advisory Committee Meeting

April 27, 2025

The IHSA Student Advisory Committee (SAC) met at the IHSA office on Sunday, April 27, 2025, beginning at 10:45 am. Committee members present were: Miriam Johnson, District 1-Chicago (F.W. Parker); Kennedy Riley, District 2-Chicago (St. Ignatius College Prep); Abbey Williams, District 3-Chicago (Mother McAuley); Matthew Pennell, District 4-Palatine (Fremd); Xander Salazar, District 5-St. Charles (East); Sophia Zepeda, District 6-Mundelein (H.S.); Valen Novotny, District 7-Oak Park (O.P.-River Forest); Tammy Ogundeyi, District 8-Calumet City (Thornton Fractional North); Gage Broski, District 10-Stillman Valley; McKayla Harms, District 12-El Paso (E.P.-Gridley); Chloe Tjarks, District 13-Gibson City (G.C.-Melvin-Sibley); Maddux Clark, District 14-Effingham (St. Anthony); Megan Allen, District 15-Monticello; Brennan Fulton, District 17-Bunker Hill; Diya Iyer, District 18-Washington; Lexi Metcalf, District 19-Troy (Triad); Molly Fehrenbacher, District 20-Olney (Richland County); and Madison Monchino, District 21-Herrin (H.S.). Not in attendance were: Max Larson, District 11-Orion and Hope Ingram, District 16-Mt. Sterling (Brown County).

New IHSA SAC members met at the IHSA office on Sunday, April 27, 2025, beginning at 10:00 am. Members present were: Taara Sajdeh, District 3-Chicago (University); Leilani Mora, District 6-Belvidere (North); McKenzie Saffold, District 8-Burbank (St. Laurence); Aidan Torres, District 9-Oswego (H.S.); Zach Born, District 12-Metamora; and Annie Conn, District 15-LeRoy.

Also in attendance were: Beth Sauser, IHSA; Dan Le, IHSA; and Dr. Scott Pierce, Illinois State University Associate Professor.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR BOARD ACTION:

None

COMMITTEE DISCUSSION ITEMS:

1. Dan Le and Beth Sauser met with the new SAC members and their parents/guardians for an orientation to the SAC. Senior SAC members shared reflections about their experiences and gave their recommendations on how to be a successful member of the SAC.
2. Senior SAC members led icebreaker and group activities for the returning and new members.
3. Dan Le met with the returning SAC members to reflect on the SAC's individual and group achievements in the 2024-2025 school year. SAC members set initial goals for the 2025-2026 school year to be discussed further at the SAC summer retreat.
4. Beth Sauser met with the senior members to gather feedback on their SAC experiences and heard suggestions on how to improve the experience. Senior members shared their recommendations and advice to the returning and new SAC members.
5. Dan Le and Beth Sauser reviewed the details of the 2025 NFHS National Student Leadership Summit scheduled for July 14th-17th in Indianapolis. For students planning to attend, transportation to and from Indianapolis will be provided by IHSA administrators.
6. Dan Le and Beth Sauser reviewed requirements and expectations of SAC members for the 2025-2026 school year. Membership terms include:
 - a. One unexcused meeting absence will result in a warning.
 - b. Two unexcused meeting absences will result in dismissal from the SAC.
 - c. Serious school violations (i.e. suspension) and ejections from sports or activities will be reviewed case-by-case.
 - d. Substance abuse or breaking the law results in immediate dismissal from the SAC.
 - e. Attending at least one IHSA State Final as a representative of the SAC is required during each member's term on the committee.
7. The committee reviewed the criteria and format of the Student Section & Spirit Showdown contest. The committee discussed ideas for increasing participation, including a possible traveling trophy, more

social media promotions, contacting sponsors of student leadership groups, recognition by division/district, and a social media page dedicated just to the contest.

8. Dr. Scott Pierce led a reflection activity on student experiences to help the SAC students get to know each other.
9. Dan Le and Beth Sauser discussed the schedule and responsibilities for the 2025 IHSA Student Leadership Conference. The committee discussed topics to be presented by the SAC members at the conference. The conference will be held at the Embassy Suites in East Peoria on Monday, November 17th. Committee members will meet at the Embassy Suites on Sunday, November 16th, to set up for the conference.
10. Dan Le and Beth Sauser recognized and thanked the senior SAC members for their participation and contributions during their respective terms. Outgoing committee members include Abbey Williams, Sophia Zepeda, Tammy Ogundeyi, McKayla Harms, and Megan Allen.

2025-2026 Meeting Dates

Saturday, August 2 – Sunday, August 3, 2025	SAC Retreat at IHSA Office, including overnight stay at the DoubleTree Hotel in Bloomington, IL
Sunday, September 14, 2025	Virtual Meeting
Sunday, October 19, 2025	Meeting at IHSA Office
Sunday, November 9, 2025	Virtual Meeting
Sunday, November 16 – Monday, November 17, 2025	Student Leadership Conference at Embassy Suites in East Peoria, IL, including overnight stay
Sunday, January 11, 2026	Virtual Meeting
Sunday, February 1, 2026	Meeting at IHSA Office
Sunday, March 1, 2026	Virtual Meeting
Sunday, April 19, 2026	Meeting at IHSA Office