

Minutes of the 2024-25 IHSA Student Advisory Committee Meeting

November 17, 2024

The IHSA Student Advisory Committee met at the IHSA office on Sunday, November 17, 2024, beginning at 10:00 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]; Chloe Tjarks [District 13-Gibson City (G.C.-Melvin-Sibley)]; Maddux Clark [District 14-Effingham (St. Anthony)]; Megan Allen [District 15-Monticello]; Hope Ingram [District 16-Mt. Sterling (Brown County)]; 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.)].

Also in attendance were: Beth Sauser, IHSA Assistant Executive Director; Dan Le, IHSA Assistant Executive Director; Dr. Scott Pierce, Illinois State University; Ellie Cain, Illinois State University; Tijana Zlatanovic, Illinois State University; and Parker Wisdom, Illinois State University.

Not in attendance was Alyssa Sudkamp [District 9-New Lenox (Lincoln-Way Central)]; Max Larson [District 11-Orion]; and McKayla Harms [District 12-El Paso (E.P.-Gridley)].

RECOMMENDATION FOR BOARD ACTION:

Recommendation #1: The committee recommends that the annual Student Advisory Committee retreat be held at the IHSA office on Saturday, August 2nd, and Sunday, August 3rd, 2025, which includes an overnight stay at the DoubleTree Hotel in Bloomington, IL.

Rationale: This retreat serves as an opportunity for the new members and returning members to participate in team-bonding activities. During the retreat, the committee will establish goals for the 2025-2026 school year, continue planning for the 2025 IHSA Student Leadership Conference, and participate in skill-building and leadership training activities with the assistance of Dr. Scott Pierce, Associate Professor of Kinesiology and Recreation at Illinois State University. The retreat is scheduled during the last weekend of the summer contact period to provide the students a full week of no contact before fall practices begin.

Recommendation #2: The committee recommends hosting the 2025 IHSA Student Leadership Conference on November 17th, 2025, at the Embassy Suites in East Peoria. SAC members would arrive to the Embassy Suites on Sunday, November 16th, 2025, to set up for the conference.

Rationale: This time of the year is at the tail end of the fall sports season and beginning of the winter sports season. By hosting the conference at this time, the hope is that more students will be available to attend as all fall sports have concluded with the exception of the final two rounds of the football state playoffs and most winter sports not having begun competitions yet. November 17th is the first day that girls' basketball contests may begin. Contests in boys bowling, competitive cheer, and competitive dance will have already begun by this date. The IHSA Student Leadership Conference was held on the corresponding date of November 13th in 2023.

COMMITTEE DISCUSSION AND ACTIVITIES:

1. The committee separated into breakout groups to discuss and plan content, such as public service announcements, for continued outreach to students in Illinois. Committee members filmed content to be edited and shared on their social media accounts.
2. The committee shared observations with respect to sportsmanship and behaviors from players and fans during interscholastic contests. The committee discussed ways to promote good sportsmanship, including videos and agreement forms.
3. Dr. Scott Pierce facilitated a question-and-answer session with former college athletes, Tijana Zlatanovic, and Parker Wisdom. SAC members asked questions about their high school and college experiences in their respective sports.
4. Dr. Pierce led a discussion with the SAC members on controlling emotions in sports.
5. The committee heard an overview of the purpose and format of the IHSA Student Leadership Conference. The committee discussed ideas for presentation topics that would be appropriate for student attendees at the 2025 IHSA Student Leadership Conference.

FUTURE MEETINGS:

The committee will meet virtually on Sunday, January 12, 2025.

The committee's next in-person meeting at the IHSA office is on Sunday, February 2, 2025