

Minutes of the 2024-25 IHSA Student Advisory Committee Meeting

August 4-5, 2024

The IHSA Student Advisory Committee met at the IHSA office for a two-day retreat on Sunday, August 4, 2024, beginning at 2:00 pm and Monday, August 5, 2024, beginning at 9:00 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]; Max Larson [District 11-Orion]; 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]; 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; Emily Bauman, IHSA Publication Artist; Dr. Scott Pierce, Illinois State University; Dr. Jed Blanton, University of Tennessee; Ellie Cain, Illinois State University; Mike Allen, Gibson City (G.C.-Melvin-Sibley); and Jessica VanDyke, Olney (Richland County).

Not in attendance was Alyssa Sudkamp [District 9-New Lenox (Lincoln-Way Central)].

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR BOARD ACTION:

None

COMMITTEE DISCUSSION AND ACTIVITIES:

1. The committee reviewed the meeting minutes from the April SAC meeting. Dan Le and Beth Sauser reviewed the expectations and requirements for membership on the committee.
2. Over the course of the two days, SAC members participated in three breakout sessions led by Dr. Scott Pierce, Dr. Jed Blanton, and Ms. Ellie Cain. In each session, students reflected on and discussed several topics, including characteristics of quality high school sports programs, how student-athletes are valued, and leadership on teams.
3. Six SAC members presented on their experiences at the NFHS National Student Leadership Summit held July 22-25, 2024. They also led fellow SAC members through a SWOT analysis of their schools.
4. The committee discussed their goals for the SAC in the 2024-2025 school year, which included an increased focus on use of the SAC's Instagram account ([@ihsa_sac](#)) for more outreach to students around the state.
5. The committee separated into subgroups and identified content to be included in their social media outreach. The committee worked with Emily Bauman to create a social media calendar for the fall. Committee members also began to create some of the content for the SAC Instagram.
6. Future meetings will include collaboration with the ISU Student-Athlete Advisory Council when those members return to ISU's campus. SAC members wrote letters to ISU Student-Athlete Advisory Council members to initiate communication.
7. Beth Sauser and Jessica VanDyke met with the SAC female members to discuss ways to support, encourage, and lead female Illinois students involved in school activities and athletics. The SAC members are creating an outline to discuss at the next meeting.
8. The committee discussed and shared recommendations regarding IHSA State Finals merchandise.
9. Over the course of the two days, committee members participated in several icebreaker and team-bonding activities.

FUTURE MEETINGS:

The committee will meet virtually on Sunday, September 15, and on Sunday, October 20, 2024. The committee's next in-person meeting at the IHSA office is on Sunday, November 17, 2024.