

Minutes of the 2023-24 IHSA Student Advisory Committee Meeting

April 21, 2024

The IHSA Student Advisory Committee (SAC) met at the IHSA office on Sunday, April 21, 2024, beginning at 10:45 am. Committee members present were: Benjamin Kagan [District 1-Chicago (F.W. Parker)]; Taylor Schergen [District 2-Chicago (De La Salle)]; Abbey Williams [District 3-Chicago (Mother McAuley)]; Maddie Witchger [District 4-Wilmette (Regina Dominican)]; Gable Carrick [District 5-Sycamore (H.S.)]; Sophia Zepeda [District 6-Mundelein (H.S.)]; Ivy Ho [District 7-Westmont]; Tammy Ogundeyi [District 8-Calumet City (Thornton Fractional North)]; Christian Martyn [District 9-Oswego (East)]; Jacob Rhodes [District 10-Stillman Valley]; Hannah Swope [District 11-Orion]; McKayla Harms [District 12-El Paso (E.P.-Gridley)]; Jackson Barnhart [District 13-Champaign (Centennial)]; Maddie Kibler [District 14-Effingham (St. Anthony)]; Megan Allen [District 15-Monticello]; Emersyn Fleisher [District 16-Knoxville]; Brennan Tomhave [District 17-Pittsfield]; Diya Iyer [District 18-Washington]; Lexi Metcalf [District 19-Troy (Triad)]; Rylee Bloomer [District 20-Olney (Richland County)]; and Amayah Doyle [District 21-Carterville].

New IHSA SAC members met at the IHSA office on Sunday, April 21, 2024, beginning at 10:00 am. Members present were: Miriam Johnson [District 1-Chicago (F.W. Parker)]; Kennedy Riley [District 2-Chicago (De La Salle)]; Matthew Pennell [District 4-Palatine (Fremd)]; Xander Salazar [District 5-St. Charles (East)]; Valen Novotny [District 7-Oak Park (O.P.-River Forest)]; Alyssa Sudkamp [District 9-New Lenox (Lincoln-Way Central)]; Gage Broski [District 10-Stillman Valley]; Max Larson [District 11-Orion]; Chloe Tjarks [District 13-Gibson City (G.C.-Melvin-Sibley)]; Maddux Clark [District 14-Effingham (St. Anthony)]; Hope Ingram [District 16-Mt. Sterling (Brown County)]; Brennan Fulton [District 17-Bunker Hill]; Molly Fehrenbacher [District 20-Olney (Richland County)]; and Madison Monchino [District 21-Herrin (H.S.)].

Also in attendance were: Beth Sauser, IHSA; Dan Le, IHSA; LeAnna Mutchler, IHSA; Dr. Scott Pierce, Illinois State University Associate Professor; Melvin Sangalang, Illinois State University Graduate Student; Ellie Cain, Illinois State University Graduate Student; and members of Illinois State University Student-Athlete Advisory Council.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR BOARD ACTION:

Recommendation #1: The committee recommends the annual Student Advisory Committee retreat to be held August 4-5, 2024, 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 2024-2025 school year, outline plans to achieve those goals, 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 at the end of the summer contact period and one week before fall practices begin.

Recommendation #2: The committee recommends adding an official student representative to the IHSA Schools Center to serve as a point of contact for the SAC. All email messages to student representatives would be reviewed by IHSA administrators before mailing. Student representative emails will not be posted publicly on the IHSA website.

Rationale: Having a mailing list of student representatives from member schools will permit the IHSA Student Advisory Committee to have more outreach to students around the state. The committee envisions using this tool to promote and encourage participation in SAC-sponsored activities, such as the biennial Student Leadership Conference and Student Section & Spirit Showdown. The committee also envisions this as an opportunity to empower more student leaders in Illinois.

COMMITTEE DISCUSSION ITEMS AND ACTIONS:

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 recommendations on how to be successful on the SAC.

2. Senior SAC members led icebreaker and group activities for the returning and new members.
3. The committee reviewed expectations of SAC members and approved member requirements for the 2024-2025 school year.
 - 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.
4. The committee reviewed the criteria and format of the Student Section & Spirit Showdown contest and recommended no changes for the 2024-2025 school year. The committee discussed ways to increase participation in the contest.
5. The committee reviewed the details of the NFHS National Student Leadership Summit, which will be held July 22-25, 2024, in Indianapolis. Attendance is at no cost to SAC members. There is a cost to the sponsoring organization for lodging if bringing more than four students to the conference. Transportation to and from Indianapolis will be provided by IHSA administrators.
6. The committee discussed initial goals for the 2024-2025 school year, which will be expanded upon at the SAC's next meeting. Initial goals include increased use of the SAC's social media, additional activities and/or events to reach more students, and continued collaboration with Illinois State University's Student-Athlete Advisory Council (SAAC).
7. Dr. Scott Pierce, Melvin Sangalang, and Ellie Cain led discussion activities with the SAC and members of the ISU SAAC. SAC members and ISU student-athletes discussed experiences and challenges related to being a student-athlete. The committee discussed ideas to continue collaborating with the ISU SAAC going into the 2024-2025 school year.
8. 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 Benjamin Kagan, Taylor Schergen, Maddie Witchger, Gable Carrick, Ivy Ho, Christian Martyn, Jacob Rhodes, Hannah Swope, Jackson Barnhart, Maddie Kibler, Emersyn Fleisher, Brennan Tomhave, Rylee Bloomer, and Amayah Doyle.

2024-2025 Meeting Dates

Sunday, August 4 – Monday, August 5, 2024 **pending approval	SAC Retreat at IHSA Office, including overnight stay at the DoubleTree Hotel in Bloomington, IL
Sunday, September 15, 2024	Virtual Meeting
Sunday, October 20, 2024	Virtual Meeting
Sunday, November 24, 2024 **possibly moved to Sunday, November 17, 2024	Meeting at IHSA Office
Sunday, January 12, 2025	Virtual Meeting
Sunday, February 2, 2025	Meeting at IHSA Office
Sunday, March 2, 2025	Virtual Meeting
Sunday, April 27, 2025	Meeting at IHSA Office