



December 2025

Superintendent's Student Advisory Council Summary Report to the Milwaukee Public Schools School Board

The Superintendent's Student Advisory Council meets monthly September through May and is open to high school student representatives from across our Milwaukee Public Schools. The recruitment goal this year is to have a minimum of two representatives from each of our 25 high schools who regularly attend the monthly meetings. The SSAC has registered 57 student representatives from 18 high schools to date. Schools yet to fill: Project Stay, Transition, North Division, Groppi, Vincent, Alliance and Hamilton. Students may visit mpsmke.com/ssac for more information on signing up to be an SSAC representative.

Elected Officers of the 2025-26 SSAC

President: Mèi Namiko, Wisconsin Conservatory of Lifelong Learning

Vice President: Lucina Matos, Rufus King International School

Secretary: Ingrid Melzer, Milwaukee High School of the Arts

At-Large Members:

Mae Soe, Milwaukee High School of the Arts

Chinaza Onyebuashi, Milwaukee School of Languages

Mateo De La Cruz, Reagan College Preparatory High School

Thaddeaus Hilliard, Rufus King International School Campus

Jayana Scott-Warner, MacDowell Montessori

This year the SSAC has hosted three meetings so far and within those meetings have covered a wide range of topics through conversations with Superintendent Cassellius, Mr. Shapiro, Mr. Harris and with support from other administrative team members. Discussion topics have included:

- Continuously improving school lunches; culturally representative meals, scratch cooking, etc..
- Increasing daily student attendance - working to identify barriers and solutions
 - Ensuring all schools are places where all students feel safe & included
 - Seeking and providing insights on ways to help students further develop and express a stronger sense of connection to academics and to their school community
- School Resource Officers/SRO training & school safety protocols including scanning machines
- An overview of the new district-wide Literacy Plan and the need for broader community support
- Follow up on concerns regarding technology safety updates, some website access being denied and the unintended consequences of some academic sites being blocked

In November the SSAC was provided with a presentation from the Department of Communications which included a sneak preview of the upcoming MPS website. Members were able to provide feedback on the new look and features. The SSAC was also invited to provide feedback on the drafted MPS Sustainability Action Plan as a follow up to the consultation the SSAC had with their planning team last spring.

In addition to continuing to have productive and honest conversations with Administration and amplifying the student experience while increasing our leadership capacity, the SSAC is working to build more solidarity and a broader sense of community between the high school campuses. We are beginning that work by raising the profile of the SSAC within our schools through the following action items in progress:

- Collaboratively creating an SSAC representatives shirt design.
- Working with the Department of Communications to enhance the visibility of the SSAC and its school-based representatives for use both inside MPS and outside of MPS through a variety of media platforms.
- Developing a template for hallway and common space screens at schools which can be customized for each school to introduce SSAC representatives and grow participation in the schools without current representation.

Lastly, as a final step in reinvigorating ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY 8.18 STUDENT INVOLVEMENT IN DECISION MAKING - the SSAC has co-created with our advisor and Administration the procedure on selecting SSAC representative members to participate in Board committees and discussions as *non-voting members*. The drafted procedure is under final review by the SSAC officers and nearly ready for implementation. We are looking forward to having regular SSAC representation to the Board and/or its committees in early 2026.

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This document is intended to summarize the work of the Superintendent's Student Advisory Council from September thru November 2025 and will be presented at the 12/18/2025 MPS School Board meeting by SSAC Vice President, Lunica Matos, grade 11, Rufus King International School and SSAC Secretary, Ingrid Melzer, grade 11, Milwaukee High School of the Arts.

Respectfully submitted by Jenni Hofschulte, SSAC Interim Advisor