



2025 – 2026

**Wednesday, February 25, 2026 | 4:30 – 6:30 PM | Central Office – Room 206/208
Meeting Minutes Below**

ITEM		TIME
Dinner & Arrival	Set and ready for students upon arrival. MEAL: Fajita bar by Charlie's Catering	4:15 PM
Opening	Welcome, roll call of schools, Officers update, agenda & meeting protocol review. - SSAC Officers - Congratulations to the newly elected Board Delegates!	4:35 PM
Report & Discussion	Superintendent / Administration led conversation - Budget update/information - Scanning procedure check-in/feedback Communications and Marketing - Social Media & SSAC	4:40 – 5:25 PM
Break	Tidy and Transition	5:30 PM
Work Groups	Collaboration & Work Groups - Marketing and media collaboration / Spirit Day / SSAC Promotion (contacting members, sharing concerns & celebrations) - T-shirt / SSAC design - Future meeting SSAC planning for next year	5:40 PM
Next Steps	What are our follow-ups and needs between now and our next meeting?	6:20 PM
Closing	Gratitude and good-byes!	6:25 PM
	Board Buses 6:30 PM Next meeting 03/25/2026	

Recruitment and Representation

Not yet represented - Project Stay Transition North Division Groppi Vincent Alliance Hamilton	Confirmed - Audubon Bay View HS Bradley Tech. Golda Meir HS MacDowell Montessori Madison/JMAC Marshall High School Milw. HS of the Arts Milw. School of Languages	Milw. Virtual School Obama Pulaski High School Reagan HS Riverside University HS Rufus King IB HS South Division HS Washington HS WCLL
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SSAC Meetings As posted: mpsmke.com/ssac September 24, 2025 <i>Central Office - Room 206/208</i> <i>Returning members.</i> October 29, 2025 <i>Central Office - Room 206/208</i> <i>Welcoming new members</i> November 19, 2025 <i>Central Office - Room 206/208</i> December 18, 2025 <i>Board Report</i>	January 28, 2026 <i>Central Office - Room 206/208</i> February 25, 2026 <i>Central Office - Room 206/208</i> March 25, 2026 <i>Central Office - Room 206/208</i> April 22, 2026 <i>Central Office - Room 206/208</i> May 6, 2026 - Special Mtg & Celebration <i>Central Office - Room 206/208</i> May 7, 2026 – under review <i>Board Report</i>
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Meeting Minutes 2/25/2026

MPS High Schools Represented: Audubon, Bay View, Tech, Golda, Madison, MacDowell, Marshall, Milw. High School of the Arts, Milw. School of Languages, Milw. Virtual School, Pulaski, Riverside, King, Reagan, South Division, Washington, and Wisconsin Conservatory of Lifelong Learning.

MPS Staff & Guests: Dr. Brenda Cassellius, Superintendent, Brian Litzsey, Chief of Family Engagement and Community Partnerships, Aaron Shapiro, Secondary Academic Superintendent, Christy Stone, Director of Strategic Partnerships & Customer Service, Mary Grant, Student and Alumni Engagement Associate, Nhya Everette SPCS Administrative Assistant, and Jenni Hofschulte, Family & Community Engagement Associate

[Slide Deck](#)

Welcome – Introductions and reviewed meeting norms, and overview agenda items for meeting. Congratulated the new SSAC Board Delegates, Mateo De La Cruz, Reagan High School, grade 12, term expiration June 2026, Lucina Matos, Rufus King IB High School, grade 11, term expiration June 2026, and Ingrid Melzer, Milwaukee High School of the Arts, grade 11, term expiration June 2027.

Superintendent Report & Sharing -

Opengate Scanner: Dr. Cassellius gave an update on the metal detectors/scanners in school. Reported that scanners have officially been implemented across the district and have improved processing time. SSAC members provided their feedback on their experiences with the scanners. Students felt good about not having to take off several items to get through the scanners. Council members from Milwaukee High School of the Arts noted that the scanners were implemented on 2/24/26 and met with general frustration. SSAC students from Rufus King stated their school went from not having scanners to having scanners. Students noted to Dr. Cassellius that there are issues with language barriers, elevated noise levels, chaotic process, and student receiving tardies due to long lines.

District Budget: Dr. Cassellius provided a budget update and defined contributions to the district's budget shortfall. She discussed costs in transportation, schools, nutrition services, and administration. It was noted that three audits were completed that outlined where distinct was over budget. Administrative positions will be the main cuts due to the state not giving money for raises this academic year. Dr. Cassellius is working on creating more equity economically across high schools, specifically, Douglas, John Quincy, North Division, Brown Street. She stated that the state of Wisconsin has funds and if the state delegates funds to MPS, it would help with the budget shortfall including special needs reimbursement may occur. Administration is attempting to minimize class size. A student asked about field trips and senior trips to which Dr. Cassellius stated that senior trips are not generally paid for by the district and funding may differ from school to school. Trips are often funded by parents, fundraising, etc. Field trips for K5-8 grades, Learning Journeys, get to go regardless of school and student performance. Lastly, the superintendent spoke about the merging of schools and discussions are still taking place.

Communications & Marketing -

Social Media Coordinator, Kara Posnanski, spoke to the SSAC about available social media platforms including Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, YouTube, Bluesky, and X. She made content recommendations for SSAC including student success (scholarships, awards, recognitions, performances/events, milestones/acceptances, classroom highlights) and schools and staff (teacher spotlights, staff appreciation, and behind the scenes videos).

Activity -

No group activity due to time constraints.

Work Groups -

Members divided into groups for SSAC program development and shared group notes. Communications group:

- Social media work
- Roles for group members (graphic designer, director, etc.)
- Council to review videos before released/published
- Develop introduction to the SSAC video
- Content should be relevant to teens yet professional

- Video ideas: Teacher appreciation, Juneteenth, lunch promo- salads, High school enrollment, school spirit, and teacher appreciation
- SSAC group chat to be used for further input

T Shirt Group:

- Three rough drafts needed
- SSAC member names listed - back of shirt
- Identify phrase - front of shirt
- Black, white, and navy blue
- Additional ideas should be sent via email to SSAC advisor, Mary Grant
- Shirts can be long or short sleeved

Event Planning:

- Senior appreciation for May meeting
- Board games
- Sharing about SSAC experiences
- SSAC Year book
- Awards
- District mental health event (hosted by SSAC, music, entertainment, mental health advocates and resources)

Next Steps –

SSAC members to execute work group agenda action items prior to the next meeting.

SSAC reps will continue to generate ways and ideas about how to engage students at their school to bring their ideas to the next meeting.

Next Meeting: 3/25/2026

End Notes