District Advisory Council (DAC)

Meeting Minutes | Milwaukee Public Schools

Date	Thursday, November 5, 2026
Format	Virtual meeting
Facilitator	Regina Stieber
Meeting	Second DAC meeting of the 2026–27 school year
Attendance	Approximately 53 participants reported
Source	Meeting recording transcript; summarized, not verbatim

1. Welcome and Meeting Procedures

- Regina Stieber welcomed families, administrators, elected officials, and school board members. Spanish interpretation services were available.
- Participants were asked to sign in through the chat, identify their school in their display name, remain muted, and submit questions in the chat. Questions would be addressed after presentations.
- The DAC Executive Committee is recruiting additional members; an interest form and QR code were shared.
- The consent agenda and family engagement report were distributed by email and were to be posted on the DAC webpage. The October 1 meeting had 52 participants.

2. Positive School Highlights

- **Longfellow School:** Two eighth graders won Firefighters Art Awards from more than 300 submissions. Mariela Benitez Albertir earned the grand prize; Celeste Espino Perez earned second place. The winning grand-prize poster will appear on digital billboards.
- **Cass Street Elementary** held a STEM-themed trick-or-treat evening on October 29.
- **Milwaukee School of Languages:** 16 high school German students passed a German language proficiency exam, progressing toward the Seal of Biliteracy.
- **Mitchell School** began its second year of Food Rite and Girl Scouts activities and launched a garden club, with plans to plant an Asian pear tree.
- **Fratney School** soccer team completed an undefeated 5–0 season.
- **Luther Burbank** held a successful Kindness Costume Parade and middle school Halloween celebration.

- **ALBA** students participated in Día de los Muertos celebrations, exhibited artwork at local arts venues, and created a school ofrenda.

3. School Board Information and Public Participation

- School Board liaison Director Mimi Reza was introduced.
- Jenni Hofschulte demonstrated how to navigate the MPS website, including About → Board of School Directors and the Electronic School Board area.
- Families can locate board directors, committee descriptions, meeting calendars, agendas, agenda attachments, and public-comment information. Agendas are commonly published shortly before meetings.
- Families were encouraged to explore these resources and consider requesting a website-navigation session with their school parent coordinator.

4. Great Schools Advisory Committee Update

- Chief Operating Officer Mike Turza reported on the fourth Great Schools Advisory Committee meeting. The committee is considering long-term facilities and school programming needs, not solely possible school closures.
- Community participants reviewed schools by the eight school board districts, considering utilization, crowding, program offerings, deferred maintenance, additions, new construction, and potential closures where warranted.
- Approximately 50 people attended the previous committee session. The review was not completed and was scheduled to continue Monday, November 9, 6:00–8:00 p.m., at Brown Street Academy.
- The objective is a community-informed approximately 10-year facilities and programming plan. Recommendations may reach the school board in December or January, depending on the time needed for meaningful engagement.
- In response to questions, Turza stated that virtual participation is available and that community members may send input to the superintendent's office. Childcare, snacks, and activities for children are available at in-person meetings.

5. Student Vaping Reduction Framework

- Michael Harris, Darryl Davidson of the City of Milwaukee, and Riverside University High School Principal Jeff Lasky presented on student vaping and the need for coordinated prevention and intervention.
- The issue was described as affecting middle and high schools and also appearing in elementary settings.
- The district is developing a Comprehensive Student Vaping Reduction Framework with four strategic pillars and corresponding subcommittees. Discussion included education and awareness, prevention, and coordinated supports and interventions for students, staff, and families.

- Presenters emphasized that the work is developing; they aim to begin interventions during the current school year and expand implementation in the following fall.
- Unanswered chat questions and comments were to be forwarded to the vaping team for follow-up responses.

6. Specialized Services Audit: Findings and Recommendations

- Travis Pinter reviewed a 209-page audit and previewed discussion planned for the November 10 Board meeting. Stakeholder feedback was requested.
- Ten recommendations were summarized: (1) integrate multi-level systems of supports; (2) improve referral, evaluation, and eligibility practices; (3) use student achievement data for improvement; (4) strengthen instruction, behavior, social-emotional learning, and family supports; (5) improve collaboration and personnel alignment; (6) restructure student services and move most enrollment processes toward school-based models; (7) strengthen staffing, recruitment, and retention; (8) improve transportation and fiscal coordination; (9) increase Medicaid and other eligible reimbursements; and (10) strengthen shared accountability and public performance reporting.
- Proposed overarching goals are to realign specialized services for greater impact and coordination, establish accountability and continuous improvement, and improve sustainability through reimbursement practices and qualified staffing.
- An audit feedback survey and QR code were shared, including an option to express interest in future workgroups. Committees will work over coming months, with some planning targeted for early second semester to inform the next budget cycle.

7. Follow-Up and Action Items

- **Families:** Complete the DAC meeting evaluation and submit feedback or additional questions through the channels shared during the meeting.
- **Interested families:** Submit the DAC Executive Committee interest form.
- **Community members:** Participate in the Great Schools Advisory Committee discussion or provide input through the superintendent's office.
- **Vaping presentation team:** Review unanswered questions/comments forwarded by Regina Stieber and prepare responses.
- **Stakeholders:** Review the specialized services audit and complete the feedback survey; indicate workgroup interest if desired.
- **DAC Executive Committee:** Review meeting evaluation feedback when planning future meetings.

8. Closing

Regina Stieber thanked presenters and attendees, requested completion of the meeting evaluation, and closed the meeting.