

Milwaukee Virtual School

Governance Council Bylaws

2025-26

Article I. Milwaukee Virtual School Governance Council

The name of this organization shall be: "The Milwaukee Virtual School Governance Council."

Article II. Purpose

The Milwaukee Virtual School Council will provide a forum for communication and decision making amongst staff, students, parents, and community partnerships. The Council mission is to promote shared decision-making to ensure the success of students and learning coaches (student's parent/guardian) regarding virtual learning spaces and real-world experiences related to extra-curricular and post-secondary opportunities. Primary goals of the Council are to participate in the development and approval of school budgets and the school educational plan. The Council will advise William Luedtke, school leader, faculty, students, learning coaches and the community. Councils are not intended to replace parent organizations.

Article III. Membership and Elections

All members of the Milwaukee Virtual School community are eligible to become elected members of the Council. The Milwaukee Virtual School governance council shall be comprised of parents, staff, students, community partners, and William Luedtke, Administrator. There shall be an independent, autonomous school governing body that is comprised, at minimum, of 51% of members who are neither employees of the Charter School nor employees or officers of the Milwaukee Virtual School District. Council Membership shall be by peer group election. Nominations will be held prior to the election. Individuals may nominate themselves. Learning Coaches shall comprise most of the Council membership. Council members shall serve two-year terms in office. Positions of members not returning to school in the fall, or members who resign, shall be filled by peer group elections. Members must be present for 50% (2 out of 4) of the Council meetings or forfeit their position on the Council. Anticipated absences shall be reported to the Chairperson or William Luedtke. The minutes of the meeting shall record present and absent members. The Administrator William Luedtke shall be responsible for assigning who will be taking attendance and recording the minutes.

The election process will follow these steps:

1. March, solicitation of parents to serve. Parents of incoming students will receive a communication detailing the election process.

2. April, nomination forms are returned.

3. May, ballots are mailed to households, if there are more candidates than slots available, and ballots will be counted, and members will be notified of their membership.

The faculty and support staff will be elected from their constituent groups. The student representatives will be selected by an application and mentor selection process.

All newly selected Council members will participate in in-service training in August.

The term of office for parents is limited to the time their child is enrolled at Milwaukee Virtual School.

MPS Code of Ethics applies to all employees.

Article IV. Fiscal Year

The Governance Council fiscal year shall begin on July 1st and end on June 30th.

Article V. Quorum

To conduct business, a simple majority must be in attendance, virtually, or available by phone. If there is less than a simple majority in attendance, the meeting shall be adjourned.

Article VI. Officers

The only officer's position will be that of the Chairperson. The term of office for the chairperson shall be one year. The chairperson's duties will be to facilitate the Council meetings and be the official representative of the Council. The Chairperson position shall be filled by majority vote among Council members at the first meeting of the year.

Article VII. Meetings

The schedule of meetings for the year shall be determined at the August meeting of the Council. This schedule will be posted in the school office. Any Milwaukee Virtual School member may attend all meetings. Each meeting will be followed by a 15-to-30-minute open forum that will give non-Council members the opportunity to speak about agenda items for the next Council meeting. All decisions made by the Council shall be made by consensus. Only official Council members may participate in the consensus negotiations. Discussion by the Council members shall continue until a consensus decision is reached. If consensus is not reached in a reasonable amount of time, the Council members may ask to table the discussion until the next meeting. If unable to reach consensus at the next Council meeting, a vote will be taken where the majority will rule.

Article VIII. Duties

- A. Learning Coaches: Council learning coaches are responsible for soliciting input from the parental community with respect to the issues of concern to the Council. Learning coach members shall relay Council activities to the parent community at large and to any community organizations. The Council shall be responsible for training and informing incoming learning coaches elected to the subsequent Council.
- B. Mentors/ Support Staff: School staff Council members are responsible for soliciting input from the faculty and staff on issues of concern to the Council. School staff members shall report to faculty and staff, and to outside community organizations. Faculty members shall present the school's educational plan to the Council for input. Faculty members shall be responsible for playing an active role in addressing issues such as curriculum additions/ deletions, grading practices, standards, test scores, building concerns, staffing needs, and resource/ budget concerns.
- C. Students: Student members shall report Council activities to the student body and shall solicit student input and areas of concern for presentation to the Council. Student members shall be responsible for organizing student representative groups when there are none.
- D. William Luedtke: The Administrator is responsible for keeping the Council informed of all relevant school information and for keeping the minutes from all Council meetings. The Administrator shall assist in promoting innovative programs at the school. The Administrator William Luedtke shall report to the Council with respect to principal meetings, building meetings, etc. The Administrator William Luedtke shall seek the active participation of the Council in deciding all school budget matters and shall present to the Council in a timely fashion all information dealing with programming and budget items. The Administrator William Luedtke shall be responsible for creating and distributing an email of Council activities and agendas to school members and shall provide administrative support for Council members seeking supplies and/ or resources. The Administrator William Luedtke may not serve as the Chairperson but shall have a vote equal to all other Council members.

Article IX. Evaluation

The Council's effectiveness shall be evaluated by an assessment of the results of decisions and the amount of satisfaction with decisions made by the Council. A survey format will be used in late spring to determine Council effectiveness, with the opportunity to make suggestions for improving Council performance

Article X. Staff Development

Appropriate in-service sessions will be conducted as recommended by the School Board action, Central Services, school staff, and the Council. Topics may include team building, meaningful parental involvement, school and Council mission, community resources, group dynamics, conflict resolution, budget, school educational plans, and consensus building.

Article XI. Amendments

Council bylaws may be amended by Council action. Amendments must be submitted in writing at Council meetings. An amendment must be ratified by a two-thirds vote of the membership Council.