

Mountainland Region Youth Advisory Council: September 2025 Meeting

On September 27th, 2025, the Mountainland Region Youth Advisory Council (MYAC) held its inaugural meeting for the 25-26 school year, bringing together youth representatives from public high schools and charter schools from across the Mountainland region.

The meeting began with a warm welcome to two new MYAC members: John Simmerman from Pleasant Grove High School and Logan Williams from Cedar Valley High School. Both students expressed enthusiasm about joining the council and contributing to its mission.



Reflection and Vision

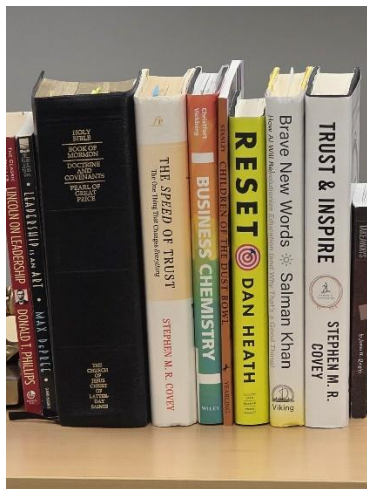
A video showcasing last year's MYAC activities was presented to the group. This served as a reflective moment, highlighting past accomplishments and setting the tone for future initiatives. The council discussed expanding its scope this year with more frequent meetings, virtual sessions, and field trips to the state capital. Participants were reminded of the mission of MYAC: Being a Voice, Partnership, and Enhancing Education.



Council members were invited to share their personal goals for their participation this year. Students expressed a desire to streamline the college application process, making it more accessible and less confusing for students. They emphasized the importance of having a platform to discuss issues he observes, both personal and school wide. One student voiced a need for greater opportunities to be heard.

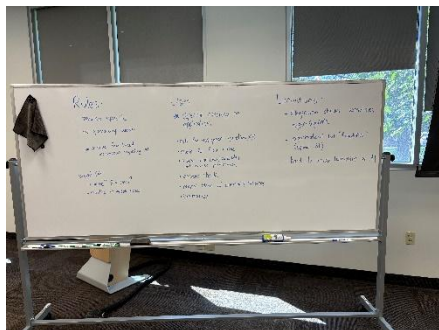
Leadership Presentation by Sam Jarman

After a brief activity in which new MYAC members were able to get to know returning members (and vice versa), Sam Jarman, former superintendent of Alpine School District and current director of the K-16 Alliance, delivered an inspiring presentation on leadership. He shared personal stories from his career in education, emphasizing that leadership can be both innate and developed. Sam's message centered on confidence and self-worth. He encouraged students to "talk themselves up" and recognize the value they bring to any organization.



Artificial Intelligence Discussion

To conclude the meeting, the council engaged in a thoughtful discussion about Artificial Intelligence (AI) in education. All MYAC members reported using AI tools to varying degrees. Jayna noted that some assignments explicitly required AI use, while also raising concerns about AI plagiarism checkers falsely flagging students. Logan shared that some of his professors encouraged the use of ChatGPT to enhance essay writing. Members also



mentioned their experience with SchoolAI, which is a new platform that is designed to help with homework without being generative. Students suggested that a course or module on appropriate and helpful uses of AI could improve how high school students interact with AI in an educational setting.

Looking Ahead

As more youth representatives are brought on board, they will learn from the example of current council members about how to be honest, critical, and open as they share how the region can improve. The youth advisory council looks forward to the next meeting, the first-ever online meeting, which will be held on Saturday, November 15, 2025.