Election of the 34th
Student Member of the Board of Education

MCR Special Elections Committee 2011 Voters Guide

MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Election Day
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Throughout difficult times and drastic change, Montgomery County has maintained one of the most distinguished school systems in the country. Every year, we spend billions of dollars on our students, each one a living testament to our faith in the school system. They're our future and our inspiration. Every day, we work towards one simple goal: making MCPS a better place for our students.

As your SMOB this year, I've worked with the Board of Education on behalf of the students by revising policies, attending work sessions, and speaking at budget forums. I've also established the SMOB Council, a group of students who I work closely with on lobbying issues and school outreach. Serving on the Board this year has been an incredible experience, and I'm excited to have the opportunity to vote on and hire our new superintendent in a few months.

Next year, the Board of Education will have to work with a new superintendent while continuing to struggle with the budget. Although there's an uncertain future ahead of us, I believe I can best represent you as your SMOB next year. I'm running again because I want to continue helping the students of Montgomery County get the education they deserve.

I value your concerns, suggestions, and ideas, and I'm currently working to increase communication with students through the creation of a centralized SMOB website integrated with Facebook. In this coming year, we'll work together and fight for the issues that are important to you. With the students always in mind, I hope to continue representing our diverse interests as your SMOB.

Education

Richard Montgomery HS, 2008—Present *IB Program*
Eastern MS, 2005—2008 *Humanities Magnet Program*
Cold Spring ES, 2003—2005 *Gifted & Talented Program*
Fallsmead ES, 2000—2003
Farmland ES, 1999—2000

I support:
- full funding of the FY 2012 Budget at Maintenance of Effort level
- full SMOB voting rights (bill MC 7-11)
- transparent communication with the new superintendent
- expanding the cell phone pilot program
- cell phone and iPod privileges during lunch for middle and high school students
- funding after-school programs and activity buses, athletics, and Outdoor Education
- funding transportation for special programs (magnet, IB, consortia, etc.)
- increased school security
- student evaluation of teachers
- expanding the SMOB Council initiative
- reducing class size and closing the achievement gap
- fiscally wise and environmentally friendly policies

I oppose:
- the Maintenance of Effort penalty
- cutting academic intervention teachers, music teachers, counselors, and security staff
- excessive or random hall sweeps and drug testing
- inconsistent grading and disciplinary policies
- increasing class sizes
- inconsistent school parking fees
- requiring HSAs for graduation

Leadership & Experience
Student Member of the Board of Education, 2010—Present
- Established the SMOB Council to promote communication with students
- Member of the Policy Committee
- Participated in the FY 2012 budget process and search for the new superintendent
- Testified at the House Local Bills Hearing for bill MC 7-11
- Participated in the Montgomery County Council of PTAs Operating Budget Forum
- Participated in the Commission on Children & Youth Student Mental Health Forum

Maryland Association of Boards of Education, 2010—Present
- Delegate to Annual Conference in Ocean City
- Established communication with other Maryland SMOBs

Maryland Youth Advisory Council, 2009—Present
- Legislative Chair
- Two-term Councilmember on the Legislative Committee
- Testified at the Legislative Hearing and presented Annual Report to Governor O'Malley

Montgomery County Regional SGA (MCR), 2009—2010
- Executive Board: Special Programs Coordinator

Richard Montgomery Key Club, 2010—2011
- Vice President

Due to increasing financial pressure, what programs would you insist on keeping fully funded and what would you consider sacrificing?

Our teachers, administrators, and support staff are extremely important to the school system. However, this year's list of potential budget cuts includes academic intervention, staff development, Reading Recovery, and instrumental music teachers as well as counselors, assistant school administrators, and security staff. All of these people are integral to the school system, and I oppose any future cuts that would similarly hurt our education. I also support funding athletics, Outdoor Education, activity buses, and magnet transportation. However, in order to endure this economic crisis, I support eliminating wasteful expenditures, promoting environmentally friendly practices, and delaying new initiatives.

The SMOB is one of eight members on the Board of Education, so he or she has a fraction of the total vote. Many SMOBs make campaign promises. However, acknowledging this limited power, how would you be able to best address student issues and fulfill your campaign promises?

Last year, I promised the students of Montgomery County that I would fight for their budget and find a communicative superintendent. Throughout my term, I collaborated with the other Board members on the superintendent search while dealing with serious budget issues and fighting for expanded voting rights. Using these experiences, I'll continue to expand the SMOB Council initiative to increase communication with students through a centralized website and monthly SMOB reports in school newspapers. I'm also scheduling a series of countywide town hall events and individual school visits.