

**Montgomery County Region of the Maryland Association of Student Councils**  
**SGA Project/Event Share**

**School Name:** Montgomery Blair High School

**School Year:** 2006-2007

**# of members participating in activity/project:** ~150

**Suggested time of activity/project:** 3 Months

**I. Project Summary**

**Name of Project:** School Policy Recommendations

This project collected student input on school policies in a variety of formal and informal methods and developed a comprehensive set of SGA recommendations on changes to those policies.

**II. Project Objectives**

This project was developed to ensure that SGA was fighting for changes that students truly cared about and to create a comprehensive set of SGA positions on different policies.

**III. Project Activities**

Student Issues Forum (February) – We hosted a combined fourth period Representatives Meeting and Activity Council (Club Presidents) meeting. At the meeting, we broke into ten small groups where students brainstormed issues in the school that they cared about. Each group identified their top five issues, and as a large group we identified five main issues to focus on. We then divided into five small groups, one for each issue, discussed them in depth, and began to develop action plans to resolve the issues. In each small group, the group leaders identified two students who they felt would be most expressive and articulate and invited them to participate in the next phase of the project.

ILT Student Panel (February) – Three days after the Student Issues Forum, the ten students identified during that meeting attended the weekly meeting of the Instructional Leadership Team, Blair's group of administrators, resource teachers, and other school leaders. The meeting was chaired by the SGA's representatives to ILT. They each briefly presented their issues to the group and the floor was opened to discussion to begin an open dialogue on these controversial issues and see what changes could be made to solve them.

Representatives Meeting (March) – At the March Representatives Meeting, all attendees filled out feedback forms where they were asked to share their thoughts on each of the five issues. We received excellent feedback that provided insights into the issues we had never previously considered.

Development of Recommendations (April) – The SGA Cabinet then developed a six-page set of recommendations based on these five issues and other identified issues. These recommendations were given formal authority based on MCPS Regulation JFA-RA, which allows the SGA to issue recommendations to the principal that he or she must consider and respond to.

Meeting with Principal (May) – In May, the SGA President and Vice President met for one hour with the Principal to review the recommendations and begin the process of having some of them implemented.

Implementation of Recommendations (Summer) – Over the summer, the new SGA officers will work with the school administration to refine and implement some of the recommendations made.

**IV. Project Results**

This project was not immediately successful in changing school policies, but that aspect was made difficult due to the fact that our Principal announced that he would be leaving after the year ended in the middle of the process. Because of this, we put much of the implementation phase on hold until a new principal is selected.

However, the entire process has refined how our SGA gets student input and has exposed us to points of view (from students and staff alike) that we normally would not hear, and has been very successful in that regard.