

Election of the 29th Student Member of the Board of Education

MCR Special Election Committee 2006 Voters Guide



Election Day
April 26, 2006

Sarah Horvitz

Springbrook High School

Grade 11

sarah_r_horvitz@fc.mcps.k12.md.us



Nearly every student in Montgomery County can identify a problem or concern with a school, teacher, or policy. Unfortunately, most students routinely have their concerns dismissed before their input reaches the ears of the policy makers of our schools. The Board makes decisions that affect all of our lives; it only makes sense that students should regularly provide input in the decision-making process. I am running for SMOB to help you voice your opinions. Most students do not realize the potential of their ideas, that one individual's concern may also concern the entire student body. If elected SMOB, I am promising that I will listen. I will listen to you and to your peers to ensure your voice is present every time the Board makes a decision. We can work together to bring positive change to our schools. After all, we are the students; it's really all about making our lives better.

Platform

I support:

- High school cell phone policy applying to middle school students
- Smaller class sizes
- Opening up Board's public comment system to make it more accessible to students
- Double A exemption
- Healthier and more varied choices for food in cafeteria
- More after school study programs to help students that are ineligible or at risk of ineligibility
- More conflict resolution efforts to help reduce violence in schools
- Comprehensive sex education: I support current Citizens Advisory Committee's efforts to update curriculum
- Closing the achievement gap

I don't support:

- Random drug testing of athletes
- Loss of Credit policy: If a student has poor attendance but gets an A in a class they shouldn't lose credit for it
- Rated R/PG-13 movie policy
- Academic tracking
- Vending machine regulations
- Current academic eligibility policy: 2.0 shouldn't be lowered but more should be done to help students that are ineligible. Students should have 1 quarter to pull grades up before becoming ineligible

Education

2003 – Present: Springbrook High School (grade 11)

2000 – 2003: White Oak Middle School (grades 6-8)

1995 – 2000: Jackson Road Elementary School (grades 1-5)

Leadership and Accomplishments

2003 – 2004: Delegate – Montgomery County Region (MCR) of Student Councils

2003 – 2004: First Period Representative – Springbrook High School SGA

2004 – 2005: Senator – Springbrook High School SGA
Participant in Congressman Al Wynn's Leadership Wkshp

2003 – 2006: Member – 2007 Class Council – Springbrook High School

2004 – 2006: School Liaison – MCR Executive Committee

2005 – 2006: Vice President – Springbrook High School SGA
Co-founder – Young Democrats Club Springbrook HS
Part of group that received Children of a Dream Award for helping to raise \$7,200 for Katrina Hurricane Relief
Coordinator – Student Advisory Committee
Panelist and Guest on TV show Unscripted
Participant – Equity in Education Coalition Conference

Question 1: What would be your top three realistic priorities as the Student Member of the Board of Education?

If elected SMOB there are many things I would like to improve in our county. Communication between students and the SMOB hasn't always been effective. I would continue the Student Advisory Committee as a means of communication between students from every school and the SMOB, and expand communication efforts using internet blogs, television shows, and more student comment time at Board meetings. The achievement gap is also a growing problem in this county. Another goal of mine will be to address policies, like the eligibility and LC policies, that contribute to this gap. Finally, I want to address health issues that exist in our schools. We can improve our cafeterias through elevated health standards and improve our bathrooms by ensuring they are clean and well-stocked.

Question 2: Stress and violence continues to grow countywide. Should schools be required to have classes in conflict resolution, peer mediation, and positive mental health to help students deal with these problems? What other recommendations do you have to help students feel safe in school?

Though I don't think our county needs to mandate a conflict resolution class, I'm concerned with the recent rise in violence in our schools and would like to look into ways of making students feel safer. I would support a mandated workshop or assembly devoted to conflict resolution, peer mediation, and understanding diversity. The best way to make students feel safe around each other is to work to understand one another.

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