

specifically next Tuesday.

"I would also like to thank all the people from my past schools that I have attended and the people that I have worked with in student governments throughout my years who have given me a lot of guidance and support. I would like to thank the Board members and the superintendent, deputy superintendent, and all the staff who have already welcomed me. Thank you very much for the welcome that you have given me, and I look forward to working with you.

"Thank you to everyone who is sharing this moment with me, and even more so than this moment, thank you for sharing the stressful moments that have led up to this night. I really appreciate it. I truly appreciate all that you have done for me, and I welcome the challenge before me."

Re: WELCOME AND FAREWELL COMMENTS

Board members and Dr. Pitt welcomed Ms. Serino to membership on the Board of Education and thanked Mr. Park for his efforts during the past year. Dr. Cronin presented Mr. Park with a collage and a certificate of appreciation. On behalf of the County Council, Mr. Gudis presented Mr. Park with a proclamation listing his academic accomplishments and his service to the people of Montgomery County.

Re: STATEMENT BY MR. PARK

Mr. Park made the following statement:

"Last year at a reception for myself as well as for Andy Herscowitz, the outgoing Board member, I remember meeting the past student Board members. I remember each one of them coming up to me with a smile, the same smile, saying, 'good luck, Chan.'" Their smile seemed to say it all. It is hard to explain, but I guess in a nutshell it said, 'good luck, have fun, make the most of it, and this is a big responsibility, Chan, so don't screw it up.'

"I also remember the faces of the other Board members. I guess their expression was one of sympathy and compassion for my parents. They knew that my parents would have to be putting up with a Montgomery County school Board member for a year which is in itself an effort under any situation. And my parents, I remember their pride, their happiness, and their fear wondering what their son had gotten himself into.

"But I did make it. I made it through a year of hard work, of commitment, of meetings, hearings, and many other things. I feel like I should get one of those tee shirts like at King's Dominion where you get a roller coaster ride saying, 'I survived the Montgomery County Board of Education.' But it wasn't all that bad. I am glad to say this had been one of the most exciting and worthwhile experiences of my life.

"I have learned a tremendous amount about the school system, our

county, about life in the real world and most importantly about people. I can't say enough how much I admire the people who work in the school system, who work with the school system, and the people who sit on the school Board. I am always amazed by the amount of time and effort Board members put into their job, their diligence, their commitment, and their genuine concern for the Montgomery County students. This has always impressed me as well as their patience and their ability to express themselves over, and over, and over. Seriously I am always awed by the knowledge and the expertise which the individual members bring to the Board of Education. It is knowledge which can only be gained through years of dedication, service, and experience. So to Mr. Goldensohn, Mrs. Praisner, Dr. Shoenberg, Dr. Cronin, Mr. Ewing, Mrs. DiFonzo, and Mrs. Hobbs, I say thank you for your friendship, your advice, your patience, and for treating me as a colleague, a Board member first and a student second.

"I consider it a great privilege to have been able to work with such an outstanding group of people. Not to be overlooked is the incredible staff of the school system. From the teachers in the classroom to the executive staff, I am always amazed by their commitment and their caring. I do not envy the superintendent one bit because he has an impossible job which is to please eight Board members all the time at the same time. I would like to thank Dr. Pitt for his advice, his steady leadership, and his service to Montgomery County and the students of Montgomery County. I would also like to thank the rest of the executive staff for the advice and friendship and the Richard Montgomery administration for being very, very understanding. I will miss seeing Dr. Pitt's doodling, seeing Dr. Vance squirm when it snows, and seeing Dr. Smith in the front line at the food lines.

"And I will miss the Board staff. Board members will back me up when I say that without the Board staff we would be in, I guess Mrs. Praisner put it 'deep kim chee.' Thank you Tom, Melissa, Mary Lou, Lillian, Nancy, Ann, and Kelly for everything. Without the Board staff, I don't think I could ever have made it through.

"I would also like to thank the delegates and community leaders who supported this year's legislation for a limited student vote. Alison will be the first ever student Board member to vote whether she likes it a lot or not, and it is only because of the hard work of many different people, too many to name here tonight. But I am confident the Board will work closely with the student to make sure that the transition is a smooth line and a successful one.

"Last but definitely not least, of course, are my family and friends. Without my friends I would not have maintained my sanity throughout the year. And without my parents and their love and their patience and understanding, I would not have made it. So I say thank you. "And now I would like to wish Alison the best of success for the year to come, and to Alison I can say with a smile, 'good luck, Alison.' I am sure you will do a super job. And to her parents I wish you the best of luck and I give you my condolences."

Re: ADJOURNMENT

The president adjourned the meeting at 8:10 p.m.

PRESIDENT

SECRETARY

HP:mlw