

area during the campaign and the constant phone calls. If I could have one ounce of the patience and understanding they showed during the past few months, I think I'll have a chance of surviving the next year.

"Thank you to my sister, Bitá, who drove me to numerous schools to shake hands and pass out flyers. My brother, Afshin, for taking time out of his first year of law school to make frequent long-distance calls from Ohio to motivate me to keep on trying, and cheering me up when I was down. Thank you to the endless list of people on my campaign committee who sacrificed their time and energy just for one person. It's a great weight on all public officials to think of just how many people have put their trust, faith, and hope into one individual.

"I also want to thank the Board staff, Mr. Fess. Ms. Bahr, Mrs. Wood, all the secretaries, and Board members for putting up with all my questions. For the past few weeks the words 'why, when, where, and how' have become major parts of my vocabulary. I feel like a five-year old again asking, 'Why the sky is blue, the grass green, and why the Board table is shaped like a doughnut.' Thanks for answering them with patience and kindness; and I know, as you have told me, it's your job; but it must get annoying at times. Hopefully, with your wisdom, patience and kindness, I'll grow up from a nagging five-year old to an adolescent Board member going through phases; to hopefully a mature young adult Board member who has given back for all that everyone has given him.

"Last but not least, I must thank the eternal Mike Michaelson - who is one of the major reasons for the predominance of quality student leadership and representation in Montgomery County. Many peoples' lives have been touched and changed by this one man.

"According to my notes from Mr. Goldensohn's Political Speech Writing 101, I have now completed the thank you and humor section of my speech and must now get into the overly serious section of the political speech.

"Someone great, somewhere, once said that one must always, 'treat a child as though he already is the person he's capable of becoming.' This is something that I truly believe. We must raise our standards, we must raise our expectations for all children no matter what sex, culture, socioeconomic status, and mental or physical capability. Stereotypes and ignorance have absolutely no place in the education of this and future generations' youth. Every child is born with the potential to achieve. We must challenge ourselves and the students to capitalize on the enormous wealth of potential in every single classroom in Montgomery County. Challenge is the key word; challenge and raise our expectations, and challenge and raise our standards in education.

July 1, 1991

"Now the serious part is over, and as Mr. Goldensohn says, 'never leave your audience down.' I want to thank everyone for coming out here tonight, and to my family: It was nice knowing you, and I'll see you in about a year."

Re: PRESENTATION TO MR. CHANG

On behalf of the members of the Board, Mr. Ewing presented Mr. Chang with a collage and certificate of appreciation for his service on the Board.

Re: STATEMENT BY MR. CHANG

Mr. Chang made the following statement:

"I've got the power. It's gettin' kind of hectic.' This song epitomizes my term as the thirteenth student member of the Board of Education. Through long and sometimes intense Board meetings, I have matured as a student, as a Board member, and as a human being. It was truly a learning experience -- a one-year crash course in policy-making, socialization, politics, and friendship. This year on the Board of Education has been, to say the least, educational.

"During my campaign last year I was careful not to make too many promises, promises that I couldn't keep. This year on the Board I have strived to attain one of these goals. My number one goal was to expand the voting rights of the student member. I truly appreciate the support of the Board and the student and adult advocates of MC 101 as we took it all the way to Annapolis where it lost in the Senate by a three to four vote. I am hopeful that in the near future the student Board member will be given full voting rights. My number two goal was to make the Board of Education aware of the tremendous stress being placed on students in this day and age, especially on middle and high school students. The Board in its wisdom made the reduction of student stress one of its 12 Action Areas during the winter's enjoyable and immensely productive retreat with senior staff. My number three goal was to address the conflicts within the class ranking system because of questions of unnecessary competition and inequity. The Board has established a committee this spring to examine class rank and alternatives that could be feasible.

"My number four goal was to improve student participation in the curriculum, group dynamics, and demonstrate in the classroom an 'application to real life' so that students would see their education as practical and crucial to becoming an educated member of society. The Board during the January retreat adopted these suggestions in the Action 1 Area dealing with curriculum. My fifth and final goal was to alleviate ethnic and racial tensions through cultural awareness programs, expansion of the SAS day, and improved multicultural curriculum. Although SAS at this

point in time has not been expanded, the Board has encouraged the development of a more multicultural curriculum, and the superintendent is working to implement the Board's recommendations to improve the achievement of minority students. Thus I credit an idealistic and cooperative Board and community, an outstanding superintendent and senior staff and being at the right place at the right time to being able to address campaign promises and student concerns.

"I have also realized a couple of issues this year. One being the importance of role models in education, and I do think that is necessary for us to realize as the entertainment industry is very powerful and often it gives negative images which students will look at and do not succeed from.

"Now it is thank you time. I must first thank my family for putting up with my busy schedule. Board meetings past midnight, Saturday meetings and worksessions, and of course the infamous danger zone -- my bedroom. Next I would like to thank my friends at Churchill and around the county who have given me much needed support during my term and my campaign. Through several close friends, I have come to understand the meaning of friendship, stress management, time management, ego management, and sacrifice. I would like to thank my teachers and administrators at Winston Churchill High School, particularly Mr. Zarchin, one of the assistant principals, who has been a great role model for me. I would like to thank David Naimon for his support of MC 101 and also being a mentor. He has exposed me to the in's and out's of partisan politics, school board politics, and everyday politics.

"I would like to thank former Board members who I have served with from July to December 1990 -- Dr. Shoenberg, Mrs. Praisner, Dr. Cronin, and Mr. Goldensohn. They have really aided me in my development as a Board member. I really appreciated working with such a fine group of people. I would also like to thank the Board staff composed of Tom Fess, Mary Lou, Melissa, Nancy, Lillian, Ann, and Gail, for their expertise, friendship, and hard work over the past year. They work very, very hard and are the best staff anyone could ever ask for.

"I would like to thank the MCR Delegation and the student leaders I have worked with over the year who during the May MCR General Assembly honored me with a standing ovation. However, it is the employees of the Montgomery County Public Schools and my fellow Board members who really deserve a standing ovation. Also, I would like to thank Dr. Pitt for his years of service to the Montgomery County Public Schools, not only as superintendent but also in his former roles. I would like to wish good luck to Dr. Vance because I know he will do a truly outstanding job like his predecessor. After all they shared the same executive staff and employees of the Montgomery County Public Schools.

"Now I must thank my fellow Board members for their friendship, good counsel, and their dedication to Montgomery County Public Schools. They have sacrificed a lot of their time and energy to serve the Montgomery County community. The Board as a whole as well as the Montgomery County school system deserve a tremendous amount of praise and recognition. It seems quite ironic that there is not enough support and recognition from the entire community at large when across the system we are praised and recognized as the finest, if not the finest, school system in the entire country."

My fellow Board members have been a source of inspiration for me. This year it has been extremely tough especially during the budget crisis. The recession this year reared up its ugly head, and I think Board members realized it is not over until it is over. It is not over until Robert Denny stops complaining about the 'fat' in the school system. Individually, however, each Board member left a distinct impression upon me.

"Mr. Ewing, I remember your incredible endurance. Fourteen years translate into four words, 'ultimate School board junky.' Your energy to write up memos and endure long meetings is epitomized by one quote you once said a little bit after you became president, 'I like meetings. I'll meet with anyone who wants to meet with me.' Mrs. Fanconi, I will remember your dedication to kids, your caring nature, your feisty lobbying for the budget, and your willingness to adjust your personal schedule for that of the Board's. I appreciate your coming here tonight. I know you had other commitments to attend to. Ms. Gutierrez, I remember the passion with which you chaired the Board's minority education subcommittee, and our frequent conversations and that you love to drink espresso. Dr. Cheung, I will remember your statistical analysis, charts, and our talks about management of Montgomery County Public Schools and management in general. Mrs. Brenneman, Fran, I will remember your incredible energy level, your representation of the Board of Education at almost every social function and your ever present grin upon your face. Mrs. DiFonzo, I will remember your excellent use of the English language, your crisp style, integrity, and ability to rise to the occasion especially during times of personal hardship. Mrs. Hobbs I will remember your sensitivity, integrity, compassion, and friendship.

"Collectively as a Board I would like to thank you all for your friendship, civility, professionalism, and dedication to serve the Montgomery County Public Schools. With the adversity this year that we faced, I think that it was a sense of humor that really enabled us to keep our cool and get us through the school year. I would wish you all really good luck next year in convincing the Montgomery County community at large of the importance that education has in this county and formulating

July 1, 1991

educational policy that will enable kids to achieve amidst high expectations and high parental involvement.

"Finally I would like to say congratulations to Shervin Pischevar on your election and good luck as the fourteenth student member of the Board of Education. I know that you will live up to the expectations and the nickname, 'The Great One,' bestowed upon you by several student leaders. I firmly believe that your term will be a knockout one indeed. In general, community and my fellow Board members, thank you for an awesome year, and if you are ever in Philly, please feel free to drop by.

Re: COMMENTS BY BOARD MEMBERS AND
SUPERINTENDENT

Board members and Dr. Vance welcomed Mr. Pischevar and praised Mr. Chang's efforts as the thirteenth student Board member.

Re: ADJOURNMENT

The president adjourned the meeting at 8:55 p.m. to a reception for Mr. Chang and Mr. Pischevar.

PRESIDENT

SECRETARY

PLV:mlw